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your mission messenger



SUMMER ISSUE 2016

Your love, and the grace you've shown me, changed my life. Thank you.

The Real Life I Deserve

— BY SHONNA

I don't remember much good from my childhood. All I remember is the tragic. My father was never around and my stepdad was really abusive. Fortunately, I've blocked most of it out.

But every relationship I've been in since then was also physically and emotionally abusive. I've been shot at. Raped and beaten. I thought that whenever a guy hit me, it's because he cared. I thought I deserved everything a man did to me.

"I thought that whenever a guy hit me, it's because he cared."

Then, when I was 29, I discovered pain medications. The very first pill I took, all the pain I felt, all my childhood, all the abuse, was gone. I was instantly hooked. Within a few years, I was shooting up 20 times a day — and I did that for years. Nothing could stop me. Not even an overdose and a cardiac arrest. Not even after years of sleeping on the streets, homeless.

I was a terrible person. I did almost anything for drugs. I was violent, manipulative, a liar, and a thief — I was arrested six times for stealing.

But the last time I went to prison, in 2014, I started going to church. One day, I felt God was talking to me. I opened my Bible and read: "Since you are precious and

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Serving Six Counties

321 W. Mulberry St., Kokomo, IN 46901-4456 | 765-456-3838 | kokomorescuemission.org

The Real Life I Deserve

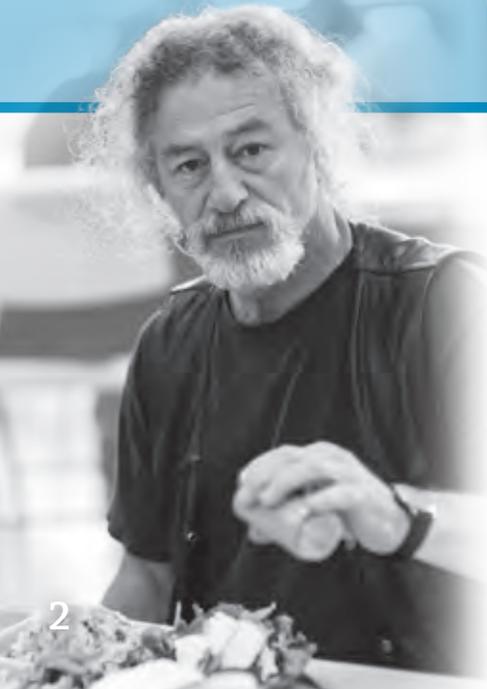
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honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life” (Isaiah 43:4). That’s when I gave my life to Jesus. And when I left prison that November, I came straight to Open Arms.

Open Arms gave me the structure and stability I needed. And they held me accountable for all my actions. I’ve been surrounded by ladies who love me, and whenever I needed someone to talk to, no matter how crazy I got, they were there. God used them to show me I was worth far more than the abuse I’d experienced. And in the end, it’s that love, the relationships I made here, along with the grace they showed me here, that changed my life. God loves me and lives in me. That’s the life I deserve.

A Gift of \$16.40 Provides:

- ★ One-night Stay for a Man in Need (bed, utilities, etc.)
- ★ Case Management & Job Training
- ★ Three Nutritious Meals



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Van Taylor, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

I hope Shonna’s and Albert’s stories touched your heart. Like most of the men and women who come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, addiction to drugs and alcohol weren’t the biggest problem they had to overcome. It’s broken family relationships. It’s a lifelong emptiness that comes when people have no loving, trusting relationships in their lives.

God created us with the need to be connected to friends and family. For *community*. And when those break down, we try to fill that hole with drugs, alcohol, sex — whatever makes us feel good for a moment. Now, we’ve created a broken society that no longer knows how to be a community, nor does it offer the loving relationships we were created for.

Then, when people’s lives fall apart and they fall through the cracks, with nowhere else to turn, they come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Hurting People Experience Love Here — Thanks to You!

But that’s where you come in. When they walk through our doors, your gifts provide them with safe shelter and hot meals. You provide them with the help they need to overcome their addictions. But most important, you are reconnecting these hurting people with new friendships, with a community of believers who care about them, with fellowship that understands how to love one another — a place where they experience love like they’ve never experienced before.

Then, finally, you help connect them with the most important relationship of all. With Jesus Christ. When people experience love in our community, when they experience the love of Jesus, that’s when their lives truly change.

I’m so grateful to share this loving, life-changing community with you. Together, we’re transforming lives — all in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you!

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“You help connect them with the most important relationship of all. With Jesus Christ.”

People struggling with hunger and ho

The Apostle Paul wrote, “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

As someone who supports the Kokomo Rescue Mission, you understand that blessing. You truly care for those who are “weak” among us — those who are hurting, addicted, homeless, abandoned, lonely, and devastated by poverty. Your gifts mean hungry people are fed, homeless men and women are sheltered, those who are friendless find love, and the lost are found. None of this is possible without you!

Learning to Love

“I never had much of a family to lean on, and I never had many good friends,” says Albert, a 50-year-old guest at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. “So I’ve pretty much been miserable my whole life.”

Albert can trace many of his difficulties back to childhood. His home life and relationships with his parents were so intolerable, he forged a driver’s license when he was 14, got a job, bought a car, and moved into his own apartment. He’s been on his own ever since.

After working his way through college, Albert moved to Los Angeles in 1989, where he soon discovered the one thing that seemed to take his emotional trauma and loneliness away: heroin. “I got mixed up with who I

thought were the cool folks and I became a junkie just that quick. I got high and stayed high for the next 20 years,” he recalls.

But heroin could never mask the loneliness for long. And it could never help him connect with another human being. “Job-wise, I’ve succeeded at everything I’ve ever done,” he confesses. “But I never made a single friend. All my relationships have been about money, sex, and drugs.”

Even after becoming a Christian and beating drugs seven years ago, he struggled. But he heard the Lord: “Connecting with people is what life is all about. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“Job-wise, I’ve succeeded at everything I’ve ever done. But I never made a single friend.”

So Albert came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission to learn how to do that. “This place promised to help me connect,” he says. “Relationships just aren’t easy for me. But there are some great men and women here. They helped me get rid of all the toxic stuff from my past and helped me build a biblical foundation on Christ first. Now I have to learn how to act on them.”

It’s been a long, hard journey, but today Albert is slowly learning to be vulnerable and connect with others. He’s even made a few friends.

“I love Hebrews 12:14,” he says. “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

Photo has been changed to protect the privacy of our guest.

Thanks to you, I’m learning to live in peace with everyone.

Upcoming Events

Yes, We Can

On a Sunday afternoon in September, young people will be ringing doorbells asking for canned food for Kokomo Rescue Mission.



They have enthusiastically said “YES, WE CAN” to the challenge of collecting 12 tons of food.

Make sure your church youth group plans to participate, and get the whole church involved in the kickoff collection at the church before the youths “hit the street.” For more info and this year’s date, visit the events page on our website at kokomorescuemission.org, or call our Volunteer Coordinator at 765-456-3838.



melessness need you this summer!

Your Gifts Offer Hope to Hurting People

I hope Shonna’s and Albert’s stories in this newsletter inspired you. They are just two of the lives you have helped transform through your gifts and prayers. But every day, more struggling people like them walk through our doors seeking a helping hand and a second chance — and they need people like you to give them hope for new life today and for eternity in Jesus Christ.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. You may also call us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for being a caring friend to men, women, and children who need your help this summer.

“Your gifts to the Kokomo Rescue Mission offer new hope and resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life.”



Tribute Gifts –December 1, 2015 to March 10, 2016

Memorial Gifts

Karen Allison

Roger Allison
 Richard & Sondra Bowman
 Irene Farrand
 Cyrus & Patsy Howell
 Robert & Colleen Kling
 Jay & Kathy Knight
 Robert & Mary Laturner
 Mexico Church of the Brethren
 Rodney & Pam Mygrant
 Kevin & Darcy Ogle
 Stephen M. Spangler
 Thomas Sugar
 Dennis Tilden
 Mary West
 Eldred & Janet Wiechmann

Dixie Bennett

Mark Pearson

Carol Blake

John & Carlene Lawrence
 Kathy Day
 The Swift Family

Brad Bush

Linda Austin

Marilyn Cash

Russ & Pat Boardman
 Donald & Carolyn Greene
 George & Kathleen Roach
 Larry & Lonna Stucker
 Marcia Wooldridge

Rebecca Dean

Patricia Bonds
 Jeff & Donna Dean
 Faith Community Church of Phlox
 David & Elizabeth Shell
 Phillip & Dee Ann Weaver

Jan Eke

Steele Jarrell

Mr. Georgeoff

Linda Austin

Carolyn Hendershot

Jim and Sandy Richey

Keith Harshbarger and Paul & Emma Dearing

Patricia Harshbarger

Judy Hill

Thomas & Karen Adams
 Liberty Baptist Church

Emerson & Lucy Brown
 Marcia Campbell
 Marshall & Donna McCay
 Shirley Miller
 Ronnie & Emily Musgrave
 Fern Tyner Nash
 Richard & Nancy Nash
 Michael Pecen
 Keith Purdue
 Rosemary Quakenbush
 Shannon & Jean Robinson
 Robert & Diana Rostron
 Ken & Kathy Stoops
 Lewis & Mary Taylor
 Ruth Wood
 Robert & Cathy Zahn

Kyle Kavanaugh

Kimberly S. Host

Linda Bowen Keller

Cheryle Schleeter

Linda Paquette-Harter

Garrison T. Cordeiro
 Patricia Richards

Faye Powell

Raymond & Sandra Powell

Ronnie Putman

Ronald & Brenda Putman

Jack Randolph

Airframe Components
 Jane Fisher
 Barbara Grable
 Tom & Carole Podwell

Suzanne Reed

Larry Getz

Barbara Watkins

Christie Watkins

Frieda Mae Williams

Boyd & Beverly Ashcraft
 Jerry & Charlotte Bannon
 Randy & Marjorie Bowyer
 Glenda Fearnow
 Ralph & Pauline Fearnow
 Rex & Joan Hardesty
 James & Rita Herron
 Tom & Carole Podwell
 Dick & Myra Sanburn

Gerald Yost

K. William & Mary Hillman

In Honor of Gifts

Steven Bowne

J. Elaine Bowne

Ray Bunce

Betty Bunce

Adam & Jessica Culp

Franklin Culp

Chuck & Patty Eder

Cecilia Eder
 R. Burnette Eder

May Felix

Steven & Jamie Felix

Deloris Fry

Sarah Fry

Greg Goodnight

NIPSCO

Richard Green

Jack & Anne Gable

The Harrison, Hines, Hosier, James, Keller and Wert Families

Greg & Beth Kuhlman

Local Dentists

Ron & Amy Thompson

Gene Miller

Bill & Bonnie Maple

Jerry Peterson

Paul & Brenda Olsen

Jean Rinehart

Carla Brewster

Roy & Sue Schulz

Caitlin Barrett

Opal Trotter

Wilbur "Web" & Donna Marnier
 Michelle Paine

Patty Troxell

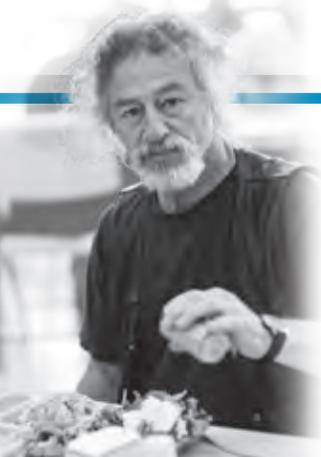
Tony Troxell

Jack Walker

Carl Roudebush

David & Wanda Zahrt

Steven & Leeann Wright



My Summer Gift

YES, Van, I want to help give hurting men, women, and children new hope and a second chance at life.

- Please bill my credit card (please print):
 VISA MC DISCOVER

Here's my summer gift of:

- \$20.50 to provide **10** meals and other assistance
 \$30.75 to provide **15** meals and other assistance
 \$61.50 to provide **30** meals and other assistance
 \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible

ACCOUNT NO.	EXP. DATE	AMOUNT
NAME	SIGNATURE	
ADDRESS		
CITY / STATE / ZIP		
EMAIL ADDRESS		

Kokomo Rescue Mission
 P.O. Box 476
 Kokomo, IN 46903-0476