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Heroin killed a part of me, but thanks to you, I'm alive in Jesus.

your mission messenger



EASTER ISSUE 2017

Something Lost, Everything Gained – BY TIFFANY

An addict once told me, “Heroin takes something from you that you can never get back.” I didn’t listen. Heroin turned me into someone who didn’t care about my family or even myself. I did things I never thought I’d do — lying, cheating, stealing — anything to get my next fix. And the more I used, the more numb I became to it all.

“Heroin took a part of me, and a part of me died.”

It should never have happened. I had a good childhood. My parents loved me, we went to church, I was a straight-A student, and I played three sports.

But I never really felt like I fit in anywhere. So I started hanging out with the wrong kids at school, and before long, I was dabbling with alcohol and drugs. I had a scholarship to attend Ball State, but I gave it up to marry my first true love.

Even though we had a son together, however, my husband was abusive from the beginning. So I drank even more. When I finally ran away from him, I also ran further from life, chasing after men, sex, and drugs to fill the hole in my heart.

In 2004, I was raped and left for dead. I survived, but I started abusing pain pills and heroin. My life was a mess — until I gave birth to my daughter four years ago. The love I felt for her changed my life, and it eventually led me to Open Arms.

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Something Lost, Everything Gained

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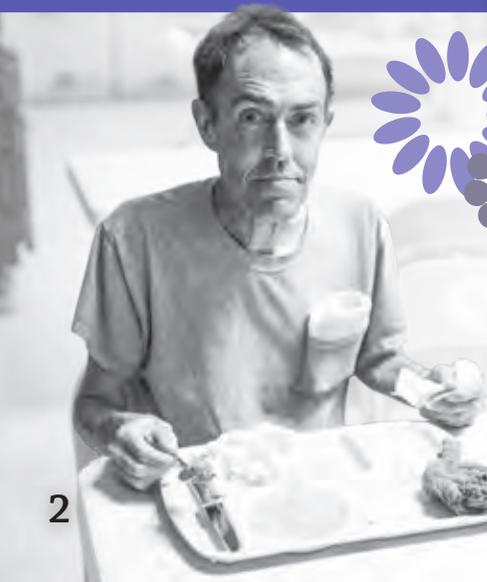
The people here showed me who I really am. They looked at me the way Christ sees me. They loved me as Christ loves me. And the more I learned how Christ sees me, the more I could see myself as someone beautiful. Someone who deserves to be loved.

Heroin took a part of me, and a part of me died. But just like Jesus on Easter morning, God put me back together, brand new. My past is gone. "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus," (PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14).



A Gift of \$44.30 Provides:

- ✓ One night stay for a woman or a woman with children (bed, utilities, etc.)
- ✓ Case Management & Life Skills Classes
- ✓ 3 Nutritious Meals



Thanks to Easter, your gifts can

Homelessness is dangerous any time of year. But every night this winter, all over Howard County, homeless men, women, and even precious, vulnerable children will try to survive in cars, trucks, tents, garages, abandoned buildings, and even on our city streets. Fortunately, some will seek warmth and safety in places like the Kokomo Rescue Mission. But it's still heartbreaking.

There's hope, though, for one single reason: that first Easter morning, when Jesus rose again, bringing the promise of wholeness and new life to every struggling person in Howard County and throughout the world. Easter is the reason the Kokomo Rescue Mission, along with caring people like you, reaches out to the "least of these," because of our shared hope in a Risen Savior. Thank you!

An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

When Jesus died on the cross, everyone knew it. Dead men don't come back to life. There's no more hope for dead people. That's what everyone thought.

I'm sure that's also how some people think about many of the men and women who come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. There's no hope for them. They're too broken, and their problems are just too deep.

But I truly thank God that there are even *more* people like you who know it's not true. Jesus rose again, alive, fully transformed. You and I were once dead and hopeless — but we are alive because of Jesus. And that some new life is possible for every one of our guests, too. Hallelujah!

That's why the Kokomo Rescue Mission exists. It's why we're named the Kokomo *Rescue* Mission. We do more than provide hurting and hungry men and women with critical necessities like food and shelter. We do more than help people stop drinking, using drugs, and other self-destructive behaviors. We lead them to a Risen Savior, who alone can *transform* them from the inside out. Those who once looked dead are alive again, new creatures in Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your compassion and partnership

That's what your support for Kokomo Rescue Mission means. Every gift you send, every prayer you pray, offers hope to broken people, healing to those who are hurt, love for those in need. You are not only changing lives, God is miraculously *transforming* lives through you.

I am so grateful for your partnership in this extraordinary mission — and not just your financial partnership. It's also your prayers, the time you volunteer here, whenever you are an ambassador on our behalf. Thank you for caring about all the precious and hurting men, women, and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"You are not only changing lives, God is miraculously transforming lives through you."

Leaving the Past Behind – BY DON

I was 9 when my dad left us. Everything deteriorated in the family after that. My mom grew more overbearing and overprotective. I learned quick that one little mess-up had serious consequences with her. At the same time, I had to become the man of the house, and my childhood kind of got left behind.

I want to be clear, I don't blame anyone. My life got messed up because of me and nobody else. But it all started back here. My relationship with my mom never recovered. In fact, I never had a good relationship with any woman since then.

After high school, I got married to an overbearing woman I never should have been involved with. To deal with all that,

I started hanging out at bars, drinking, and doing cocaine. After my marriage fell apart, I just drifted to more unhealthy women, more alcohol, and more drugs.

I moved all over the country and eventually added meth to my diet of drugs. And I continued to chase one bad relationship after another, never really settling down, never really getting anywhere. After the economy tanked in 2008, things really went south for me. I had trouble finding and keeping good work.

“I’ve quit beating myself up and I’m learning how to build good, solid friendships.”

In 2013, I came to Kokomo Rescue Mission, homeless, helpless, and hopeless. I learned a lot about myself and got in tune with God. After that, I went back to try to fix my relationship with Mom. When that didn't work, and I ended up drinking again, I came right back here.

I was so lonely and tired of being alone. I needed healthy relationships in my life. And that means I had to change. Going through the program this time, I learned to let go of the past. I can't fix Mom. I've quit beating myself up and I'm learning how to build good, solid friendships — especially a good, solid, honest relationship with God, which is more important than anything else.

This Easter, I'm really grateful folks like you gave me this chance.

This Easter, I have a solid relationship with God, because you cared.



Fifth Sunday Focus on the Mission

“Undy” Sunday – April 30

Please organize your church group, Facebook friends, or family to collect packages of new underwear and socks for school-age children going back to school. Remember, many of the children wear adult sizes. The underwear will be given to children staying at Open Arms and to families receiving free clothing through the Care & Share Store. Items needed are: Socks, T-shirts, ladies' undergarments, briefs and boxers.



transform lives.

Your Gifts Lead Hurting People to Jesus Christ

Your gifts and prayers for hungry, hurting people at the Kokomo Rescue Mission restore hope and offer resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you! But every day, more come seeking our help. They too need to know there's a Risen Savior. And they need people like you to give them the chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

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

“Your gifts and prayers for hungry, hurting people at the Kokomo Rescue Mission restore hope and offer resurrection life.” 3



- Shop for gently used clothing, household items and furniture at great prices.
- Donations of gently used clothing, furniture and household items are accepted.
- Clothing and household items are given out based on income qualifications.
- Home health aid items such as: walkers and crutches are FREE when available

For more information visit the "Thrift Store" page of our website at: kokomorescuemission.org/thrift-stores

Honoring Loved Ones with Tribute Gifts

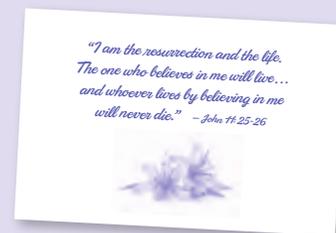
An important tradition in many families is to make charitable contributions in memory of or in tribute to a beloved friend or family member. Honoring a person through a charitable gift is a wonderful way to ensure worthwhile values continue to influence the community and world around us.

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

- Gifts for an occasion such as Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthday or another noteworthy occasion show how very much you care for the person.
- Through tribute giving, you help preserve a loved one's legacy.
- Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their favorite holiday such as Easter, Christmas, or Memorial Day can be another opportunity to share.

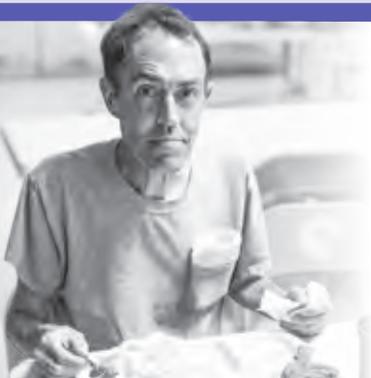
For more information on Tribute and Memorial giving can be found on our website at: kokomorescuemission.org/ways-to-give

What's on the Easter menu?



We are planning to serve ham and scalloped potatoes, green beans, chicken and noodles and dinner rolls. A nice assortment of salads and desserts will complete the meal.

The tables will be decorated with the cards our donors have signed and mailed in, letting our guests know that someone cares about them, and wants them to know that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ they can have hope.



My Easter Gift



YES, Van, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people.

Here's my Easter 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

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

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

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