



An Encouraging  
Word From Van

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"I'm Thankful  
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"I'm very  
secure in who  
I am now."



# your mission messenger

SPRING ISSUE 2022

## An Uplifting Vibe

*How you helped rescue Katelin from low self-esteem and drug addiction.*

**W**hen you're behind bars, you've got a lot of time to think. And Katelin had a lot to think about.

"I kept thinking about all the things I'd done wrong and how I wanted to do them differently," she says. "And I was thinking about what I need to do when I got out."

Katelin was just 20 at the time, but so much had happened. Her parents divorced when she was two, partly due to her mom's drug addiction. She says her dad was "overbearing," so she ended up rebelling. She started using drugs at 13, got pregnant at 15, and pregnant again at 18.

Katelin's father ended up adopting her children — both boys — because she was still hooked on drugs. She ended up going to jail on a possession charge.

A prison chaplain told Katelin about Kokomo Rescue Mission, and upon her release, that's where she headed.

Her life has completely turned around since.

"The vibe around here is very uplifting," Katelin says. "They've given me a lot of support. They helped me get food stamps, make doctor's appointments, and get insurance."

"Basically, they helped me get my life in order so it's more bearable."

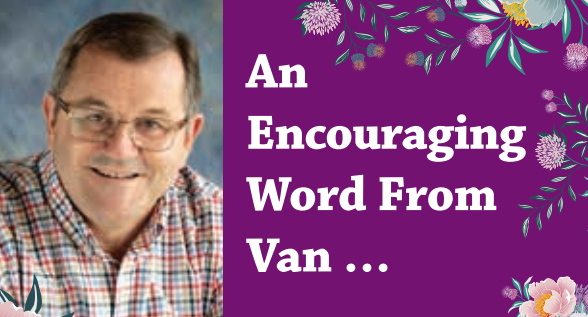
Katelin had struggled with self-esteem issues through her teens, while wrestling with her addictions. No more.

"I've pretty much worked through my insecurities," she says. "I'm very secure in who I am now, and I don't feel the need to turn to drugs at all."

***Thank YOU for helping women like Katelin find new life this Easter season!***







An Encouraging Word From Van ...

Up from the grave, He arose With a mighty triumph o'er His foes

So begins the chorus of "Christ Arose," a popular Easter hymn. The tune is about the Resurrection of Jesus, but it's a story we see frequently here at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Here's how it typically goes: Someone comes to us in darkness. Maybe it's an addiction. Maybe it's depression. Maybe it's abuse. Maybe it's just one bad break after another that has left them desperate for help.

But this much is the same for all of them: They are in search of new life. They desperately need some kind of resurrection to see the light again.

That's just what you provide with your gifts to the Mission. You're making it possible for a broken person to be made whole again.

On behalf of all those you've helped here at the Mission, I am deeply grateful. And I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter!

Your servant, Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor Executive Director



"I'm Thankful to Be Alive"

Gwendolyn has kicked a 20-year drug habit, thanks to your support!

Gwendolyn started using drugs as a teenager with low self-esteem. "I didn't like feeling how I felt," she says. "But when I caught a buzz, I always felt better."

She spent much of the next two decades battling addictions, mostly to methamphetamines. She ended up doing some time in jail on a drug charge in 2020, and when she got out, she started using again.

Gwendolyn says, "I got tired of the same things happening in my life. Nothing was changing, and I got tired of depending on a drug to make me feel better about myself."

She went to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, hoping to find help.

She found it.

"They've been so supportive of me," says Gwendolyn, who is in our Watered Garden women's shelter. "There's always someone I can talk to. If I'm worried about anything, this community is awesome. And the Bible studies have helped me with my faith."

"My self-esteem has gotten a lot better too. I'm building more confidence. I'm able to look people in the eye now when I talk to them."

Gwendolyn says that without the Mission, "I'd probably be in jail . . . or getting high and on my way to jail." Instead, she says, "I'm thankful to be alive, to be clean, and that I'm getting to know God better."

Because of you, women like Gwendolyn are growing in faith.



"My self-esteem has gotten a lot better," says Gwendolyn.

Honor Loved Ones With a Tribute Gift

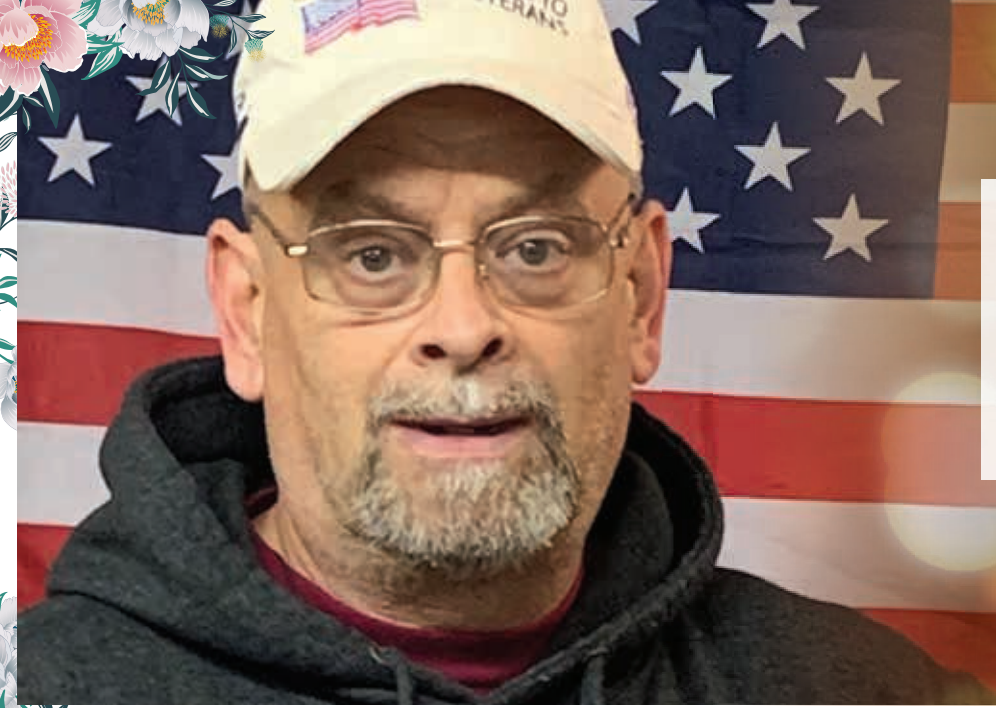
This Easter, please consider making a Tribute Gift to the Kokomo Rescue Mission — a contribution in memory or in honor of a beloved friend or family member.

Tribute gifts can be a heartfelt way to remember family members who have had a meaningful influence on your life. Such gifts are really good for:

- Showing someone how much you care at Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday or other special occasion. Remembering a loved one who has died, to help preserve the person's legacy. Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their birthday or their favorite holiday, such as Easter, Christmas or Memorial Day.

You can easily honor your loved one by visiting our donation page at kokomorescuemission.org. Simply enter the amount you'd like to give, select "Tributes" under "Designation," and write "in honor of" or "in memory of" along with the name(s) of those you want to include in the "Comments" section.

Thank you for your support!



Bill says God clearly led him to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

"This Is Your Time"

Bill has finally found peace after a lifetime of trauma, thanks to your love and compassion.

Bill grew up in an abusive home and started drinking at age 15 to cope.

A few years later, he joined the Army to try to get away from it all. But combat, including two years in Desert Storm, left him further traumatized.

"I've heard the enemy screaming while trapped inside tanks while they were being burned alive," he says. "I've had my own company people die in my arms."

Bill kept drinking to deal with his PTSD.

When he retired from the Army, things looked more promising . . . till his 23-year-old daughter was killed by a drunk driver — on Father's Day. Bill started drinking even more heavily to deal with his pain. Along the way, his marriage broke up.

His daughter's death "knocked me down to the point where I didn't care if I lived or not. I hit rock bottom," he says.

Fortunately, he was soon arrested on a DUI — fortunate, says Bill, because he was likely looking at another tragedy: His own.

"I think the good Lord meant for me to get busted," he says, "because that's how I ended up here."

Bill believes God literally led him to the

Kokomo Rescue Mission.

"I had nowhere to go for help," he says. "I felt a hand on my shoulder and I heard a voice say, 'This is your time.'" Before he could figure out what was going on, a couple pulled up beside him and asked if he needed a ride to the Mission.

"I don't know who they were," he says, "but they brought me here." He now says he believes they were angels.

Still, Bill says he was scared to death when he first arrived at the Mission. "I didn't know how they were going to react to me," he says. "But they treated me like a human being, and they have helped me ever since."

Bill went through the recovery program and has remained sober. He's on Mission staff now, as a leadership supervisor at their warehouse.

"This is the first thing I can actually say I've stuck with and accomplished in my life," he says. "My health is better, I'm not stressed out, I'm not angry anymore."

"I've accepted Christ into my life, and it's a wonderful feeling."

Thank you for helping men like Bill recover from trauma and find hope and healing.



YOUR LEGACY

We all want to leave a legacy behind once we're gone.

We leave a legacy to the next generation through our accomplishments, beliefs, actions and guidance that we give.

Giving a financial legacy gift provides an example for the next generation, is a final act of worship to your Lord, and provides years of support for "the least of these" when you give to the Mission.

Visit our website to learn more about how you can leave a legacy. You'll find links for donor advised funds (DAF), plus info about remembering us in your will.

kokomorescuemission.org/legacy/





# Will You Help Them?

*You can rescue a single mother and her family with your gift today.*

Somewhere out there is a single mother who lost her job, has run out of money, and is about to lose her home.

*Where will she go? What will she do?*

It's a desperate situation. Fortunately, there is a safe place for such women to turn . . . and the name says it all: Open Arms. Our home for women and children is a haven of help and hope for those in need of both.

**Your gift of just \$44.30 can provide a full day of care for such a family.** That amount will provide life-changing essentials for a woman and her children at Open Arms: a one-night stay (bed, utilities, etc.), case management and life skills classes, and three nutritious meals!

Just imagine the difference you can make today!

**Please give at [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org)**



## Upcoming Events



### **Walk a Mile in My Shoes** **Saturday, February 26**

Participants in this event raise funds, enabling us to continue offering a safe, sober and spiritual environment for the women and children staying at Open Arms and Watered Garden.

Walk participants play such an important role in this annual event. Not only do they raise funds to support the women and children we serve, they also display their love and compassion by walking a mile in their shoes.

**Watch for more information to come on Facebook and our website:**

- [facebook.com/rescuekokomo/](https://facebook.com/rescuekokomo/)
- [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org)



### **"Undy" Sunday's Coming!** **Sunday, May 29**

**The Kokomo Rescue Mission will hold its annual "Undy" Sunday on May 29.**

The children we serve are often in need of new underwear and socks. So get together with your church group, office colleagues, neighbors and/or family to collect packages of new underwear and socks for school-aged children. (Keep in mind that many older kids wear adult sizes.)

Donated items 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-12. **Needed items include socks, panties, briefs and boxers. Please drop your donations off at the Mission on or before Sunday, May 29.**



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