



An Encouraging
Word from Van

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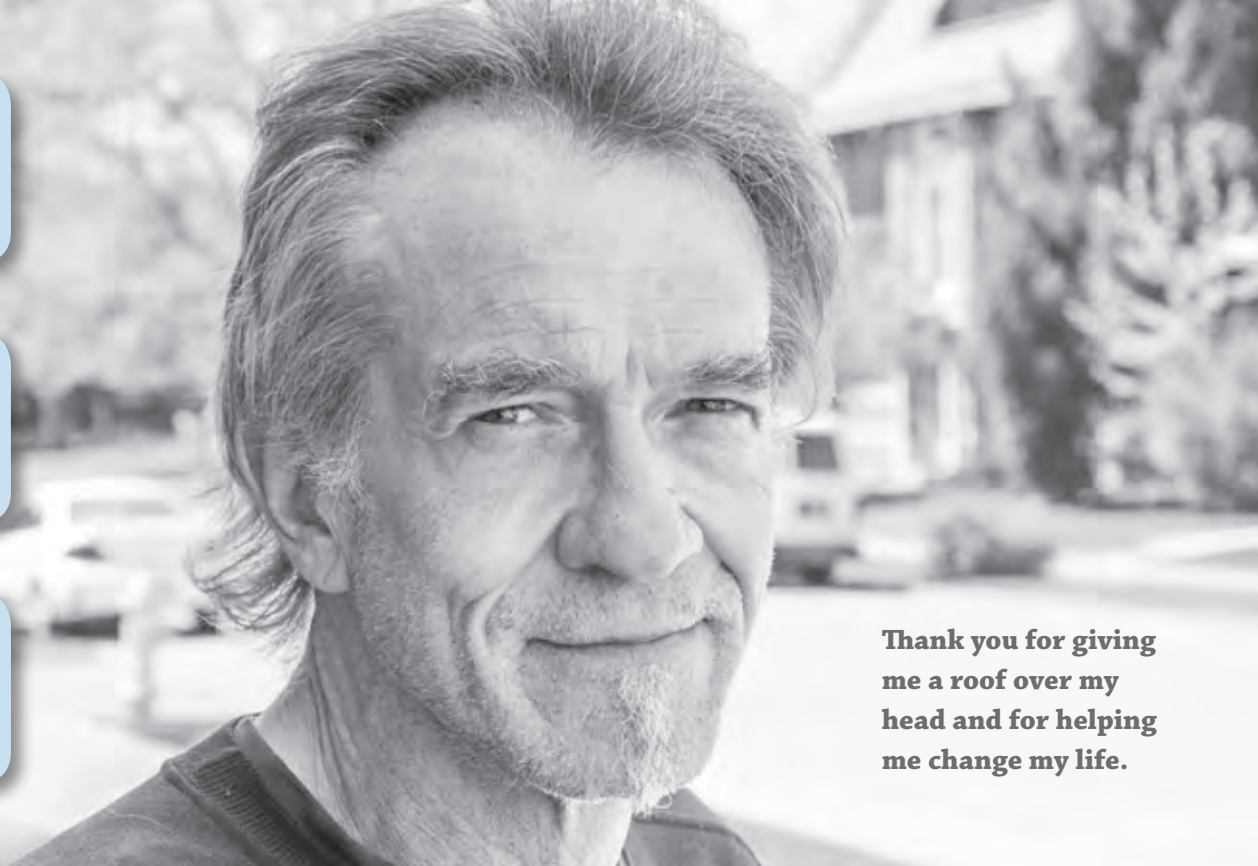
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**Thank you for giving
me a roof over my
head and for helping
me change my life.**

your mission messenger

SUMMER ISSUE 2015

Building New Bridges — by Troy

I've never been very diplomatic. I just say exactly what I think, in no uncertain terms, and I never consider the consequences. That's gotten me into a bit of trouble. I've pretty much burned all the major bridges in my life, and now I'm homeless at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

One major bridge I burned was with my former wife. We were married for 25 years, and we had our ups and downs. But then I had an affair, and the woman ended up giving birth to my daughter. My wife and I tried reconciling, but I didn't handle it very well. So we divorced in 2004.

I lost a few jobs and burned those bridges, too. So

when I had trouble finding another job a few years back, I couldn't pay child support and ended up with a felony. That just made everything harder. Finally, I lost my apartment because I ran my mouth off too much with the housing authorities.

So last year, I ended up homeless, and I didn't have any other options but the Kokomo Rescue Mission. I didn't come here thinking I had to change. I just needed a place to stay. I expected to find a flophouse filled with drunks and addicts. I sure didn't think there would be so many caring people.

The chaplains, I didn't expect them, at all. When

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Building New Bridges

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I started opening up to them, their friendship and counsel helped me see that I needed to learn some new coping skills if I was going to stop burning bridges and get my life back on track. I'm going through some classes now to help me figure all that out.

“I’ve pretty much burned all the major bridges in my life, and now I’m homeless.”

And the testimonies I’ve heard and the worship they have here. Oh my. I just well up with tears thinking about it. I realize now I’m here for a reason. I need God.

So I just want to thank the Kokomo Rescue Mission and all the donors for giving me this roof over my head and for showing me how to deal with the issues that have wrecked my life.



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

There, but for the grace of God, go I.”

It’s true, isn’t it? Most of us have been blessed to grow up in stable homes, with parents who loved us. And the circumstances of our lives have been mostly positive, helping us to reach our goals and aspirations. But many of the men and women we see at the Kokomo Rescue Mission have experienced far different circumstances — abusive parents, abandonment and tragedies that have wrecked their lives. If you and I had grown up in similar circumstances, our lives probably wouldn’t look much different from theirs.

It’s not always easy to love the so-called “unloveable,” who seem so different from us on the surface. But when we truly understand that men and women struggling with homelessness and addictions are just like you and me. That’s when we want to come alongside them and offer them a helping hand. Because we understand that’s what God has called us to do — to love those outside of our comfort zones.

Thank you for your extravagant love and care

That’s why I’m so grateful to live in a caring community like Kokomo, filled with people just like you. Your extravagant compassion and generosity for those who are poor and homeless, and for those struggling through natural disasters, are remarkable. I see it time and again, all year-round. You remind me that this isn’t just a community, we’re a family, bound together not by blood but by geography — and we take care of one another like family.

Thank you for your extravagant love and for your extraordinary support for the Kokomo Rescue Mission and the precious souls we serve together.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“You remind me that this isn’t just a community, we’re a family — and we take care of one another like family.”

People struggling with hunger and ho

The Apostle John wrote, “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:17-18)

Clearly, God’s love fills *you*! Your gifts have helped provide food for those who hunger, clothes for those who have so little and shelter for those struggling with homelessness right here in Kokomo. Without your support, there would be no Kokomo Rescue Mission. None of this would be possible. So on behalf of every precious man, woman and child seeking our help today, thank you for being God’s hands, feet and compassionate love in this ministry.



The Girl GROWS UP

— by Trista

“I think the most valuable thing I’ve gained here is the family I never had.”

— Trista

I’m stubborn. I’ve also been diagnosed with anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and anger issues — issues that have affected all my significant relationships and sent my life out of control.

Some of these issues stem back to my childhood. My father was in and out of jail and never wanted anything to do with me. My mom was an alcoholic with anger issues, as well, which led to a lot of verbal and emotional abuse. And because she’s a single mom, and I was the oldest child, she expected me to take care of my siblings long before I was ready for that responsibility.

Maybe I just wanted out. But I had my first child when I was 15. I had three more by age 25. My relationships with the fathers never worked out long-term — lots of cheating, fits of anger and fights, irresponsibility, and some drug abuse.

Looking back, though, I just didn’t have the coping skills to make a relationship work. The only ways I knew how to deal with problems were to lash out or to run away.

And those didn’t get me very far in life. Two months ago, I was stuck and had nowhere to go. I needed help — and I needed to change. So I came to Open Arms.

I’m already learning new ways to deal with relationships in healthier ways. They’re teaching me to listen instead of just reacting. They’re teaching me how to work through problems instead of running away. And they’re showing me how to give all my problems to God and trust Him to show me the way.

But I think the most valuable thing I’ve gained here is the family I never had. The people here care about me. Unconditionally. They call me on my stuff, they encourage me, they don’t judge me and they make sure I know there’s nothing I can do to make them stop loving me. I feel like I’m getting the parenting I should have gotten as a child.

I guess I walked in here still a little girl. But I’m going to leave a woman.

Upcoming Events

Yes, We Can

Sunday, September 13, 2015



On Sunday afternoon, September 13, young people will be ringing doorbells asking for canned food for Kokomo Rescue Mission.



They have answered a resounding “YES WE CAN” to the challenge of collecting 12 tons of food.

Make sure your church youth group plans to participate, and get the whole church involved in the kickoff collection at the church before the youth “hit the street.” For more info, visit the events page on our website at kokomorescuemission.org or call our Volunteer Coordinator at (765) 456-3838.

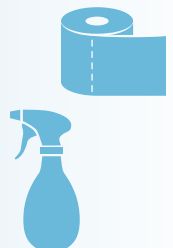
Re-Stock Sunday

Sunday, August 30, 2015

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 most throughout the year are things like:

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- All-purpose cleaner
- Diapers sizes newborn-5



For a list of current kitchen needs, see kokomorescuemission.org/gifts-in-kind

Homelessness need you this summer!

Please help again this summer

I hope you enjoyed reading about Trista and Troy in this newsletter. They are just two of the people you have helped through your gifts and prayers over this past year. Now, with summer upon us, we have the opportunity to work together again to show our guests there’s a better way to live. To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. You may also call us at (765) 456-3838. Thank you for being a caring friend to men, women and children who need your help this summer.

Tribute Gifts

December 1, 2014, to March 15, 2015

in memory of

WANDA BEHLER Max & Judy Sullivan, Mike Taylor,
Ballroom Dance Club of Kokomo

PAT & WAYNE BELL Donald & Maryellen Young

JESSE GILBERT Steve & Tanya Stewart

MARIE GRAY Jerry & Kathy Burtcher

ELSIE GRIFFEY Dennis & Cecilia Wihelm

RICHARD GREEN Jack & Anne Gable

KEITH HARSHBARGER Paula Harshbarger

JAN HENDRIX & JERRY TENBROOK Annie Adams,
Paul & Susan Anderson, City of Firsts H. O. G. Chapter, Jeffrey &
Pamela Dillman, Lisa Hagan, Mary Jamison, Michael & Jane King,
James Thasher, Ron & Amy Thompson

SHIRLEY KUHNS Larry & Shirley Kuhns, Gene & Barbara
McCauley, Elaine Pole, Judi Townsend, Westbrook Place Association

FRANK MARTINO Stephen & Susan Jessup

JANICE MEISTER Carl & Linda Crowder,
Linda Meister-Crowder

RUSSELL & KATHRYN MERRELL &

JOYCE COOK Jerry Cook

MARION MINER Norma Dunn

DAVID E. MOSS Willy & Darlene Komms, Michael & Beverly
Moss, Randy A. Rusch, Eva A. Sullivan

DR. STANTON W. NICHOLSON Paul L. Nicholson

MITCHELL SANDERSON David & Jerri Faris

ROY SAVAGE Don & Annabelle Vawter

MARY FRANCES TOCHTERMA Joan LaRowe,
Larry & Annette LaRowe, David LaRowe, Cheryl Schleeter,
Wilbur & Donna Marner

OPAL TROTTIER Wilbur & Donna Marner

WALTER UNGERER Richard & Marcelline Allen,
David & Theresa Berghoff, Timothy Berghoff, Milton & Patricia
Bevington, John & Ann Bingaman, Jeffrey & Terri Brown, Patrick
& Leanne Carey, Faith Presbyterian Church, Frank & Margaret
Faulkner, Mildred Flanary, Rachel Hendrix, Janet Hunt, Bonnie &
Bill Maple, Mark & Becky Mayfield, Mike Moran, Jay & Gail Myers,
Charles & Gloria Nipple, Joseph & Michele Pentek, Dennis & Darlene
Phalen, Gary & Jean Pyle, Eugene & Sally Ripley, W. R. Robb and
Associates, Eulala Roettger, John Rudy, Louis & Janice Sandos,
James M. Sargent, Dick & Myra Sanburn, Bill & Lyn Shirley, Thomas
Simmons, Loree Simpson, Kathryn Starzer-Farrell, Van & Becky
Taylor, Ron & Amy Thompson, Leo & Emily Watson, Clara Wilson

PHYLLIS J. ZELL Russiaville Friends Church

in honor of

JAMES ALLMAN Cynthia Allman

DORIS BARTON Mary Ellen Brookshire

BRITTON, TATE & IRVIN FAMILIES Jean Johnson

BARBARA CLINE Dawn Saba

WILLIAM GALLAGHER Catherine Costella

LANCE JACKSON Terry Foster

JO CENA MCCURDY Cristy Reiter

RUSSEVILLE FRIENDS James & Carol Lyon

JACK WALKER Carl Roudebush

GLENN WATKINS Christie Watkin

CURT WELKE Cathy Macombs

DAVID & WANDA ZAHRT Leeann Z. Wright

For more information about giving Tribute Gifts or to see the current list of Tribute Gifts, visit our website at:

www.kokomorescuemission.org/ways-to-give



My Summer Gift

YES, Van, I want to help
give hurting men, women
and children new hope and a
second chance at life.

- 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 generous 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.