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*"Thanks to you, I can
look in the mirror
and see Steve again."*



your mission messenger



FALL ISSUE 2019

The Man in the Mirror —BY STEVE

There was a time when I thought I had everything. I was married to my best friend. I had a good job, making good money. I had a beautiful home, with a lovely yard. My life seemed set, everything moving in the right direction. I could look at myself in the mirror and like what I saw.

Then there was another time, not long ago, when it was all gone. A time when I looked at myself in the mirror and didn't see Steve anymore. All I saw was shame.

It didn't happen overnight, but I know exactly where it started. I did the worst thing I could do: I had an affair and hurt the one person I loved more than anyone—my wife. I never thought I could do something so awful, but I did. We divorced in 2007, and I just couldn't live with myself. So, I started drinking. A lot.

That's when everything snowballed out of control. I started falling deeper and deeper into depression—and the more depressed I got, the more I drank. It got so bad, I quit my job so I could drink 24/7. I drank so much that, last year, a nurse told me if I kept it up, I'd be dead in 90 days.

"I could hear God saying, 'Steve, this is who you are.'"

I had to decide whether I was going to live or die. I chose life and came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Everything started to change for me when they gave me a job working the night desk here. Suddenly, I had the chance to minister to guys coming to the Mission seeking help. I saw how God could use me to make a difference in people's lives. And before long, I could hear God saying, "Steve, this is who you are." Hearing

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The Man in the Mirror

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that changed my life.

I'll be leaving shortly with new hope and a new life. I can't thank you enough for your support of the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thanks to you, I can look in the mirror and see Steve again.

Re-Stock the Mission

September 29, 2019, is "Re-Stock Sunday," and you can help us stretch our ministry dollars by organizing a collection of household items and supplies which will be used at the Mission. Items most often needed are:

Toilet Paper



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,

As fall comes to Kokomo, I'm reminded that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I know, it's still two months away. But the holiday season is such an important time of year here, and over the next two months, we have to make sure we're prepared—and there's a lot to prepare for!

Kokomo Rescue Mission will serve nearly 700 meals on Thanksgiving alone. That's a lot of food! But the holiday season is about much more than food. It's about the warmth of family and remembering God's blessings. And that makes the holidays the most painful time of year for people who are homeless, especially those who have lost so many connections to friends and family.

That's why, every Thanksgiving, we work extra hard to show these precious men and women that they aren't alone, that they are loved *extravagantly*—by God and by us.

This Thanksgiving, see for yourself faces filled with gratitude

But none of this would be possible without you. Not only do your gifts help provide the turkeys and all the traditional fixings—*your* extravagant love and support remind hurting people that there really is hope for a new life.

This fall, as we head into Thanksgiving, please continue to support the Kokomo Rescue Mission with your prayers and financial gifts. I also invite you to come see for yourself the difference you make. Join us for Thanksgiving dinner. Share this blessed day with all the beautiful souls at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, and see what a face looks like when hope returns.

Because when you see those faces, I guarantee you that gratitude for God's grace will fill your heart. What better way could you spend a Thanksgiving.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



"Your extravagant love and support remind hurting people that there really is hope for a new life."



Please Help Our Hungry, Homeless...

"Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things," (Psalm 107:8-9 NIV).

If there's one thing that best characterizes the heart of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, it's gratitude. All the hurting men, women, and children here are deeply thankful, not only for food and shelter, but also for the grace and healing they experience here. Even more, all of us who are part of this miraculous ministry are especially grateful for your extraordinary generosity and faithfulness.

I'm Here for God

—BY TAMMY

When I first came to Open Arms, I was homeless and needed help. Thanks to you, I found the help I needed here. But there's more—I also found a mission.

I've experienced a lot of pain and grief in my life. I've been married and divorced twice. I've been beaten. I've endured the trauma of discovering my kids were molested. I have a daughter with mental challenges. I have a son who tried to commit suicide. And I have another son who was murdered.

I experienced so much trauma in Kokomo, I moved to Florida, where my life got better—until 2018. It was a perfect storm, figuratively and literally. First, almost overnight, health issues left me unable to work. Then, my brother got seriously ill, so I moved back to Kokomo to take care of him. While I was here, Hurricane Michael destroyed my home in Florida. And right after that, my brother's landlord evicted me because of rental policies.

Suddenly, I was homeless. But what a blessing, because God led me straight to Open Arms. When I first got here, I felt lost and alone. It didn't last long. Open Arms is an amazing community of women who love God and love one another. We all have different stories and different backgrounds, but we're all in the same boat.



“You gave me a mission. Thank you.”

As God used these women to help me get my life back together, I felt my heart increasingly going out to them. Like me, they've been through so much. Then, I realized I had something to give back to them, to *invest* in them. So, I started teaching them to sew, to cook, and to bake cakes—my specialty!

I truly believe God called me to Open Arms, where He has redeemed my homelessness and life and used me to make a difference in these women's lives. I know I won't be here forever, but as long as God has me here, I'm here for God and these women.

As a donor, you not only provided me with food, shelter, and clothing—you gave me a mission. Thank you.

Upcoming Events



**RED RIBBON
CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**
A Ministry of Kokomo Rescue Mission

Before long, we'll be saying goodbye to summer, opening the door to fall, and looking toward Christmas. As much as we love to embrace the festivities around Christmas, many find it a difficult time of year. We understand the struggles they face, especially during the holidays. Our Red Ribbon Christmas Outreach delivers boxes filled with presents and food for those not able to provide this for their families. It takes many volunteers to make this happen, some work all year preparing the gifts. You too can volunteer as we remind those of the hope that comes from the true reason for the season—Jesus. We are always needing volunteers to wrap presents Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. the first two weeks of December.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (765) 456-3838 if interested in volunteering to wrap gifts, prepare presents and food, or deliver the Red Ribbon Christmas boxes.

Homeless Neighbors This Fall



Your gift today will provide hope and a new start

Thanks to your sacrificial support, the Kokomo Rescue Mission is open 24/7, providing nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of God's transforming power to everyone who comes through our doors seeking help. This fall, please remember all those who are homeless, hurting, lonely, and struggling with addictions—and who are seeking hope and a new start.

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 at Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

“All of us who are part of this miraculous ministry are especially grateful for your extraordinary generosity and faithfulness.”

Thanksgiving Is Quickly Approaching!



Honoring Loved Ones

This year why not start a family tradition of honoring loved ones through a charitable contribution either in memory of or in honor of a beloved friend or family member? Their gift, through you, is a wonderful way for them to be a part of ensuring that those in our community and around us will be getting the support needed to impact and change lives.

Memorial and tribute gifts are a wonderful way to remember those 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 Christmas, their birthday or anniversary, can be another opportunity to share and show how very much you care for them.

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

www.kokomorescuemission.org

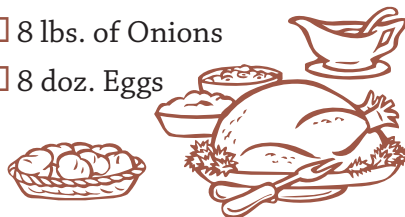
Every year, we partner with Grace United Methodist church and people like you to make Thanksgiving special for hundreds of people in our community. We are expecting to serve 700 delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meals at our Great Thanksgiving Banquet this year. On **Thanksgiving Day at Grace United Methodist Church, we will serve dinner from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

To serve 700 meals, we'll need:

- 28 Large Turkeys
- 9 Boneless Hams
- 40 #10 Cans Green Beans
- 40 #10 Cans Corn
- 700 Servings of Potatoes (Instant)
- 700 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 information about Mission events at: kokomorescuemission.org



My Thanksgiving Gift



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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:**

- \$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:
 VISA MC DISCOVER AMEX

ACCOUNT NO. (please print)	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. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.