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Word from Van

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I'm sober, standing on my own two feet for the first time — thank you!

your mission messenger



FALL ISSUE 2017

Time to Grow Up – BY RYAN

When I walked into the Kokomo Rescue Mission last February, I was 33 and I had little — or nothing — to show for my life. I've never been married and I have no kids. I've almost never worked. Most of the past 18 years is a blur of alcohol, pot, and painkillers. And I feel rotten for all the bad choices I've made.

“Most of the past 18 years is a blur of alcohol, pot, and painkillers.”

I don't have any real excuses. Sure, my parents were addicts, but I was raised by my grandparents. My grandmother, especially, was always there for me. She took care of me. I always had everything I needed.

Then I started drinking and smoking pot at 15. After that, I found pain pills. I just thought it was fun. They just made me kind of goofy and I laughed a lot.

But by my early 20s, I was a full-blown addict. My life was a haze, doing the same thing over and over, every day. And I always knew that, no matter what, no matter how bad things got, my grandmother would always be there for me. And that's the problem, she never held me accountable. I never had to work, I never had any responsibilities except to figure out how to get high again.

Even after my grandmother died five years ago, I never had to grow up — until one day last year, when I woke up in jail. The night before, I got so drunk that I blacked out. I got in a fight and hurt someone. When I left jail last February, I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

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Time to Grow Up

(continued from page 1)

I never read the Bible or went to church or anything. But I needed to change. I don't want to be an addict the rest of my life. So I joined the program here. Every day, the Lord shows me something that helps. I'm also getting so much support from the people here, I'm learning to stand on my own two feet. Sober. No one is going to enable me anymore.

I'm working hard and I'm trusting God. And thanks to you, I know I'm going to make it.

Re-Stock the Mission

October 29, 2017, is "Re-Stock Sunday." 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 throughout the year are things like:

- ✓ Facial tissue
- ✓ Powdered laundry detergent
- ✓ Disinfectant spray
- ✓ All-purpose cleaner
- ✓ Toilet bowl cleaner
- ✓ Regular coffee



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances. All circumstances. What does that mean for men and women struggling with addictions and homelessness at the Kokomo Rescue Mission?

It's hard to imagine more difficult and painful circumstances than those facing our guests. Physically, many are suffering from years of alcohol and drug abuse, diabetes, high blood pressure, liver damage, and more.

Emotionally, they are burdened with the wounds of horrific childhoods. Depression and regrets haunt them, while loneliness and broken relationships sink them even more. And on top of it all is the sin and guilt. They feel totally abandoned by God — and they've lost all hope that life can ever be any different.

But God says, "give thanks." That is our message to all our guests — like Ryan and Tina. It's hard to feel grateful in the midst of so much pain. Yet we remind them that we have a God who died to give us grace and mercy in our circumstances. We do not walk alone in the darkness, we walk together in the light of a living hope. And in that hope, real gratitude is born.

Your Support Makes This Ministry Possible

As summer turns to fall, I too am filled with gratitude — especially for donors like you who walk with us each and every year. We cannot do this ministry alone, but only through the good and faithful prayer and financial support you provide.

What a privilege to serve God together, to be His hands and feet, to be His light in a world filled with so much pain and darkness. May God bless you in this season of Thanksgiving.

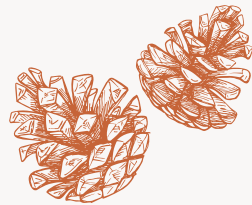
Your servant,

Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



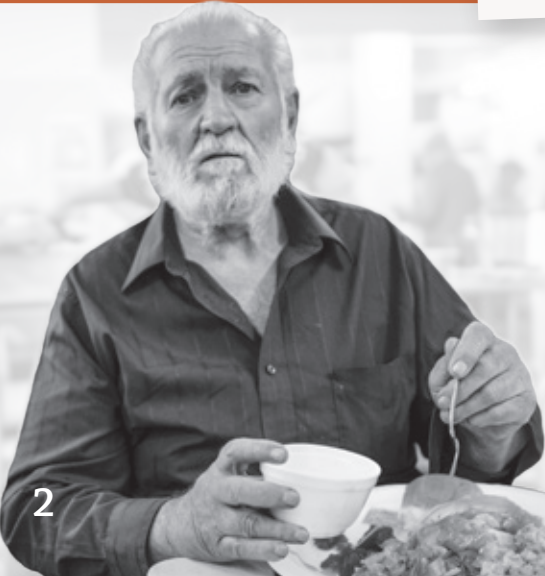
"I too am filled with gratitude — especially for donors like you who walk with us each and every year."



Homeless Men, Women, and Chil

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God" (2 Cor. 9:11-12).

That's what *your* generous gifts do in the hearts of hurting men, women, and children every day at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Your faithful generosity provides more than food and shelter. You give hurting people the chance to experience grace, healing, and salvation that transforms lives for all eternity. Thank you for touching so many lives this fall and Thanksgiving season — and throughout the year.



I'm Worth It – BY TINA

A year ago, if I looked in a mirror, I didn't like what I saw. I was Tina, the little girl who was molested and abused at 9. I was Tina, the problem child who ended up in juvenile corrections. I was Tina, who people said would never amount to anything. I was Tina who gave up two of my three children for adoption because I was too overwhelmed to raise them. I was Tina the victim and Tina the drug addict.

Most of my adult life is a blur of heroin, cocaine, and painkillers. After I gave my kids up for adoption when I was 24, I just ran. I figured if I can't feel anything, it's not happening. And drugs did the trick.

Then last year, my oldest daughter, who had stayed with me, got pregnant. She begged me to stop before I killed myself and never got to see my first grandchild. And I saw it as my chance to be a better grandmother than I was a mom. I got sober. When my grandson was born premature and died, I went right back to drugs. But it didn't last long. Something snapped and I knew I needed help.

They Offered Me Jesus Here

That's when I came to Open Arms. I had never felt worth anyone's love before. But that first day, someone said, "You're worth it. We love you." And it changed everything. I was surrounded by so many women filled with joy, peace, and happiness, and I soon realized they were offering me Jesus.

"God showed me I'm not Tina the addict or Tina the failed mom — I'm Tina child of God."

It took time, but I opened myself to God and finally realized that He loved me, too, despite all the things I'd done. God showed me I'm not Tina the addict or Tina the failed mom or Tina the victim. I'm Tina child of God. I can look in a mirror now and see what Jesus sees.

I'm still a work in progress. But thanks to my sisters here, and thanks to people like you, I'm filled with joy I've never known. And for the first time, I know I'm going to be OK.

Thanks to you, I can look in the mirror now and see what Jesus sees



Upcoming Events

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. Now is the time to be thinking about scheduling a date for your group to wrap presents on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. the first two weeks of December.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (765) 456-3838 to volunteer with preparing or delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes.



RED RIBBON CHRISTMAS OUTREACH
A Ministry of Kokomo Rescue Mission

Children Need Your Help This Fall!



Please help people in need this Thanksgiving

This fall, more and more men, women, and children are seeking help, hope, and a new start at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Your gift today will help provide them with nourishing food, clothing, safe shelter, and God's transforming power.

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 throughout the year.

"You give hurting people the chance to experience grace, healing, and salvation that transforms lives for all eternity."

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching!

Every year, we partner with Grace United Methodist Church and people like you to make Thanksgiving special for hundreds of people in our community. We are expecting to serve 600 delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meals at our Great Thanksgiving Banquet this year. On Thanksgiving Day at Grace United Methodist Church, we will serve meals from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

To serve 600 meals, we'll need:

- 24 Large Turkeys
- 8 Boneless Hams
- 40 #10 Cans Green Beans
- 40 #10 Cans Corn
- 600 Servings of Potatoes (Instant)
- 600 Dinner Rolls

Dressing Ingredients:

40 Loaves of Bread
 40 Stalks of celery
 8 lbs of Onions
 8 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

Honoring Loved Ones

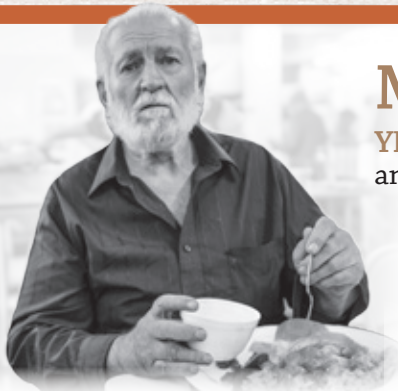


An important tradition in many families is to make charitable contributions in memory of — or in tribute to — a beloved friend or family member. Honoring a person through a charitable gift is a wonderful way to ensure worthwhile values continue to influence the community and world around us.

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

- 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.



My Thanksgiving Gift



YES, Van, I want to help hurting and homeless men, women, and families today and through the coming Thanksgiving season.

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

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



RM_47-INLG_H02KO

ACCOUNT NO.	EXP. DATE	AMOUNT
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 Thanksgiving 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.