



An Encouraging  
Word from Van

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**Thank you for helping me  
grow closer to God!**

# your mission messenger



FALL ISSUE 2018

## Free From Slavery

*"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*  
– Philippians 4:13

**T**hat verse is my favorite Bible passage, because I know Jesus can take everything bad that's happened in my life and turn it into good," says Jerome, a 47-year-old guest at Kokomo Rescue Mission. "Jesus Christ is the only one who can transform my life."

Jerome has endured a lifetime of hardship. For 11 years as a child, the destructive abuse he suffered from his stepfather left him with severe mental illness, and he's been in and out of jails and psychiatric units throughout his adult life. He's been on several psychotropic drugs to control his illness, but he says the side effects were worse than the illness. "There were times I thought I was going to die," he says. "For the past 15 years, I've been on

Prolixin, which is supposed to help manage paranoia and other schizophrenic symptoms. But for me, it just bypassed all my sense of reality."

**"I believe Jesus can set me free from this slavery to drugs and mental illness."**

He's rarely worked because he's been on disability since the age of 25. Loneliness has haunted him his entire life. "But I've always had a good friend in Jesus," he says. "I know that. God has always been there looking after me through other people."

After his latest release from jail six weeks ago, Jerome had nowhere to go. He wanted to start over somewhere safe, so he came to Kokomo Rescue Mission, where he hopes he can learn to "stand on my own two feet and take responsibility

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## Free From Slavery

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for my life, to be independent," without drugs, through the healing power of Jesus Christ.

"I believe Jesus can set me free from this slavery to drugs and mental illness," he says. "Here I'm surrounded by people who love God and who are holding me accountable. I have a spiritual family that is supporting me. I feel better about myself today than I ever have.

"Thank you for helping me grow closer to God, and helping me learn a new way of life and how to live the way Christ wants me to live."

## Re-Stock the Mission

September 30, 2018, 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,

Despite an improving economy, many of our neighbors in Kokomo continue to struggle. Some are battling addictions and devastating emotional traumas, others have simply been left behind and fallen through the cracks. But all of them are haunted by grief and shame, fear and stress.

As we begin preparing for another Thanksgiving season in a couple of months, my heart especially goes out to hurting families. In my own family, Thanksgiving is such a special time of good food and shared love. But for many of the families and individuals we serve at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, the season is filled with fear, loneliness, and regrets.

That's why we go all out at Thanksgiving, determined to offer hurting individuals and families more than a great turkey dinner — we treat them like family, with all the extravagant hospitality and love we experience in our homes, so no one ever feels alone. And as we share our love, we share our faith and invite them to join this special family of ours so they never have to feel shame or sorrow again.

### Thank You for Being Part of This Wonderful Family

As one of our caring supporters and friends of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, you are part of this family, too. Not just because of your financial support, but because of *your* love and care. And at Thanksgiving that's never more clear. During this special season, all our donors, guests, and staff are united as a single family, standing together in unity and love.

I know it seems odd to talk about Thanksgiving in September, but when you have to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for more than 600 hurting neighbors, you can't start early enough. As we approach this coming season of gratitude, please continue to pray for our Kokomo family and support us through your generous gifts, donations, and love. Thank you!

*Van C. Taylor*

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



*"During this special season, all our donors, guests, and staff are united as a single family, standing together in unity and love."*

## Please help struggling men, wo

"How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you" (Psalm 31:19).

The Kokomo Rescue Mission is filled with men, women, and children who have found safe refuge and God's goodness, thanks to your generosity. As an instrument of God, your faithful support and compassion not only provide food and shelter, you are giving people in need the chance to experience grace, healing, and salvation — transforming lives for all eternity. Thank you for touching so many lives this fall and over the coming holidays.

# Getting Off the Roller Coaster

— BY MARCIE

**A**ddiction is a powerful thing. I'm not talking only about drugs. That wasn't my most destructive addiction. The worst addiction in my life was to a man. My husband.

I don't know why. Maybe it's because when I was 7, my mother suddenly decided she didn't want to be a mom anymore, handed me over to my dad, and left. My dad loved me, and I was a total daddy's girl. But when my mom abandoned me, I feared being abandoned again and feared being alone for the rest of my life.

When I met my husband, I was 20. And outside of my father, he was the first true love of my life. Unfortunately, he was also a meth addict. So I became one, too. Meth

was the price I paid to keep him close. It turned into a 13-year roller-coaster ride. Sometimes we'd get sober, live a normal life, and raise our three kids. But then he'd go back to meth, hook me into it again, the physical and emotional abuse would come back, and life would spiral out of control.

## **New Hope for a Better Future**

In May 2017, however, I knew this isn't how God wanted me to live. My kids didn't deserve this, and I didn't deserve it. And I knew I had to come to Open Arms with my kids so we could get off the roller coaster.

## **“The worst addiction in my life was to a man. My husband”**

Open Arms forced me to dig into my past to understand why I did the things I did. They encouraged me, they taught me boundaries, and they gave me, through the power of God and His grace, the strength to change. Today, a year later, my entire life has been transformed.

When I look in a mirror today, I am not Marcie the addict. I am Marcie, strong and beautiful.

Thank you for giving me and my kids hope and the chance for a better life. You gave me the strength to keep going. My kids saw a lot of cruelty, pain, and meanness. But because people like you care, they now see the love that's possible.



*Thank you for giving me and my kids hope and the chance for a better life.*

## Upcoming Events



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, or Thursday evenings 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm the first two weeks of December.

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



## Women, and children this fall!



### **Hurting People in Kokomo Need Your Help**

Kokomo is experiencing a growing number of men and women struggling with homelessness and addiction. This fall, please remember these hurting souls, especially the families coming to us seeking hope and a helping hand. Your gifts help provide them with nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of 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](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org) or call us at 765-456-3838. Thank you for touching so many lives through you your generous giving this fall and throughout the year.

*Your gifts help provide... nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of God's transforming power.*

# 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 dinner from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.



## Change in our Meal Amount

Each day, the Mission serves an average of 335-350 meals to our residential program and dining room guests. We all know the price of basic food items like bread, milk, and eggs steadily rise every year and so have our costs to provide those meals.

Although much of our food is donated, we must also stretch our resources to cover other costs to provide well-balanced meals. For nearly ten years, we have been operating at an average cost of \$2.05 per meal. Beginning October 1, there will be a modest increase to our meal donation amount. Your \$2.17 gift combined with donated food will provide a complete meal.

## To serve 600 meals, we'll need:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Large Turkeys                   | <b>Dressing Ingredients:</b>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Boneless Hams                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Loaves of Bread  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 #10 Cans Green Beans            | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Stalks of Celery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 #10 Cans Corn                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 lbs. of Onions    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 600 Servings of Potatoes (Instant) | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 doz. Eggs         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 600 Dinner Rolls                   |  |

Please let us know as soon as possible what you can provide.

**Kokomo Rescue Mission's holiday outreach depends on your generosity.**

More information about Mission events at: [kokomorescuemission.org](http://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:

### 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

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



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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 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.