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***I found a purpose for
my life, thanks to you!***



your mission messenger

EASTER ISSUE 2019

I'm Not a Mistake

—BY KIMBERLEE

All my life, I felt like I was a mistake and that I shouldn't be here. I never saw any purpose for my life.

My earliest memories are being sick all the time with allergies. I was allergic to *everything* and I suffered constantly with swollen eyes, itchy nose, nonstop sneezing, and I couldn't breathe. I was almost never allowed outside, and I was mostly confined to my room. I rarely made it through a day of school.

I know my family loved me. They couldn't help that I was sick. But I grew up almost entirely alone. So, I always felt abandoned. The emotional pain was so great, I started cutting myself because I felt like I deserved to be punished.

As I grew older, my physical health improved. My emotional health didn't. I rarely had close friends because I always thought they would leave me. Then, as a young adult, I was raped. After that, I lived in constant terror of going outside. I tried to commit suicide several times, and I often ended up in psych wards. After the last time, in 2017, I came to Open Arms.

**“The emotional pain was so great,
I started cutting myself.”**

Growing up, my family never really talked about God. Now I know it was God who brought me here. To me, this place is a miracle. I have never felt love like this before. People who don't know me pray for me all hours of the night. They've showed me who I truly am—not a woman

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I'm Not a Mistake

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who deserves to be punished, but a woman worthy of love. They turned all my darkness into light. It's strange to say, but I'm truly happy.

As a donor, you'll never understand the impact you had on me. All I can say is, I never saw a purpose for my life before. But thanks to you, I do now. God has shown me that He can use everything I've been through—the abandonment, the rape, the suicide attempts, the depression, *everything*—to help other people see that He can get them through everything. May God bless you.

What's on the Easter Menu?



This year, the Mission staff is planning to serve ham and scalloped potatoes, green beans, chicken and noodles, and dinner rolls. A nice salad and assorted desserts will complete the meal. The tables will be decorated with the cards our donors have signed and mailed. The cards remind our guests that someone cares about them, AND because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ they CAN HAVE hope.



An Encouraging Word from Van . . .



Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

February in Indiana. It's cold, gray, dreary, and relentless. Right now, you just want a little sunshine, some warmth on your face. You want a break. And if that's true for you and me, imagine how our homeless neighbors feel. Many are in survival mode right now, just trying to get through another day. They feel hopeless that the brutal cold will ever end or that a better life is possible.

But you and I know that's not true. Spring is around the corner. The light of the sun is coming. And in just a couple months, we'll celebrate the greatest light of all—the day Jesus rose to new life, promising that same new life to you, me, and to every hurting man, woman, and child who comes to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Hope and new, transformed life. Thanks to generous folks like you, that's what the Kokomo Rescue Mission is all about. Your compassion offers hope, first in a hot meal and warm shelter. Then, when that first spark of hope returns, your gifts provide them with a helping hand to get back on their feet. And finally, your support leads them to their resurrected Lord and Savior—and hope eternal.

Your Support Really Is True Love in Action

That's true love in action. Your love provides crucial meals and shelter. But more importantly, your love helps broken, hurting people go from death to new life—just like spring. Thanks to you, they become new creatures in Christ. So with warm sunshine around the corner, thank you for your partnership with the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Together, God is using us to bring new life to hurting people—today and for eternity. Hallelujah!

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"Your love helps broken, hurting people go from death to new life—just like spring."

Please Give Easter Hope to Hurting People

Tonight, thousands of men, women, and children—many of them right here in Kokomo—will have no place to call home. For those who have never been homeless, it's impossible to fully understand the misery and hopelessness that cripples their lives.

But there is hope—the hope of an empty tomb that Jesus left behind when He rose from the dead that first Easter morning. It's a hope that promises the chance for new life to everyone who believes. And it's the hope we preach every day to hurting people at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

A Family Resurrection

—BY MICHAEL

I always knew Jesus could save someone's soul. He saved mine a long time ago. But could He save my family? Family has always been important to me. I was a total mama's boy as a child. My dad was stern, but he loved me. I grew up with five siblings, and we've always been close. It was the kind of family I always hoped to have myself one day.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way. I met my wife about 17 years ago. We had two kids, one born in 2003 and the other in 2006. But my wife and I struggled with all kinds of emotional issues. If it weren't for the kids, I probably would have walked away. But there was no way I was going to do that. I'm a dad and I love my kids. I was determined to never give up, no matter how bad we struggled.

My frustration kept mounting, though. I started spending more and more time away, and it was damaging our kids—especially my son. I just didn't know what to do or how to handle it, and 13 years of frustration finally got to me. I made some really bad choices, acted out, and went to prison for six years. I deserved it and I paid the price.

When I left prison, I came straight to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. I needed to learn how to deal with my frustrations and struggles better. I needed to let God change me.



"I'm a dad and I love my kids. I was determined to never give up."

God did all that and more. I reconnected with Jesus Christ more deeply than ever before. Then, the emotional and spiritual support I received here helped me grow into a better man, a better father, and even a better husband. Yes, a better husband. While I was in prison, Jesus transformed my wife's life, too. We both recognized our mistakes and we got connected to a new faith community. We've reconciled and our family has been resurrected.

Your investment in the Kokomo Rescue Mission changed my life. But more than that, you helped save my family. Thank you.

Care & Share

Donate Support Invest
The store @ the corner of Mulberry and Washington St.
Downtown Kokomo

- Shop for gently used clothing, household items, and furniture at great prices.
- Donations of gently used clothing, furniture, and household items are accepted.
- Clothing and household items are given based on income qualifications.
- Home health-aid items, such as walkers and crutches are FREE when available.

For more information, visit the "Thrift Store" page of our website at:

www.kokomorescuemission.org/thrift-stores/



A Gift of \$44.30 Provides:

- ✓ One-night stay for a woman or a woman with children (bed, utilities, etc.)
- ✓ Case management and life skills classes
- ✓ 3 nutritious meals

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Every gift you give and every prayer you pray for those who are hungry and homeless at the Kokomo Rescue Mission brings new hope and resurrected life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you!

But every day, more struggling people come seeking our help. They need to know there's a Risen Savior who promises them hope. And they need people like you to help give them a chance for new life in Jesus Christ.

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 an Easter friend to those who need your help.

*Your Gifts Bring
New Life to
Hurting People*

“Undy” Sunday–March 31

Please organize your church group, Facebook friends, or family to collect packages of new underwear and socks for school-aged children. The annual “Undy” collection is starting a little earlier this year. The new undergarments and socks will be given to children staying at Open Arms and to families in need. Items will also be distributed through our Back-to-School Giveaway program for children entering grades K through 12.

The children will be receiving these undergarments, plus new shoes and clothes for the new school year. (Remember many school-age children wear adult sizes.)



For more information call 765-456-3838 or visit our website at KokomoRescueMission.org



Honoring Loved Ones with a Tribute Gift

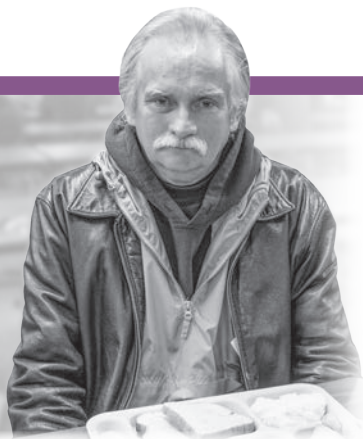
Easter is April 21, 2019, please consider making a Tribute Gift to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. An important tradition in many families is to make charitable contributions in memory of or in tribute to a beloved friend or family member. Honoring a person through a charitable gift is a wonderful way to 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.

- **Gifts for an occasion** such as Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, a birthday or another noteworthy occasion show how very much you care for the person.
- **Remembering a loved one** who has died with a tribute gift helps preserve the person’s legacy.
- **Honoring a person** with a gift at the time of their favorite holiday, such as Easter, Christmas, or Memorial Day can be another opportunity to share.

More information on Tribute and Memorial giving can be found on our website at:

www.kokomorescuemission.org/ways-to-give/



My Easter Gift

YES, Van, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people.

Here’s my Easter gift of:

- \$21.70 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
 - \$32.55 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
 - \$65.10 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

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|
| ACCOUNT NO. | EXP. DATE | AMOUNT |
| NAME | SIGNATURE | |
| ADDRESS | | |
| CITY / STATE / ZIP | | |
| EMAIL ADDRESS | | |

Kokomo Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 476
Kokomo, IN 46903-0476