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“Despite all the terrible things I’ve experienced, God has a different plan for me.”

your mission messenger

FALL ISSUE 2014

LOVE is lifting me — by Lottie

Jeremiah 29:11 is my favorite verse: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

I love that verse because it reminds me that, despite all the terrible things I’ve experienced, God has a different plan for me.

I’ve struggled with low self-esteem since childhood. That affected my choice in men. My first husband ended up physically beating me three or four times a month. After we divorced, I met another man who raped me on the way to a church devotional we attended. Worse, the church didn’t believe me and kicked me out.

Ever since then, I’ve suffered with post-traumatic stress.

Anytime I find myself in a stressful situation, I feel like I’m having a nervous breakdown. So it’s been really hard to hold down permanent jobs. I’ve also continued to have bad luck with men. I’ve been married twice since my mid-30s, once to a porn addict and once to a man who turned out to be bi-polar and a sex offender.

Safety Today — and Hope for a Better Future

I don’t know why I choose the men I do, but I know it has something to do with my low self-esteem. So when I ran away from my last job in May 2013 and ended up homeless, I came to Open Arms. For the first time in a long time, I felt at peace. Open Arms has become my safe haven.

The staff here is teaching me how to negate all the negative thoughts that run through my head and replace them with what God says. And God says I am His child, and

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Serving Six Counties

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Love is Lifting Me

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that He loves me and will never leave me. My self-esteem is already beginning to grow and I'm finding new ways to deal with stress in healthy ways.

I'm so grateful for Open Arms — and I'm thankful for people like you who support this place. Your compassion has not only helped me get back on my feet, but you remind me that God really has given me a hope and a future.

Red Ribbon Christmas

The temperature outside still feels like summer, but fall is just around the corner. With fall comes cooler temperatures and our thoughts start to turn to Christmas. For some in our community, Christmas is a difficult time. 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.

An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

I sat in a courtroom last week and listened to a man describe himself as “human trash.” Not as a father or son, not as a brother, uncle, or friend. Human trash. Perhaps, like many men and women we see at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, he'd burned all his bridges to friends and family. Now he's alone — and how sad is that.

One of the things I love about the Kokomo Rescue Mission — and what YOU make possible — is that, together, we offer hurting men and women more than beds and food. We remind them they are not “trash.” They are human beings, made in the image of God. They are friends. And they are family. Part of OUR family. And we embrace them with the extravagant love of Jesus and help lead them into God's eternal family.

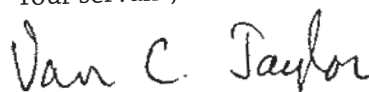
That happens all year-round at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. But never is it more important than during the upcoming holiday season. The holidays can be pretty lonely for homeless men and women. But not here at the Mission, thanks to you. There's no way someone can feel alone when they're eating a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with 400 other people, in a room filled with love, hugs, and joy.

Thank you for making this family possible

Love — being together, encouraging one another, supporting one another — that's what this family is all about. Thank you for being more than just a financial supporter of the Kokomo Rescue Mission. You're part of this big, wonderful family.

And this Thanksgiving, I invite you to come down and experience the day for yourself, to love hurting people — and to receive love in return. I am so grateful for all you do.

Your servant,



Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“Thank you for being . . . part of this big, wonderful family.”



Thank you for generously helping homele

Many of the hurting men and women who come to us arrive sick with regret. Others come paralyzed with fear and hopelessness. Some come hungry and ill after too many nights on the streets. But once they walk through the doors of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, they experience the love of God and the warm embrace of friends who care about them. They learn that second chances and new life really are possible — because our gracious God has never given up on them.

Please remember hurting people this fall

As healing and the Spirit of God begin moving in their lives, their trust and faith starts to grow. They understand they are no longer abandoned and alone, and that with God, all things really are possible — even for them. It's then we begin to see the

SOMETHING Bigger Than Myself

— by Seth

Anger, bitterness and depression, along with a whole lot of painkillers, really don't mix. I learned that the hard way.

I was raised in a highly critical family that never saw what was right in me, only what was wrong. So by my teen years, I grew angry and depressed — and I learned to self-medicate with alcohol and marijuana.

I managed to get married at age 21 and had a child. But when I turned 25, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and discovered painkillers — a wonder drug that not only masked my physical pain, but my emotional ones, as well. I was instantly hooked.

When my wife divorced me when I was 31, I felt miserable and worthless. I'd failed my father, my wife, and my child — so I got more drugs. And I didn't stop until I suffered a massive overdose that nearly killed me and left my arms partially paralyzed.

Appreciated for Who I Am

I did get off of painkillers and recovered some use of my arms, but by last October, I found myself homeless and came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. I was at rock bottom and felt sorry for myself. But then they asked me to start working in the kitchen — and everything changed. I was helping to feed the homeless in some small way. And I loved it! I poured my heart and soul into

it and I felt like I was part of something bigger than myself.

My self-worth grew, so I decided to start attending devotions and chapels, and

“I felt miserable & worthless . . . so I got more drugs. And I didn't stop until I suffered a massive overdose.”

getting into the Word. The longer I stayed the more they trusted me and gave me more responsibility. Then the Spirit of God started working through me to help some other guys — whoa!

Today, for the first time in my life, I feel like I'm appreciated for who I am and not criticized for who I am not. I have new friends, a new “family,” and a relationship with Christ. That's what people like YOU did for me.

I know I'm not a true success story yet, but one day I hope to be.

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 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.

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.



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

ss men, women & children this fall!

miracle of Christ's Light newly kindled in their eyes.

Yes, it's a miracle. A miracle we would never have the privilege of witnessing apart from your prayers and faithful support of the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thanks for your extraordinary generosity.

This fall, however, even more hurting people will come to us needing a miracle. Please remember them. 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 Thanksgiving seasons and throughout the year.

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching!

We are expecting to serve 2,600 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 20 and Saturday, November 22. We will collaborate with Kokomo Urban Outreach to provide the food for their many Neighborhoods of Hope on Wednesday, November 26, before Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day at Grace United Methodist Church we will serve dinner from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

► TO SERVE 2,600 MEALS, WE'LL NEED:

- 90 LARGE TURKEYS
- 25 HAMS
- 150 #10 CANS GREEN BEANS
- 150 #10 CANS CORN
- 2,600 SERVINGS OF POTATOES (INSTANT)
- 2,600 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

PAPER TOWELS



TOILET PAPER

FACIAL TISSUE

HEAVY DUTY FOIL



LIQUID HAND SOAP

DIAPERS NEWBORN THRU XXLARGE
(**SIZE 3, 4, 5 & 6)

POWDERED LAUNDRY SOAP

WINDOW CLEANER



ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

TOILET BOWL CLEANER



PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
(SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, BODY WASH)

**= GREATEST NEED

Did you know?

Kokomo Rescue Mission provides shelter and food services 365 days a year.

For more information, please visit <http://www.kokomorescuemission.org/about/annual-report-highlights.html>

* Remember Kokomo Rescue Mission in your estate plan.



My Thanksgiving Gift



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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 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.