



An Encouraging Word from Van

page 2



When Love Broke Through

page 3



Renovation Project Nearing Completion

page 4

*I'm a new man,  
because of you.  
Thank you!*

# your mission messenger

SUMMER ISSUE 2019

## Out of the Hole —BY MICHAEL

Every day, the lyrics of the song “Down in a Hole,” by Alice in Chains, run through my head: “Down in a hole, feelin’ so small/Down in a hole, losin’ my soul/Down in a hole, feelin’ so small/Down in a hole, outta control.” Those words remind me of where I never want to be again.

Growing up, my dream was to be a rock ‘n roll star. Music was a big part of my life. Responsibility and relationships, however, were not. By my mid-20s, I had two children with two different women. I left them all behind to hit the road and fulfill my dream. I felt a lot of shame over that, but alcohol and the stage always helped me ignore it.

Eight years later, I finally settled down. I rebuilt relationships with my kids, and I even married the mother of my second child. For 10 years, I lived a pretty quiet life —until I did the worst thing I ever did. I had an affair.

In 48 hours, I lost everything: my marriage, my business, my kids, my grandkids, and my self-respect. I was so ashamed, I went right back to what worked before. Alcohol. But this time, I was determined to drink myself to death. And it almost worked. I suffered renal failure twice. Yet somehow, in the middle of my mess, I realized my kids and grandkids still needed me. I still had something to live for. It was time to get my life together, and I knew I needed God to do it. So I checked into the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

**“I was determined to drink myself to death. And it almost worked.”**

Over the past several months, the Mission has helped me build a new life on a foundation of Jesus. Prayer and worship are a big part of my life now. I have experienced so much

*(continued on page 2)*



## Out of the Hole (continued from page 1)

forgiveness, and I even have my kids and grandkids back in my life. When I gave up on myself and tried to drink myself to death, God never gave up on me. And now, thanks to your support for Kokomo Rescue Mission, I am a new man. Thank you.

## Re-Stock Sunday – June 30

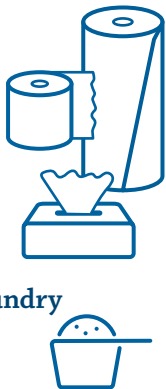
On 5th Sundays throughout the year, we ask for you to help us restock household items and supplies used daily at the Mission. Items most often needed are:

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Facial Tissue

Powdered Laundry  
Detergent



For a list of current kitchen needs, see [www.kokomorescuemission.org/gifts-in-kind](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org/gifts-in-kind)

## An Encouraging Word from Van...

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

Many people think that the hardest time of year for our homeless neighbors is winter. And in many ways, it is. But in reality, their pain, hardship, and despair are no less real in summer. From dehydration, exhaustion, and heat stroke to insects and filth, the summer months bring their own challenges.

On top of all that, they continue to struggle with all the same issues that have already devastated their lives: hunger, addictions, disease, emotional traumas, and spiritual darkness. I once heard someone say, the homeless don't get a summer vacation. Just because the sun's brighter, doesn't mean that their hope is any brighter.

Like our homeless friends, the Kokomo Rescue Mission faces serious challenges every summer, too. With children out of school, we serve more meals to hungry families. And our utility bills skyrocket because of increased air conditioning, stretching our finances when we need them most.

### Your faithful generosity gives hope to our homeless neighbors

Yet despite all these summer challenges, the Kokomo Rescue Mission is filled with hope—all because of you. Thanks to faithful donors like you, who care so deeply about homeless men, women, and children, needs are met year-round, and lives are transformed in the name of Jesus Christ.

I hope you're inspired by the stories of Michael and Ashley in this issue of *your mission messenger*. They are just two of the precious men and women who are experiencing new life because someone like you cared.

Thank you so much for caring, for sharing, and for giving hurting people a hand up, for giving people dignity and hope for a better future.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



*“Despite all these summer challenges, the Kokomo Rescue Mission is filled with hope—all because of you.”*



## People Struggling with Hunger and H

The Apostle John wrote, “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:17-18).

It's clear that your heart is filled with God's love. Your support for the Kokomo Rescue Mission has provided food for our neighbors who hunger, clothes for those who have so little, and shelter for those struggling with homelessness. Without your support, there would be no Kokomo Rescue Mission. So, on behalf of every man, woman, and child seeking our help today, thank you for loving them “with actions and in truth.”



# When Love Broke Through

—BY ASHLEY

All my life, whenever I looked in a mirror, I didn't see anything beautiful. All I saw was ugliness and darkness, ever since my father molested me for three years when I was a child. My father eventually went to prison for what he did. But I've been in an emotional prison, as well, for more than 20 years.

As a teenager, I started using drugs and alcohol so I never had to face the ugliness in me. I started getting involved with abusive boys, because I always felt like I deserved their abuse. I had a child in my late teens, but I gave her up to my mother to raise, because what did I know about loving or caring for a child? After that, my 20s were a blur of hopelessness.

A few years ago, I had another a child, a son. I was determined to give him the love I never got. I quit drugs and alcohol, and I started going to a church. They never judged me. They embraced me and made me feel so welcome. But I simply could not believe God or anyone else could love me. So I left, and a week later I went to jail for some prior offenses. Like my first child, I had to leave my son with my mother.

After a few months in jail, though, the judge gave me the chance to come to Open Arms. When I got here, I went through the motions. But I still couldn't believe



**“For the first time in my life, I truly felt loved by God.”**

anyone could love me. So one day, I went to tell the staff that I was leaving. But that's when everything changed.

Before I could say anything, I found out the staff got everyone together at Open Arms to throw me a surprise birthday party—and to reunite me with my son! Their love finally broke through my darkness. For the first time in my life, I truly felt loved by God.

Today, I know I still have a long way to go. But thanks to caring people like you, I know I have a future. You are such a blessing!

## Yes, We Can Food Drive



In the afternoon on Sunday, September 8, young people will be knocking on doors asking for canned food for the Kokomo Rescue

Mission. They have stepped up to take on the challenge of collecting 10 tons of food with a resounding, “YES, WE CAN!”

This is a great opportunity for families, school groups, or church youth groups to work together as they have fun competing to collect the most canned food.

Church congregations can also participate by holding a collection prior to the actual day of the event. For more info, visit the events page on our website at [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org), or call our Volunteer Coordinator at **765-456-3838**.



## Homelessness Need You This Summer!

**Please help again this summer**

I hope you enjoyed reading about Ashley and Michael in this newsletter. They are just two of our struggling neighbors you have helped through your gifts and prayers over this past year. Now, with summer upon us, we have the opportunity to work together again to show our guests there's a better way to live.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at [www.kokomorescuemission.org](http://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.

*“Without your support, there would be no Kokomo Rescue Mission.”*

# Taylor/Armstrong Renovation Project Nearing Completion!

**For 66 years, the Kokomo Rescue Mission has been working in the community to help people restore their lives. This is the key aspect of our ministry program. The Mission's project to renovate the house on the corner of Taylor and Armstrong has been underway since 2017.**

As of December 2018, the project has been fully funded, thanks to a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank, and our partnership with PNC Bank. Other grants from FCA Chrysler and the Community Foundation of Howard County have also helped to fund this project. The renovation work is nearing completion with the plan to open the shelter in summer of 2019. The house will be used for an additional 16 to 18 shelter beds for single women.



The property was acquired by the Mission in 1983. It has been used for various ministries over the years. The Board of Directors and Staff are very thankful for the opportunity to

restore this property for more ministry work in our community. Please pray for the completion of this project and the staff for this shelter program.

**For more information, call 765-456-3838 or visit our website at [KokomoRescueMission.org](http://KokomoRescueMission.org)**



## My Summer Gift

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**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:**

- \$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 summer 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.