



FIRST FRIDAY FORUM of Lorain County

...caring enough to learn more...

February 6, 2015 11:30 -1:00pm

"THE JOURNEY BACK"

Mr. Mark Fahringer

Director

Salvation Army Service Unit Oberlin



I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out in freedom,' and to those in darkness, "Come into the light." They will be my sheep, grazing in green pastures and on hills that were previously bare. --Isaiah 49:9 NLT

Hearing a heavy door close behind them is often described as the ultimate moment of fear and loneliness for someone entering the prison system; but facing the world from the outside of that door after release can be every bit as daunting. The specters of fractured and strained relationships, homelessness, unemployment, relapse and recidivism are but a few of the problems that are lurking. The Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit, through the recently developed 49-9 Project, seeks to reach out to persons recently released from correctional and treatment facilities and assist in addressing these and other needs with a spirit of compassion and nurturing as put forth in Isaiah 49:9. We are called to remember the lost, the lonely, and the forgotten. As a community, are we doing enough?

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Mr. Mark Fahringer is currently the Coordinator of the Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit after having worked at The Salvation Army's Wooster Homeless Shelter for eight years. The Oberlin Unit provides emergency financial assistance to the community as well as serving as the home of The 49-9 Project, a re-entry program Mark developed and directs. He lives in Oberlin with his wife, Dagney; is a member of Sacred Heart Parish; and serves on numerous community boards and committees all focused on poverty and social justice advocacy. He was the 2009 recipient of the Bishop A.J. Quinn Justice Award presented by the Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County.

**Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Conference Center in Elyria, Ohio
Luncheon Buffet: 11:30 am Speaker: 12:00 – 1:00 pm
\$17.00 per reservation**

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 6:00 pm Monday, Feb. 2nd

Please mail your \$17 check to:

**First Friday Forum of Lorain County, 320 Middle Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035
or call the reservation line at 440-244-0643 or e-mail ffflorain@gmail.com**