



An Encouraging
Word from Van

page 2



Out of the
Cardboard Box

page 3



Thanksgiving
is quickly
approaching!

page 4



**This Thanksgiving,
thanks to you, I know
I'm going to make it.**

your mission messenger

FALL ISSUE 2015

A Special Purpose — by Shana

The day Shana was born, a nurse predicted that one day her voice would be heard across the nation.

“I believe God has a special purpose for me,” says the 26-year-old single mom at Open Arms. “I just don’t know what it is yet.”

Shana’s life story is painful to hear. She was still a young girl when she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, a neural disease that affected her ability to walk — and led to teasing from her classmates. Worse, she was repeatedly molested by family and “friends” of the family. And her mother was a drug addict and alcoholic who couldn’t protect her.

“I felt like a loner,” she recalls. “I stayed in my room

and tried to avoid everyone as much as I could. And I bottled up my emotions so I never had to feel anything.”

At 17, Shana finally found someone she believed truly loved her. He later abandoned her for another woman — but not before she gave birth to her only daughter, Destiny, now 3. “The day Destiny was born was magical,” she says. “Before, I didn’t care about anyone or anything. But she changed my life.”

Loved for the First Time

Unable to work because of her disability, Shana needed help. “I was scared,” she says. “I know I can’t physically do the things other parents do for their children, but it hurts

(continued on page 2)

A Special Purpose

(continued from page 1)

to admit it.” Then Shana and Destiny came to Open Arms.

Not only did Shana and Destiny receive safe shelter and three meals a day, she found caring people who truly loved her for the first time in her life. “When everyone prayed for me I felt a release.

“I know I can’t physically do the things other parents do for their children.”

God told me I’m where I’m supposed to be and everything would be all right. The ladies here support me, even when I don’t ask for it. They make me feel like I’m good enough and strong enough to make it.

“The women here are the family I never had,” she adds. “I believe that everything that’s happened to me, happened for a reason. It’s all God’s plan. Because He has a special purpose for me.”



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” — John 15:12.

Jesus’ command perfectly sums up what the Kokomo Rescue Mission and caring people like you are all about. Struggling neighbors who come here arrive with all kinds of painful issues that have wrecked their lives, including poverty and addictions, along with emotional, physical, and sexual abuse that sent them into a long, downward spiral of despair and hopelessness.

By the time they come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, most think no one cares. Many have burned bridges to friends and family. They feel isolated, alone, and unloved. But thanks to generous, caring people like you, they quickly find out it’s not true. Here they are deeply loved.

Lives Change Because You Care

At the Kokomo Rescue Mission, we understand that all of us are wounded in one way or another. So do you. None of us can make it on our own. We need support from our community, family, friends, churches, and mostly our loving Savior Jesus Christ. We need them to come alongside us to offer a helping hand when we need it most.

That’s what caring people like you do so well. Your generosity provides the resources, the relationships, and the love that leads to healing. So do your prayers and spiritual support. Thanks to you, men like Shawn (his story is on page 3), and single moms like Shana, on page 1, experience the kind of love that transforms their lives forever.

This fall and Thanksgiving, I pray you continue to remember all the lonely, brokenhearted people who will come to us. And I know you will. Because you love people just as He has loved you.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“Your generosity provides the resources, the relationships, and the love that leads to healing.”

Thank you for generously helping homel

“How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.” (Psalm 31:19)

The Kokomo Rescue Mission is filled with men, women, and children who have found safe “refuge” and God’s “goodness” here, thanks to your generosity. As an instrument of God, your faithful support and overflowing love not only provide food and shelter; you are giving people in need the chance to experience grace, healing, and salvation — transforming lives for all eternity. Thank you for touching so many lives today and throughout the year.



Out of the Cardboard Box

— by Shawn

“Sobriety is the biggest thing I’ve gotten here.”

One day last year, a doctor asked Shawn, 40, whether he’d consider quitting his drinking. He thought for a moment, recalling his legal and financial troubles. Health issues. Rotting teeth. Lost marriages. A “home” that consisted of a piece of plastic for a roof and a sleeping bag. And most of all, his failure as a father.

“No way am I gonna stop drinking,” he told the doctor. “I don’t want nothin’ to do with sobriety.”

The shame, weight, and responsibility of cleaning up his life were too much. “There was a time I wanted to be the best dad in the world,” Shawn explains. “But I was homeless. How do you say to your kids, ‘Hey, you wanna come visit your dad in a cardboard box?’ It was easier to stay drunk.”

Shawn had been drinking and smoking pot since he was 13. “From day one, I went straight off the map,” he says. And his life slowly spiraled out of control. By 2011, he had three children he couldn’t support. Several DUIs, as well as unresolved legal issues affected his ability to work. Then he lost his job, his savings, and his apartment. He was homeless.

God Led Shawn to the Kokomo Rescue Mission

In September 2014, however, Shawn finally sat on a curb and had a heart-to-heart conversation with God. He confessed the mess he had made of his life and asked God what to do. God led him to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

“I came to the Mission because I wanted to get my life on track,” Shawn says. “God said He’d get me sober, get me a job, and get me out of here. And that’s what’s happening.”

Shawn says every part of this program has helped him: chapels, devotions, work, structure and rules, and connections to resources all over Kokomo. But the most important thing is sobriety.

“Sobriety is the biggest thing I’ve gotten here,” he explains. “I don’t drink anymore. I make good decisions, I do more grown-up things. And I’m working again. God did that. God and the Kokomo Rescue Mission. I’m finally ready to be a productive member of society again.”

Honoring Loved Ones



AN IMPORTANT TRADITION in many families is to make charitable contributions in memory of or in tribute to a beloved friend or family member. Honoring a person through a charitable gift is a wonderful way to ensure worthwhile values continue to influence the community and the world around us.

Memorial and tribute gifts can be a heartfelt way to remember family members who have had a meaningful influence on your life.

Remembering a loved one who has died with tribute giving helps preserve the person’s legacy.

Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their favorite holiday such as Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or a Birthday can be another opportunity to share and show how very much you care for the person.

For more information on Tribute and Memorial giving can be found on our website at: www.kokomorescuemission.org.



Help hurting men, women and children this Fall!

Please remember hurting people this Thanksgiving

This fall and Thanksgiving season, please remember all the hurting, struggling people, especially families, who will come to us seeking hope and a new start.

Your gifts to the Kokomo Rescue Mission will help ensure that every man, woman, and child who comes through our doors will receive nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of God’s transforming power right through Thanksgiving.

To donate immediately, please use the enclosed remit slip. You may also give your donation by visiting us online at www.kokomorescuemission.org or call us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous giving this fall and throughout the year.

THIS FALL . . .
even more hurting
people will come
to us needing a
miracle. Please
remember them.

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching!

We are expecting to serve 2,800 delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meals at our Great Thanksgiving Banquets this year. We will be serving at two locations through our outreach in Frankfort, called the Clinton County Ministry of Hope, on Thursday, November 19 and Tuesday, November 24. We will collaborate with Kokomo Urban Outreach to provide the food for their many Neighborhoods of Hope on Wednesday, November 25, before Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day at Grace United Methodist Church, we will serve dinner from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

▶ TO SERVE 2,800 MEALS, WE'LL NEED:

95 LARGE TURKEYS
 25 BONELESS HAMS
 150 #10 CANS GREEN BEANS
 150 #10 CANS CORN
 2,800 SERVINGS OF POTATOES (INSTANT)
 2,800 DINNER ROLLS

▶ DRESSING INGREDIENTS:

460 LOAVES OF BREAD
 50 STALKS OF CELERY
 50 LBS. OF ONIONS
 30 DOZ. EGGS

Please let us know as soon as possible what you can provide. Kokomo Rescue Mission's holiday outreach depends on your generosity. More info about Mission events at www.KokomoRescueMission.org



Re-Stock the Mission

Throughout the year, you can help us stretch our ministry dollars. Organize a collection of household items and supplies which will be used at the Mission. Items used throughout the year are things like:

POWDERED LAUNDRY SOAP
 WINDOW CLEANER
 LIQUID HAND SOAP



DISINFECTANT SPRAY
 CANNED FRUIT



Red Ribbon Christmas



Our Red Ribbon Christmas volunteers work all year round to help make Christmas brighter for those in our community who are in need. You too can help bring the message of hope that comes with celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (765) 456-3838 to volunteer with preparing or delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes.



My Thanksgiving Gift

YES, Van, I want to help hurting and homeless men, women, and families today and through the coming Thanksgiving season.

Please bill my credit card:
 VISA MC

Here's my Thanksgiving 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

▶ Please mail this completed form with your Thanksgiving donation, or you may give your gift online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.