



An Encouraging  
Word from Van

page 2



Growing  
Pains

page 3



Tribute  
Gifts

page 4



*“I started abusing alcohol, trying to drown my sorrows and depression. It was a horrible time, and I had lost hope.”*

— Thomas

*Thanks to you,  
I've been able to  
turn my life around!*

# your mission messenger

SUMMER ISSUE 2013

## Finding an Anchor . . . FOR LIFE

— by Thomas

**K**now what it's like to be on an aircraft carrier? You spend some time in one place, and just when you're getting used to it, you go somewhere else — sometimes where it's safe, sometimes to a war zone. That's how it was for me for almost a decade in the U.S. Navy, just sort of drifting from one place to another.

That's pretty much been my story since my dad disappeared when I was 10. I lived in a couple of foster homes, and my whole life has been like that ship, never feeling anchored. I'm 47 now, and I've never really settled down. I've been married three times — once in my early 20s, again while I was in the Navy, and again when I got out.

When my third marriage began to fall apart, so did I. I felt

like I'd lost everything, and I started abusing alcohol, trying to drown my sorrows and depression. I got arrested a couple times, and lost my home. As a veteran, I thought I'd be able to find some help, but there wasn't much. I kept telling myself that I could get out of this situation, but as much as I tried, I couldn't. It was a horrible time, and I had lost hope.

### **Dropping anchor**

My mom suggested that I try the Kokomo Rescue Mission. That was in 2010, and I stayed here about six months. I got an apartment and I met a woman who is now my fiancée. I've since moved back here to the Mission, and my fiancée lives here too, over at Open Arms. We're planning to buy a house and get married.

*(continued on page 2)*



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## Finding an Anchor . . . for Life

(continued from page 1)

I'm turning things around, and I finally feel like I can settle down. But that wouldn't have been possible without the help of the people at the Mission. They've helped me with job skills. They've helped me quit drinking. And they've helped me grow in my faith; I pray every day.

I feel like God sent me to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, and now I have a good life and a good future. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

Fifth Sunday Focus on the Mission

"Undy" Sunday

June 30

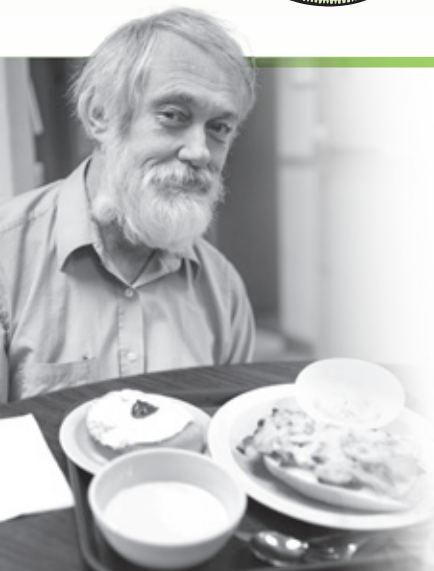
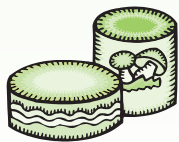
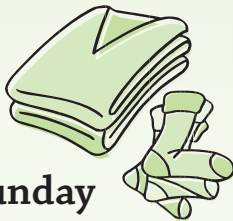
Beef Up the Mission

"Where's the beef?"

July 8 - 13

Yes, We Can

September 22



## An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

I hope you read Thomas' story in this issue of *your Mission Messenger*. Tragically, stories of homeless men like him, who've served in our armed forces, are not rare — especially right here in Kokomo. Do you know that Howard County has the highest number of veterans per capita in the state of Indiana? In fact, nearly 20 percent of the men who come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission are homeless vets!

They've served in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq or Afghanistan — and they've all brought home unimaginable physical or emotional wounds. Hurt, confused and unable to cope, some wander lost for years, often medicating themselves with drugs or alcohol, before they find their way here.

It really hurts when I see these wounded men, who've truly put their lives on the line for our freedoms and safety, fall into addiction and homelessness. But I know it's hard to make rational, healthy choices when you're wounded. And we're all like that, aren't we? We can all make bad choices when we hurt.

I feel so much compassion for these courageous people — and even more, I feel immense gratitude for the chance to serve them, and to help them, at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

**Transforming Lives in Kokomo — all thanks to you!**

As always, I'm also so grateful to you for everything that happens here. Every meal, every night someone finds safe shelter, every man and woman who breaks an addiction, everyone who finds new direction, and every lost soul that's saved — are all thanks to your compassion and generosity.

With summer nearly upon us, I'm reminded that support for the Kokomo Rescue Mission always falls as people go on summer vacations or face other financial commitments. That's why I'm also grateful for your continued faithfulness. Thank you!

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"I'm so grateful to you for everything that happens here."

## Thank You for Giving Hope to the P

As the summer months roll around, our thoughts often turn to baseball, beaches, bike rides, and barbecues — all sorts of fun in the sun! They're all good gifts from God: Psalm 16:11 says He fills us "with joy [and] eternal pleasures," and John 10:10 promises "abundant life" — literally, life "to the full."

But summer isn't "to the full" for everyone. For many, it can be just one more empty season of hopelessness and hurting. Such is life for those whom Kokomo Rescue Mission seeks to help — the broken, the addicted, the homeless, the poor. But thanks to your generosity, love and compassion, many of these people are finding hope and healing. You are giving them a chance for a fresh start, to live lives "to the full," to enjoy even the simplest of summer's pleasures!

You are giving women, and a chance for to live lives to enjoy even of summer

# Growing PAINS

By his own admission, Aaron didn't want to grow up and face the real world. He just wanted to drink or get high with his friends, to have a good time, *all* the time. And nothing was going to stand in his way — not a few arrests, not probation, not even the looming threat of serious jail time.

"I wanted to stay young forever," he says. "I was afraid of responsibility. But I was stubborn as a mule and I didn't want to change."

Aaron's dad died when he was 10, and he says that though they weren't close (his parents had divorced some years before), the sudden lack of a father figure was a harsh blow. As he grew into his teens, Aaron decided to use his fatherlessness as an excuse for making poor choices. At 16, he smoked pot for the first time. He says that if his father, a former sheriff, were alive, "that would have never happened."

Before long, Aaron was addicted to marijuana and alcohol, and was even stealing from homes. In early 2012, he violated probation, and spent three months in jail where, he says, "I had a lot of time to think." He decided he wanted to change, but didn't know where to begin. A fellow inmate recommended the Kokomo Rescue Mission, so Aaron headed straight there upon his release.

## A new beginning

"I wanted a fresh start," says Aaron, now 20. He had only been at the Mission for a



*"I was afraid of responsibility. But I was stubborn as a mule and I didn't want to change."*

— Aaron

week when things were already getting better. He was working in the kitchen, the first time he'd ever worked in his life. He has quit alcohol and drugs, wants to find a job, and someday have a family. And he wants to experience the transformation that faith can bring.

"Now that I am here at the Mission, I am turning my ways toward God," he says. "I know that if I follow the words of Jesus and go by His word, then I will do right."

Thank YOU for making it possible for young people like Aaron to turn their lives around.

## Did you know?

- Kokomo Rescue Mission has been serving the homeless, hungry and hurting in North Central Indiana since 1953.
- Kokomo Rescue Mission's ministry is supported by donations and by proceeds from its resale stores and recycling.
- Kokomo Rescue Mission is not a member of the United Way.
- Kokomo Rescue Mission provides shelter and food services 365 days a year.

## HOMELESS VETS

In a recent study, during the course of a single year, 136,334 veterans spent at least one night in a homeless shelter — a count that did not include homeless veterans living on the streets. The urgency of the problem is growing as more people return from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. The study found 11,300 younger veterans, 18 to 30, were in shelters at some point during 2009. Virtually all served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

# Homeless and Hurting this Summer!

## Your Generosity Transforms Lives!

Read Thomas' and Aaron's stories in this newsletter, and you'll see how your partnership with Kokomo Rescue Mission is transforming lives, one at a time. People are being rescued from abuse, from addictions, from abandonment, and given a chance to start anew, thanks to you!

More hurting people show up at the Mission almost every day, seeking the "rescue" that is such a vital part of our name. And we need your help to continue giving them the rescue that they desperately need — emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

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

ng these men,  
nd children a  
a fresh start,  
s "to the full,"  
n the simplest  
s pleasures.

# Tribute Gifts — November 1, 2012 to March 1, 2013

## Memorial Gifts

### Barney Ellis

Krista Kingery  
Thomas & Diana Everling

### Vic Ohlemacher,

### Keith Stearns, Leo Stokes & Sharon Holder

James Thrasher

### Sherry Trader &

### Margo Fife

Vonda Hughes  
Jewely Fife

### Raymond Wagoner

Linda Austin

### Patty McWhorter

Robert & Barbara Henninger  
Timothy & Susan Garner  
Huddle

### Sherri Hockney

Mary Jane Cherry  
Marilyn Skinner  
Sue Ann Yovanovich  
C. Milton Brown  
Bill & Marty Menges  
Dennis & Linda Hockney  
Barbara Godlove  
Steve Grady  
Jerry & Mary Steele  
Trent, Karla, Bennett & Kitt  
Martha Loudermilk  
Dean & Pauline Godlove  
Ron & Pamela Barsh  
Ronald Schafer  
J. Hugh & Jo Dwyer  
Kimberly Graves

### Kenneth Decarteret

Lisa Barnett

### Arlene Perkins

Louise Noelle  
Tony Noelle  
Toby & Jan Noelle  
Josh & Stacey Noelle  
Meredith Schmitt  
Robert & Barbara Cline

### Wesley David

### Rutherford

Melissa Jarrell  
Kristy Everhart

### Audrey Humphrey

Harold &  
Ellajean Dague

### Georgia Stahl

Bonnie Norris  
Betty Haggard  
Randall & Justine  
Haggard

### L. Owen Bolinger

Eileen Findling

### Keith A. Harshbarger

### and Paul & Erma

### Dearinger

Paula Harshbarger

### Josephine &

### Ross Bourne

Wendell & Nancy  
Hoover

### Clara Yoder

Lee & Martha Miller

### Norma Gregg

James Schlie

### John Moos

Challi Pullen & Family

### Mr. Schleck

Ron & Linda Austin

### Corky Williamson

Don & Ann Button

### Joyce Cook

Jerry Cook

### Mary Waldron

Debra Faunce



## In Honor of:

### Don & Marilyn Wagoner

William Terpstra

### John & Judy Hussey and

### Michael Bolinger

Eileen Findling

### Northwestern HS

### Teachers & Staff

Dr. Ronald Thompson

### John Horning Family,

### Myra Horning,

### Steve, Beth & Sarah

### Netsky, Charles & Jessie

### Radliff, Pam Nevin

### and the Randy

### Hammond Family

Susan Horning &

Michael Dolce

### Jack Walker

Carl Roudebush

### Steve & Carol Cole

Jim & Pauline Guge

### Mr. & Mrs. Andy Wert,

### Annie Hines,

### Dr. & Mrs. Chris James

### and Mr. & Mrs. Dave

### Harrison

Beth Kuhlman

### J. B. Withers

Sally Davies

### James Deardorff

Greg Schroeter

### Patsy Troxell

Tony Troxell

### Mr. & Mrs. Leo Melle,

### Mrs. Paula Arnold and

### Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Cranor

Donald & Ellen Cranor

For more information about giving Tribute Gifts or to see the current list of Tribute Gifts, visit our website at: [www.kokomorescuemission.org](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org)



## My Summer Gift

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

- Please bill my credit card:  
 VISA  MC

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 summertime 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.

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