

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE HARBOUR “NIGHT WITHOUT A TUX” GALA FEATURES NATIONAL AUTHOR

Michael Yankoski, a nationally published author concerned about homelessness in the United States, is the featured speaker at Safe Harbour’s ninth annual “Night Without A Tux” fundraising gala, on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at the Carlisle Country Club.

Yankoski is a writer, motivational speaker, urban homesteader, and also an aspiring carpenter, musician, potter and sailor. Several years ago, Yankoski took off a semester from college to do something a little uncanny: he was homeless. For five months, in six different American cities, Yankoski and his friend, Sam, intentionally ate from trashcans and homeless shelters, slept under bridges, and panhandled in order to survive. They chose to do this not only in order to better understand the plight of the American homeless, but also to observe how everyday Christians were interacting with this despised corner of American society. His book *Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America (Multnomah, 2010)* captures this journey on the streets and relates the people, experiences and revelations that have forever changed his life.

Yankoski grew up in Colorado, adores the Pacific coast, and currently resides in South Bend, Indiana, where he and his wife, Danae, are pursuing their Ph.Ds. at the University of Notre Dame. He received his MA in Theological Studies from Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, is a (novitiate) Oblate of Saint Benedict, and served on the Board of Directors at World Vision US and the Advisory Board of Kilns College. Yankoski is the author of four books:

- *Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America;*
- *My 30 Days Under the Overpass: Not Your Ordinary Devotional;*
- *Zealous Love: A Practical Guide to Social Justice.;* and
- *The Sacred Year: Mapping the Soulscape of Spiritual Practice—How Contemplating Apples, Living in a Cave and Befriending a Dying Woman Revived My Life*

“Sometimes it’s easy to walk by because we know we can’t change someone’s whole life in a single afternoon,” Yankoski has said. “But what we fail to realize is that simple kindness can go a long way toward encouraging someone who is stuck in a desolate place.”

Paul Strizzi, chair of the Safe Harbour Board of Directors said, “We are pleased that Michael Yankoski is coming to Carlisle to share his personal narrative with Safe Harbour and our friends in the community. All are invited to join us for the ‘Night Without A Tux’ gala to hear his message.”

Yankoski’s visit to Safe Harbour and Carlisle is sponsored by Hartzell Eye Associates of Carlisle and John W Gleim, Jr. Excavating, Inc.

“Night Without A Tux” raises funds to support Safe Harbour’s mission of providing housing and supportive services for homeless and nearly homeless individuals and families to help them achieve independent living by increasing their basic life skills. The event also features dinner, music and dancing with Jazz Me, and a Silent Auction. Tickets are \$65 per person for the event and may be purchased three ways:

- Online at Safe Harbour’s Web site, www.safeharbour.org;
- Via e-mail at info@safeharbour.org; or
- By calling Safe Harbour at 717-249-2200

Safe Harbour provides a continuum of housing services for homeless and nearly homeless individuals and families. Safe Harbour’s services include operating an emergency shelter for families and single females who are in desperate need of a secure place to live and an environment to begin getting their lives under control; bridge housing that helps individuals and families in need of longer-term assistance to continue acquiring the skills necessary for independent living and a productive life style; and single-room-occupancy (SRO) permanent housing facilities that offer housing opportunities to single individuals who are ready for independent living, but need additional “life support.”

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