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**Thanks to you
and a very
good friend,
Tad has turned
his life around.**

your mission messenger

THANKSGIVING
EDITION 2021

"All Things Are Possible"

Tad knew he needed help. And because of you, he got what he needed to find a new path forward.

"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24)

In his 44 years, Tad has had both kinds of friends. For three decades of drug and alcohol abuse, many friends were complicit on that road to ruin.

But he also has a friend — an older, wiser gentleman who Tad considers a father figure — who stuck "closer than a brother" . . . and who likely saved his life.

Tad had lost jobs, relationships and even his home because of his addiction. But his friend stuck with him through it all.

"He truly cares and wants the best for me," Tad says.

"But he also did the right thing and drew the line, because I kept doing the same things. But he didn't just give up on me. He found an alternative — the Kokomo Rescue Mission."

"Without the Mission, I'd be incarcerated or in my grave."

Tad had never been interested in a traditional 30-day rehab because he was afraid he'd relapse.

He wanted a program that would last longer and dig deeper; he knew he couldn't overcome a

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An Encouraging Word from Van ...

What am I grateful for this Thanksgiving season? Considering what we've been through, it's the simple things. Like going to church in person again. Or going out to eat.

I'm grateful for good health, and for family and friends.

At the Mission, I'm thankful that out of our 400 guests in 2020, only nine got COVID, and none went to the hospital.

This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful that we're at least hopeful that we can gather around a table again and break bread together.

I'm thankful for donors like you who are willing to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to have turkey with all the trimmings — hot food and a warm place to eat.

Finally, I'm most grateful for the grace and unconditional love of my Savior, who gives me hope and joy. And I wish you the same this Thanksgiving.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor
Executive Director



Volunteer Spotlight

All About Compassion

Lori puts love into action as a volunteer at the Mission.

For Lori, living the Christian life pretty much boils down to one word: **Compassion**.

She lived it as a child, growing up with a sister with a rare form of muscular dystrophy — basically without any muscles in her body. She was only supposed to live a couple months, but she lived until she was 16.

"I took care of her all the time," Lori says. "We carried her everywhere. She weighed just 22 pounds when she died. But she added so much to my life, I wanted my children to experience the same thing."

When Lori got married, she and her husband adopted a 3-week-old boy with Down syndrome. They poured love and goodness into him until his unexpected death at 13, "but he did fulfill his purpose in our lives, and in our other children's."

That purpose? **Compassion**.

Today, Lori shows compassion by volunteering at the Mission, serving as receptionist at the Open Arms women's shelter every Tuesday. She works the front desk, answers phones, helps care for children, prays with guests, and does whatever else is needed.

Lori tells guests that their time at the Mission is just temporary, saying that their time in need is "just a dark season, not a dark lifetime. There's light ahead."

"I want to be more than just the hands and feet of Jesus," she says. "I also want to be the face of Jesus. I want to smile, and I want to help them smile."

Your support brings the hands, feet and face of Christ to all our guests. Thank you!



Like you, Lori cares deeply for our neighbors in need.

We Want You to Be Connected!

We'd love to share updates with you on the power of your support. Text INVOLVE to 56525 to receive urgent messages, updates, videos and more on our ministry. **Sign up today!**



“There’s No Judgment Here”

Your kindness is leading Lynne out of darkness and into the light.

Lynne’s* childhood was so abusive and traumatic that it should come with a warning label.

She somehow survived that terrible time only to have more problems as an adult — including a stretch of homelessness in which her 9-year-old daughter was taken away by child services and adopted by another family.

By the time she’d lost her car and run out of money, a lifetime of trauma had left Lynne broken. “I didn’t



Lynne is very grateful for the help and healing she’s found.

teaches students “how to behave when you know Christ, and how to support yourself within the Bible.”

Part of Lynne’s healing process has been to unearth buried memories of her childhood — traumatic events that she’d never really worked through.

As those memories resurfaced, “I just bawled my eyes out for hours,” she says. “It’s so traumatizing when you’re 40 years old and you’re remembering some of the stuff that happened in your childhood.”

Nevertheless, Lynne considers herself “blessed” because of the help and healing she’s finding at the Mission.

“I have a social connection here,” she says. “I’ve never had a circle of friends around me like this. I was always a loner and never had any friends.”

Lynne says that if it weren’t for the Mission, “I would be sleeping in a tent with other homeless people in Kokomo. I’m so thankful for Watered Garden.”

Lynne finally found the help and support she needed because of kind and loving friends like you!

** Name and photo changed.*

Lynne considers herself “blessed” because of the Mission.

have anywhere to go. So I called the Mission.”

Lynne came to our Watered Garden facility for women, which helps guests get back on their feet, equipped with the life skills needed for independence.

“I love this place,” Lynne says. “They are a wonderful staff, and they’re so supportive. There’s no judgment here, and I’ve never experienced that before.”

Lynne said she enjoys the programs that have helped her find an anchor in God and confidence in Christ.

She says one program, called “Changes That Heal,”

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“All Things Are Possible”

30-year habit in just a month.

“At Kokomo Rescue Mission,” he says, “I can go at my own pace and get a lot more clean time before I go back out into the world. And I like their recovery programs.”

Your support provides men like Tad with group and personal counseling sessions to address substance abuse issues and help with addiction recovery.

“Now that I have a clear mind, I realize I was basically putting a Band-Aid on things and just numbing my pain,” Tad says. “Since I’ve been here, this is the most

honest I’ve ever been with myself.”

He says sobriety and renewed faith have given him more energy and confidence.

“Without the Mission, I’d be incarcerated or in my grave,” Tad says. “Now I believe all things are possible with God.”

And with a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Thank you for being a true friend to neighbors in need!



Thanksgiving Is on the Way!

Every year we partner with Grace United Methodist Church to give our community a special celebration of Thanksgiving and how God has provided for our country and our community. Even though this year has presented many trials, God is good and has provided for us in so many ways. Please check our website to find the latest information regarding our Thanksgiving Celebration 2021.

Can you help? To serve 800 meals, we'll need:

- 28 Large Turkeys
- 9 Boneless Hams
- 40 #10 Cans Green Beans
- 40 #10 Cans Corn
- 800 Servings of Instant Potatoes
- 800 Dinner Rolls

Dressing Ingredients:

- 40 Loaves of Bread
- 40 Stalks of Celery
- 8 lbs. of Onions
- 8 doz. Eggs

Kokomo Rescue Mission's holiday outreach depends on your generosity. Please let us know what you can provide as soon as possible.

More information about Mission events at: kokomorescuemission.org



Honoring Loved Ones

This year, why not start a 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 get 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.

If making your gift online, please select "tribute gift" from the drop-down menu and in the comments box, list your loved one's name(s) and note whether the gift is in their honor or in their memory. If you choose to mail us your gift, please fill out the Honor/Memorial section on the back of the enclosed gift form.

▼ ▼ PLEASE CUT OFF THE REPLY FORM BELOW, AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU. ▼ ▼

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS THANKSGIVING

YES, Van, I want to help homeless, hungry and hurting men, women and families today and through the fall season. Here's my 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.

I wish to give my gift ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of:

Please make your check payable to Kokomo Rescue Mission.

For more information, please call 765-456-3838

To donate online, please visit kokomorescuemission.org



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

Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

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Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. **Thank you!**

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