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your mission messenger



SPRING ISSUE 2020

Beautiful Child —BY PATRICIA

I can still see that chicken house on my family's farm, where I grew up. I was 6. The neighbor boy was about 10. He molested me in that chicken house for four months. But the damage he did scarred me for more than 40 years.

By the time I was 12, I thought, *if that's what boys want, then that's what I'll give them.* I thought that's what love was all about. But I quickly learned that boys only loved me for one thing—what I could give them. For the rest of my life, I felt ugly and worthless.

“When I arrived, I felt like no one had ever really loved me, not the real me.”

By age 19, I already had two children. Then, in 1993, I met a man who became the father of my third child. But over the next 23 years, meth ruined both our lives—we lost homes and jobs, I lost my kids for a while, and we both lost

trust in each other. It got so bad, I went to jail seven times between 2015 and 2018. After the last time, I came to Open Arms in December 2018 to get my life right.

When I arrived, I felt like no one had ever really loved me, not the real me. I didn't even love myself. I didn't know how. I was still just a hurt, little 6-year-old girl who didn't know how to make life work. But the people here looked me in the eye and said, “Child, you are so beautiful, and you have a heart of gold.” No one ever saw me that way before.

From then on, God completely changed my life. I'm surrounded by people who aren't going to hurt me, who aren't going to lie to me. They're helping me to love myself again.

As a donor, you made such a big difference for me. Thanks to you, I'm growing up from that hurt little girl into a brand new woman in Christ. Thank you.



Serving Six Counties

321 W. Mulberry Street, Kokomo, IN 46901-4456 | 765-456-3838 | KokomoRescueMission.org

“Undy” Sunday –March 29

This year, Sunday, March 29 is our annual “Undy” Sunday. Help us by asking your friends and family to donate the following items: socks, T-shirts, panties/underwear, boxers, and briefs. These items will be given to income-qualified students, K-12. These items will also be distributed to the children staying at Open Arms. (Remember, many school-age children wear adult sizes.) Along with these items, they will also be receiving new shoes and clothes for the new school year. The items may be dropped off at our main office at 321 W. Mulberry St.



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



An Encouraging Word from Van...

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

One of the greatest privileges of my life is serving homeless men, women, and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, Open Arms, and Watered Garden alongside generous and caring people like you. Thanks to you, hungry people are fed and those who are homeless are warm and safe. Those things save lives every day.

Yet, even more important, God is using us to save people for eternity. Because when struggling men and women come to us, it's like they've been wandering lost through a dark, spiritual desert. But thanks to you, we're able to give them a light and a pathway to the oasis of salvation and everything the Good Lord has in store for them in this life and in the life to come.

Ultimately, that's why we're here and it's why caring people like you support this Mission. There are many programs around that provide food, shelter, and clothing. But in addition to those things, we give people eternal hope. That's why we do what we do, and it's why we continue to seek your generous support.

You Make This Easter Work Possible

That's why I believe the work you and I are doing here is really Easter work. When Jesus walked out of the tomb that first Easter, he walked away from death into life. And that's literally what the men and women at Kokomo Rescue Mission, Open Arms, and Watered Garden are doing—walking away from the tomb of hurt and addiction into resurrected life.

So, I want to say thank you for all you do to provide food and shelter to hurting people. But even more, I want to celebrate with you the new life so many men and women have found here. Because that's what you and your gifts *really* accomplish. Happy Easter!

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“I believe the work you and I are doing here is really Easter work.”



Please give Easter Hope to Hurting People

Imagine that first Easter morning. Jesus was dead. But in an instant, He opens His eyes, takes a deep breath—and stands! He is risen to brand new resurrected life! And in that moment, the entire world changes forever.

Today, every one of us is offered that same hope for new life— not only for today, but all eternity. That is the same hope that compels us to reach out to every hurting person who comes to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, so they can experience Christ's resurrection in their own lives. And your generosity proves that you too share this same eternal hope—and we thank God for you!

Celebrating Easter in the Family of God –BY JESSE

Easter is still several weeks away, but I'm already looking forward to it. For the first time, I understand what it really means—forgiveness, unconditional love, resurrection, and new life in the family of God.

I never knew family could be like this. My parents were both addicts. I remember times when we were so poor, we went without food or heat in the winter. After my parents divorced, I stayed with my mom. There were always 10 to 15 guys at our house, and I watched my mom get beat every day. I couldn't sleep at night because I was so afraid we'd all be killed.

When I was 19, I tried to start my own family. I got married to a really great woman and we had a beautiful son together. But then I started smoking spice—synthetic marijuana. It was the worst thing I ever did. My wife tried to get me to stop, but I couldn't. Spice cost me my family, cars, home, job, everything.

After my wife divorced me, I was so hopelessly addicted I gave up on life and became homeless. Then, I started smoking meth—and my life got even worse. I did things I never thought I'd do. Every day was a new rock bottom.

But in June 2019, I got arrested. That's when everything started to change. I prayed and read the Bible every day. And when I left jail six months later, I came to Kokomo

Rescue Mission. I surrendered to Jesus 100%, and between my church and this Mission, I found family that loved me more than I ever thought was possible. I am a changed man—and I'm still growing into the man God created me to be.

“I am a changed man—and I'm still growing into the man God created me to be.”

As a donor, God used you to make all this possible for me.

Your support fed me, clothed me, gave me structure, taught me accountability, drew me closer to Christ, and gave me a new family and a future. I wouldn't trade this for anything. This Easter season, I truly know how blessed I am. Thanks to you.

Thanks to people like you who support the Kokomo Rescue Mission, I'm back on the right path, and I am so blessed.



Giving in Memory and Tribute

Memorial and Tribute gifts allow you to thoughtfully remember family members and friends. Gifts for occasions, such as Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, weddings, and other special events, can show how valuable and special that person has been in your life.

- Remembering those who have died with a Tribute gift can help to preserve their legacy.

- Honoring a loved one during the holidays and for special events is another opportunity for you to let them know how important they are to you by making a donation in their name.

For information on giving these special gifts, call us at: **765-456-3838** or visit our website: **kokomorescuemission.org**

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 men and women continue to seek our help—and they need people like you to give them hope and another 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 men, women, and children who need your help.

“Your prayers and gifts bring new hope and resurrected life to those who have lost hope.”

Care & Share

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



- **Donate** gently used clothing, furniture, and household items.
- **Shop** for gently used clothing, household items, and furniture at great prices.
- **Receive** clothing and household items based on income qualifications through our Assistance Program.
- **Receive** FREE home health-aid items, such as walkers and crutches, when available.

For more information visit the "Thrift Store" page of our website at: kokomorescuemission.org/thrift-stores

Transitions Home

June 29, 2019, a fire broke out that changed the landscape of the Kokomo Rescue Mission. At 2:45 p.m., staff working at the warehouse saw smoke billowing from the back of our Transition home for women. The staff kicked in the door and checked for any occupants that might still be inside. The fire department arrived and after fighting the fire for nearly seven hours and with 35,000 gallons of water, the fire was finally extinguished. With God's protection, there were no injuries that day.

Over the next few weeks, staff and residents worked to recover what could be restored, and let go of that which was lost. After analyzing the pros and cons, the board decided to start over again. Due to the extent of the fire and water damage, we began the dreaded demolition of this beautiful Victorian home, that had been built in 1888, after the exquisite wood work and the stained glass were extracted from the building.

The four women, along with one child, that resided in this home had graduated from our program, had attained jobs, and were transitioning to permanent housing. One staff member worked solely in this shelter to mentor and teach the women to manage their money, their home, and be successful once again.

The summer of 2019 was very challenging; we are praying for the Lord's leading and would appreciate your prayers and support as we move forward.



Easter in Our Dining Room

This year on Easter Sunday, we will be providing a meal of ham and all the Easter fixings for our residents and those who join us in our dining room. Along with the food, signed cards by our donors will be placed on the tables. These cards will let them know someone cares and to remind them that HOPE is available through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



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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:
 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.