



An Encouraging  
Word from Van

page 2



Out of Her Shell

page 3



Red Ribbon  
Christmas  
Outreach

page 4



*Thank you for helping me  
change my whole life this  
Christmas*

# your mission messenger



WINTER ISSUE 2015

## God Helps Me Every Day

— BY ANTHONY

I've been drinking ever since my uncle gave me my first beer, when I was 21. I was an alcoholic from day one. I'm not sure why. All I know is, I did not enjoy being sober. And drinking made me feel good.

For awhile, my drinking didn't cause me too many problems. I worked at different restaurants and a couple of factories. So I did OK. But then I got married in 2009. I didn't want to do it. I just wanted to keep dating. I knew I wasn't ready to be married. But my girlfriend insisted, so I agreed.

**“I did not enjoy being sober. And drinking made me feel good.”**

At first, it wasn't bad. We got along. We even had a little boy in 2010. But then we started having problems. One problem was that she didn't like my drinking. Maybe I should have seen it coming. But two years ago, I was totally shocked when the sheriff showed up at my work with a subpoena. My wife was divorcing me. And I haven't seen my son since, because her family won't let me.

After that, I thought I could deal with my drinking problem alone. But after I lost my job because of drinking, I knew I couldn't. So in June 2014, I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

### **Reminded of God's Love**

This place has changed my whole life. The people here really like me and support me, and I see God helping me every day. I especially like the devotions and chapels,

*(continued on page 2)*



## God Helps Me Every Day

(continued from page 1)

because they always remind me how much God loves me.

Then, about a month ago, one of my old bosses hired me back, so I'm not only sober, I'm working again. I know I could afford to move out today, but I don't want to yet. I'm still getting so much out of God's Word here.

The only thing missing now is my son. But I know if I stay faithful to God, I'll get to see him again, sooner or later. That would be the best Christmas present ever.

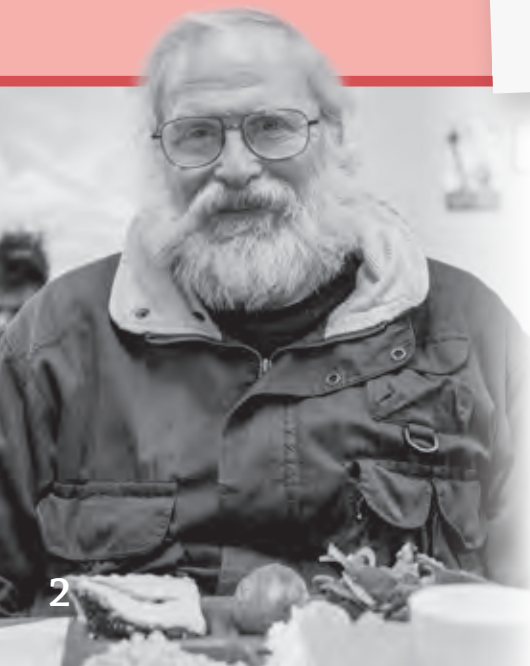
### Sunday November 29, 2015 "Re-Stock" Sunday



The final "Fifth" Sunday Appeal for 2015 is "Re-Stock" Sunday, to help the Mission re-stock cleaning supplies and disposable items. Donate items such as: laundry detergent, window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, liquid hand soap, paper towels, toilet tissue, etc. For information on those items that are "most needed," visit our website at:



[www.KokomoRescueMission.org](http://www.KokomoRescueMission.org).



## An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Van Taylor, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

**E**very Thanksgiving and Christmas, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for God's extravagant love and faithful abundance. At Thanksgiving, we celebrate Him here at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, offering our gratitude for His gracious goodness, providing for all our needs. And at Christmas, we worship a tiny baby who came into our dark, painful world offering us hope for today — and for eternity.

Providing for our needs, offering hope, these are God's work, which we see displayed every day inside these walls. But God needs hands and feet to minister to hurting, hungry people. He needs caring, sacrificial hearts to show His love to people like me, and to all the men, women, and children we serve here.

And *you* are those hands and feet of God. This holiday season, I am so humbled when I think of you and how God has used your sacrificial giving so that others might experience His love and grace, and His transforming power.

### Your generosity transforms lives

I hope you enjoy reading the stories about Anthony and Holly in this newsletter. Their lives have been transformed forever. They are new creatures in Christ, through the power of God, and because people like you understand that everyone deserves a second chance to start over, to be a different person, forgiven and loved.

Your faithful, compassionate support for the precious men, women, and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission says a lot about our community. Kokomo is a city that cares, because people like you are willing to serve others and to come alongside them to make sure they have a hot meal, shelter — and, yes, love and a second chance. Thank you for all you do, in the name of Jesus, on behalf of the less fortunate people in our community.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



*"You are the hands and feet of God this holiday season."*

## Please remember our homeless and h

**W**ith the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas just weeks away, please remember all those in need here in Kokomo — especially those who are homeless, hungry, sick, and lonely. For them, the holidays can be the most painful time of the year.

Your gift today will bring gratitude and Christmas joy to so many hurting men, women, and children who will come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission seeking hope and another chance at life. As a faithful friend of this ministry, you already know how much your support really means to these precious souls.

### Thank you for being a special friend to those in need

Thanks to you, hungry and homeless guests at the Kokomo Rescue Mission enjoy

# Out of Her Shell

**H**olly grew up afraid. Afraid of her abusive, alcoholic father. Afraid of living everyday life. Afraid of connecting with or relating to people.

“It’s a social anxiety thing,” she explains. “I remember times when I couldn’t even order a pizza on the phone because I didn’t want to talk to them.”

What she wasn’t afraid of were drugs and alcohol. “When I was 18, I started going to raves and drinking and doing all kinds of drugs — ecstasy, acid, meth, anything I could get my hands on. But mostly it was cocaine,” Holly says.

*“They forced me to come out of my shell a little bit. And they’re showing me how to do things the right way.”*

At the age of 24, Holly’s life took a dramatic turn when she gave birth to her son, Jaden. Her fear and anxiety increased. “It was so traumatic,” she admits. “I had this baby. I didn’t know what to do. I was just so lost. That’s when I started to drink heavily. It was the easiest solution to deal with everything.”

Over the past 11 years, drinking cost Holly her job, her apartment, and her health. “My anxiety went through the roof,” she says. “All I could do is drink and sleep all day. My blood pressure shot up and I had problems with my legs.” Her drinking even cost her her family.

When she finally had no one left to turn to, she came to Open Arms.

## **Finding Faith and Strength**

“When I got here, I got baptized. My faith, knowing that God is there for me and will take care of everything, gave me the strength I needed to deal with all my anxiety,” she explains. “The structure I have here, along with the support I get from the staff and other women, changed my life. They forced me to come out of my shell a little bit. And they’re showing me how to do things the right way, instead of me trying to figure it out on my own.”

Today, Holly is sober and planning to go into nursing for a career. “I never thought I could do a job like that,” she says. “But thanks to Open Arms, I’m more confident and successful. I’m a different person.”



*I can handle anything now, thanks to you!*



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

*We’re expecting 2,800 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 help 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 am – 1:00 pm 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.

## hungry neighbors this holiday season

nutritious meals, safe shelter, counseling, spiritual nurture, love, and other tangible care that provides them with the real help they need to turn their lives around today *and for eternity*.

In the spirit of this holy 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 at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for all you do on behalf of hurting people!

“Your gift today will bring gratitude and Christmas joy to so many hurting men, women, and children.”



# Red Ribbon Christmas Outreach



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

**Our Red Ribbon Christmas project assists approximately 1,000 families in our 6-county area each year. For Christmas 2015, we will need:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousands of new and gently used toys, unwrapped | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 pies                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 hams                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 5,000 apples and oranges          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 loaves of bread                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 bars of bath soap           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5,000 cans of green beans and corn               | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 bottles of liquid dish soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 boxes of instant potatoes                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 packages of toilet paper    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 pounds of margarine                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 rolls of paper towels       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 bottles of shampoo          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,250 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 pm – 8:00 pm the first two weeks of December.

Visit **KokomoRescueMission.org** for the location of the Red Ribbon Christmas warehouse.

Delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes will fill your heart with the real meaning of Christmas. For more details, delivery dates, details and to register, please contact our volunteer coordinator by phone or online.



## 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

## Save the Date . . . Recruit a Team

WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES | FEBRUARY 13, 2016

Yes, the calendar says November, but the Kokomo Rescue Mission team is already busy preparing for the 15th Annual “Walk A Mile In My Shoes” event that is scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2016. Once again, walkers can participate in a “simulation experience,” which 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 Open Arms, KRM’s 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 in length, from the Kokomo Rescue Mission (KRM) main Headquarters to Open Arms, the Kokomo Rescue Mission’s shelter for homeless women and children.

Why hold this event in the winter? To help raise awareness in the community about 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**.



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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 Christmas donation, or you may give your gift online at [www.kokomorescuemission.org](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.