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*“No one wants to hire an overeducated drunk.”*

— Buddy

*This Christmas, I'm learning what being a man is all about — thanks to you.*

# your mission messenger

WINTER ISSUE 2014

## Behold, God is doing A NEW THING

— by Buddy

If there is one word that describes my motivation for drinking, it would be “emasculatation.”

Both my parents were alcoholics and grew up with a lot of abuse. Especially from my father. I always felt insecure and afraid. My father never taught me how to work on cars or repair a house — or how to be a man. So all my life, I struggled with my own sense of being a man.

I started drinking in college, but it wasn't a problem at first. I worked in Lutheran youth ministry for awhile and also as a respected high school English teacher. But my marriage relationships didn't fare so well. My first marriage lasted just four years. I got married again

in 2003, but we had troubles from the start.

The stress and pain were too much. That's when I really started drinking heavily. In 2008, I was arrested for public intoxication. Then my wife finally left me and I drank even more. After a second arrest, in 2011 for drunk driving, I lost my job as a teacher and I couldn't find another job. I couldn't even get an interview. No one wants to hire an overeducated drunk.

### Putting the Past Behind Me

Then in 2014, I got my second DUI and landed in jail. I lost everything I had left, and I had no one else to turn to but God. I'd been a Christian most of my life, but now

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## Behold, God is doing a new thing

(continued from page 1)

I finally gave myself to Jesus as Lord of my life — and when I left jail, I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Since coming here, I learned to live for God every moment of every day, and that's what keeps me clean and sober. The Mission taught me never to worry

**“Since coming here, I learned to live for God every moment of every day, and that's what keeps me clean and sober.”**

about tomorrow, but take it one day at a time.

Isaiah 43:18–19 says, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!”

So I believe God has a plan for me. God can still use me. I just have to trust Him.

And maybe that's what being a man is really all about.

## An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

Every holiday season, working at the Kokomo Rescue Mission reminds me what Christmas is all about and what's truly important this time of year. Outside the Mission, we're bombarded with all the materialism, glitz and glamor of the season. But people who are homeless don't think much about gifts or glitz or glamor.

Homeless men and women want to know where they're going to lay their head down. Where their next meal is coming from. They want to know that someone still cares about them. They want to know that, even if they've lost connection with their own families, they can still experience love.

Those are the gifts *you* give them, not only at Christmas but all year-round. Your gifts offer them food and shelter. You remind them someone cares. Here they experience love and family. And here they discover the greatest, most important gift of all — God's gift of Jesus Christ, given that first Christmas and every Christmas since.

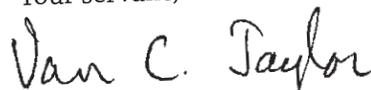
Those are the gifts they treasure most. And they've taught me to treasure those gifts as well.

### Thank you for giving the gift of Joy at Christmas

I invite you to come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission yourself this holiday season, and see for yourself what your gifts mean here. In a word, it's joy. You won't find much glitz or glamor here. No marketing blitzes or Christmas ads. But you'll meet men and women who are filled with a joy that's only possible when people know Jesus, when they taste new life today and then the promise of eternal life.

And your experience here will be a gift in itself — God's gift back to you for all you do on behalf of hungry, homeless men, women and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. On their behalf, thank you for all you do — *Merry Christmas.*

Your servant,



Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



*“Those are the gifts you give them, not only at Christmas but all year-round.”*

## Please give homeless neighbors the gift

“Christmas is all about love — God's love for us, and our own love for our families, friends, and neighbors. Your gifts to the Kokomo Rescue Mission reflect that kind of love as you help provide those who are hurting and homeless with critical food, clothing, and safe shelter.

But there's more. Your gifts draw hurting people into the extraordinary loving presence of Jesus Christ Himself, who came to us as a child to reveal God's heart for every one of us. Thank you for loving and caring for precious men, women, and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission this holiday season and throughout the year.



# Coping with a life WITHOUT DRUGS

— by Danielle

Every day, I see people cope with the stresses and problems of everyday life. But for some reason, I don't know how to do it. Instead, I just get frustrated and angry — and then I turn to the only thing that's ever helped me: drugs.

I don't know why life is so hard. Maybe it's because my father abandoned me when I was 2. Or maybe it's because my mom left me to raise my younger sisters, and I resented it. Or maybe it's ADHD, which has affected my whole life. The one thing I know is, ever since I turned 14, whenever I'd get upset, I'd get high.

At first, it was just pot. But then I found meth and painkillers — at one point, I was taking about eight pain pills a day. But that wasn't the worst. Three years ago, I gave birth to my son. I knew my partying was getting out of control, and I hoped he would help calm me down. But I couldn't stop.

## Learning a New Way to Live My Life

The stresses in my life kept growing, especially after my boyfriend ended up in prison. I didn't expect I'd have to raise my son on my own. I just couldn't handle it — until someone offered me heroin. I was dependent on it immediately, and it was really bad.

*“The only thing that saved me was getting arrested and going to jail . . . God gave me a second chance.”*

— Danielle

The only thing that saved me was getting arrested and going to jail in the fall of 2013. I lost custody of my son, but at the same time, God gave me a second chance.

When I left jail in April 2014, I came to Open Arms. They told me they'd help me get closer to Christ, and if I do well, I could get my son back. So that's what I'm focusing on. I'm learning how to cope with life without drugs. I'm learning how to handle stress and anger. I'm even learning how to cook and how to be more independent.

Open Arms has been incredible, and I'm so grateful to all the people who support this place. When I leave here, I know I'll be able to handle anything.

**No one should be alone and hungry at Thanksgiving.**

*Please help us offer a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to all who come.*

**We're expecting 2,600 guests at our Thanksgiving banquets**

Our guest list is growing! We'll be serving a delicious Thanksgiving meal at two sites in Frankfort through the Clinton County Ministry of Hope. We'll partner once again with Kokomo Urban Outreach to provide the turkey and vegetables for their Thanksgiving dinners in 16 Neighborhoods of Hope on Wednesday evening. Then on Thanksgiving Day, we'll serve our traditional Thanksgiving Banquet from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. Call **765.456.3838** for delivery to shut-ins on Thanksgiving morning or to volunteer to help with the event.



## Acts of hope and new life this Christmas!

### Your Love Can Change a Life Today — and For Eternity

Love transforms lives. And that's never more true than at Christmas. As we enter this holy season of the year, more struggling people come to us every day, needing meals, shelter, long-term care — and, yes, a love that will change their lives today and for eternity.

In the spirit of this great season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering and pain of those who come through our doors. For your convenience, please use the remit slip in this newsletter to give your donation. You may also donate on our secure website at [www.kokomorescuemission.org](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org) or call us today at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for all you do on behalf of hurting people!

**“Love transforms lives. And that's never more true than at Christmas.”**

# Save the Date: Recruit a Team

## Walk a Mile in My Shoes



The Kokomo Rescue Mission team is already busy preparing for the 14th Annual "Walk A Mile In My Shoes" event that is scheduled for Saturday February 14, 2015.

This year, walkers can participate in a "simulation experience": this is an opportunity to understand the program and services Open Arms offers to the ladies and children who come to the shelter.

It is not too early to mark your calendar, contact friends to form a team, and come up with some clever ways to put "fun" into "fundraising" to benefit our Open Arms shelter for homeless women and children. Walk A Mile In My Shoes allows participants to step into the struggles facing homeless women and children. It is one-mile round trip, from our main headquarters to Open Arms.

Why hold this event in the winter? To help raise awareness about the difficulties the homeless members of our community deal with on a daily basis. Poverty and homelessness know no season.

Walk teams consist of 2 to 20 people. Each walker is encouraged to raise sponsorships of at least \$50 to \$100. Team packets will be available at the Mission at the beginning of January. For more information, call 765-456-3838 or visit our website [KokomoRescueMission.org](http://KokomoRescueMission.org)



# My Christmas Gift

**YES, Van,** I want to help men, women, and families who need our help this Christmas.

- Please bill my credit card:
- VISA    MC

### Here's my Christmas 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 \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Red Ribbon Christmas Outreach

The Red Ribbon Christmas project assists over 1,000 families in our six-county area each year. For Christmas 2014, RRC is going to need:

- Thousands of new and gently used toys, unwrapped
- 1,500 hams
- 1,500 loaves of bread
- 4,500 cans of green beans and corn
- 1,500 boxes of instant potatoes
- 1,500 pounds of margarine
- 1,500 pies
- 6,000 apples and oranges
- 1,500 bars of bath soap
- 1,500 bottles of liquid dish soap
- 1,500 packages of toilet paper
- 1,500 rolls of paper towels
- 1,500 bottles of shampoo
- 1,500 tubes of toothpaste

Call **765-456-3838** to schedule a date for your group to wrap presents on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. from December 1 through December 9. Visit [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org) for the location of the Red Ribbon Christmas warehouse.

Delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes is an experience that will fill your heart with the real meaning of Christmas. If you have a truck or large van available, please register by phone or online. Then come and help us on Friday, December 19, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

You can help us deliver boxes like these to bring hope to area families this Christmas.

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