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**Thanks to you, Jesus
is transforming my
whole family!**



your mission messenger

SUMMER ISSUE 2018

Embraced with Open Arms – BY KAYLA

I grew up in a family made up entirely of drug addicts and alcoholics — parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, everyone. So I just followed in their footsteps. I was 12 when I started using drugs and drinking, and by 14, I was smoking cocaine with my mom.

Drugs played a huge role in my life from that point on. When I started getting arrested, I got taken from my mom. So I ran away to Alabama for awhile. That's where I started smoking meth and shooting opiates. In fact, it was my aunt who shot me up for the first time. Eventually, the police found me and I came back to Kokomo when I was 18.

But I was really messed up. I was already a full-blown needle junkie, shooting heroin. I was also homeless, sleeping outside, robbing people for drug money — and

going back and forth to jail. I knew I needed help, but drugs were the love of my life.

Then three years ago, my mom and my sister found Jesus and got clean. But I just couldn't find what my mom did, so I kept falling down. But last year, I got arrested again. In jail, I started praying. I asked God to show me what to do, to show me the path to take and I'd follow. He led me straight to Open Arms. I had nothing left but the clothes on my back.

“In jail, I started praying. I asked God to show me what to do.”

True to the name of this place, they embraced me with open arms. The genuine love and acceptance I found here was incredible. They looked me in the eye and said, “We love you.”

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Embraced With Open Arms

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I decided that whatever this place asked me to do, I'd do it. I knew that if I was going to ever have a life, it would have to be with Jesus. And that's who these women show me every day. I've seen Jesus save women from the depths of hell on earth here. That's what I want, too.

Jesus is now transforming my whole family. And one day, I pray my family will be an example for others to follow. Thank you!

Homelessness & Opioids

The issue of opioid abuse has risen to a level of national crisis as the number of people abusing prescription drugs and heroin has dramatically risen, and the rate of opioid-related overdose deaths has tripled since 2000.

The number of drug overdose deaths in the state of Indiana has increased more than seven times in 16 years, from 203 in 2000 to 1,518 in 2016. In Howard County only, there were 44 opioid related deaths in 2017.

— **National Alliance to End Homelessness, Indiana State Department of Health, and Howard County Coroner's Office.**



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

I hope you read Kayla's story on page one of this issue of *your mission messenger*. She is just one among tens of thousands of people in the United States struggling with opioid drugs like heroin, painkillers, and fentanyl. It's an epidemic in this country — and one of the hardest-hit regions is right here in Kokomo.

Right now, I have a list of 44 names of men and women who died of drug overdoses last year alone in Howard County. And that list does not include all those under the age of 21 who also died. This epidemic is destroying the lives of men and women, younger people, older people, and people of all ethnic backgrounds and economic classes. But it's affecting those who are under-resourced the hardest. Once they get hooked, they spend all their money on drugs. There are no more resources for food and shelter. The most unfortunate ones end up dead or in prison. The lucky ones end up coming to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Your Support Promises Real Hope and Healing to Hurting People

Thanks to you, the Kokomo Rescue Mission is on the front lines of this epidemic, offering hope, healing, safety, fellowship, and the love these hurting people need to get back to being the men and women God created them to be.

Here, we make sure they get the medical attention they need to heal their physical bodies. But more importantly, your support introduces each man and woman to someone who can heal their emotional and spiritual pain: Jesus Christ. Here, people discover that Jesus took all their pain and punishment, and He died on a cross so they could find eternity with their loving Father in Heaven.

Thank you for your faithful financial support and prayers this summer.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"Your support introduces each man and woman to someone who can heal their emotional and spiritual pain: Jesus Christ."

Please Give Hurting People Hope

Thank you for all your extraordinary acts of love and compassion for hurting men, women, and children at Kokomo Rescue Mission. As the Apostle Paul promised, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up," (Galatians 6:9). Your support means new hope, health, and life to our guests struggling with poverty, addictions, and homelessness.

Many of these precious souls have spent years, sometimes decades, believing their lives don't matter, that no one cares for them. But your kindness shows them beyond doubt they do matter and they are loved — by you and by God.

Taming the Beast – BY DENNIS

All my life, I've been really good at two things: working on cars and beating people up. I grew up fighting my younger brothers and that violence just followed me into adulthood. I had a quick temper and I earned a reputation as someone you don't want to mess with. I was a beast to be around. I didn't care about anyone or anything. Not even me.

After my son came into my life when I was 22, I tried to calm down a little. I poured myself into my work as a car mechanic. Fixing cars 14 hours a day, I made good money and raised my son well.



But frankly, the beast was still there, the anger quick. Outside of my son, I still didn't care about anything. I felt completely empty, and I kept thinking there has to be something more than this.

“I was a beast to be around. I didn't care about anyone or anything. Not even me.”

As the years went by, I just found myself giving up on life. At one point, I had some kind of breakdown, because I couldn't work and ended up losing everything. Somehow I found a way to pull myself together and start all over again, but I never could shake the emptiness. I soon got overwhelmed and lost everything again. Then it became a cycle. I've imploded a few times now.

But last October was the worst. Instead of imploding, however, I made the best decision ever: I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. They immediately put me to work in the kitchen, and from day one, I found a joy and passion I never felt before. There's something special about cooking and serving meals to hungry people, that's given me meaning and peace. And the key to it all? God. I found God here, and I do everything for Him now.

God used the Kokomo Rescue Mission, and people like you who support this place, to tame the beast in me. I used to think all I could do is fix cars and beat on people. Now folks say I'm a joy to be around. Imagine that.

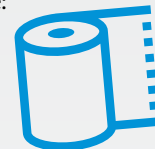
I found God here, thanks to you!

Upcoming Events

RE-STOCK SUNDAY Sunday, July 29, 2018

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:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissue
- Powered Laundry Detergent



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

YES, WE CAN Sunday, September 9, 2018

On Sunday afternoon, September 9, young people will be ringing doorbells asking for canned food for the Kokomo Rescue Mission. They have answered a resounding “YES, WE CAN” to the challenge of collecting 10 tons of food.



Make sure your church youth group plans to participate, and get the whole congregation 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.

Love and New Life This Summer

Please continue to care this summer

For most of us, summer is a time to relax, enjoy backyard barbecues, and take hard-earned vacations. But people burdened with homelessness and poverty don't get a vacation from their misery. Every day is another challenge to hold on to hope or even to survive. They need our help — they need your help. We dare not become weary in the face of so much need.

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.

“Your kindness shows them beyond doubt they do matter and they are loved — by you and by God.”

Dick and Joan McCain Endowment



The Dick and Joan McCain endowment to the Community Foundation of Carroll County will have a significant impact for the Kokomo Rescue Mission and the services it provides to our community.

Mr. McCain was a World War II veteran, who lost his leg in the line of duty; his life was spared thanks to the compassionate care he received from a German military doctor. This experience undoubtedly influenced Mr. and Mrs. McCain's wishes to leave a legacy that demonstrates the importance and value of having someone come alongside people who need support, grace, and a second chance. Those who come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission need someone to provide those same opportunities.

As Mission staff and volunteers continue to serve the hungry, hurting, and homeless in our community, the epidemic of addictions, mental illness, and brokenness in families is increasingly evident. The need for shelter for men, women and children is rising. Our shelters are at or near capacity and more resources are needed to bear the community's growing problems, including the profound impact of the opioid epidemic.

The Kokomo Rescue Mission will be able to provide more services to meet these needs with the aid of the income from Mr. and Mrs. McCain's endowment. In accordance with the terms of Mr. and Mrs. McCain's bequest:

- The principle funds of the endowment are held by the Community Foundation of Carroll County.
- Beginning in 2019, the Kokomo Rescue Mission will receive a designated share of the quarterly disbursements of the 4% interest income from the Community Foundation.
- The Mission will be utilizing these funds to provide additional safe shelter to address our community's increasing need.

In addition, the Kokomo Rescue Mission is assessing our current shelter procedures, educating our staff and increasing our residential capacity; thanks in part to a separate grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County and with funds from other generous supporters.

We are very thankful for Mr. and Mrs. McCain's decision to invest in the Kokomo Rescue Mission through this gift to the Community Foundation. Their endowment will continue to expand their legacy of concern and compassion for our community.



My Summer Gift

RM_48-0602_H02KO

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

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
- AMERICAN EXPRESS

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 summer 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.