



An Encouraging
Word From Van

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"I'm blessed to
have Open Arms
in my life."

your mission messenger

SUMMER ISSUE 2022

The Family She Needed

After a traumatic childhood, Chasity finally found a family at Open Arms.

There's no such thing as a perfect family, but ideally, children thrive when growing up in a safe and stable home.

Chasity's childhood was just the opposite: Her parents divorced before she was 2. Her mother, an alcoholic, has been married seven times, and her father three times.

Chasity was never in any one place for long. So much for stability.

And as for safety? At 14, she was sexually abused by a stepfather. Chasity begged her mom for help, but found none.

"She didn't believe me," she says today. "She took his side. Then they put me in a mental hospital for nine months."

After that, Chasity turned to drugs to numb her pain.

Fast forward about a decade. Chasity, then in her mid-20s,

was a single mother of three and living at Open Arms, the women's shelter at Kokomo Rescue Mission. But she got into some trouble and was asked to leave.

With no place to go, Chasity did what she thought best for her children: "I called CPS (Child Protective Services) and told them to take my kids, so they had somewhere to stay where they were safe, warm and well-fed." It's a decision she regrets to this day.

Broken, Chasity turned to harder drugs and lived on the streets. She robbed people to support her addiction. She lied to people. She ruined relationships.

Adding to her misery, CPS terminated her rights to her children.

In July 2018, Chasity was arrested for drug dealing and other charges. She was sentenced to 7.5 years.

It might've been just the wake-up call Chasity needed ...

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An Encouraging Word From Van ...

As you read the stories in this newsletter, you might detect a theme.

For each of them — Chasity, Duane and Anastasia — life went off the rails for some reason. Perhaps it was a traumatic event. Maybe a broken relationship. Or just a gradual decline into darkness.

Whatever the reason, they all ended up in a place of need. Their hearts were crying out for help — perhaps silently, but the cries were real.

And here's the amazing thing: People like you hear those cries. Your hearts are wired that way — tuned in to the needs of people in need of rescue.

I'm so glad that people like you are all around, supporting us with your prayers, your donations, your time. Even more, people like Chasity, Duane and Anastasia are glad you care too. Because of you, their lives have been transformed!

And I am forever grateful.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor

Van C. Taylor
Executive Director



Anastasia has found freedom and new life.

“The Mission Is Amazing”

Anastasia was rescued from a life of drug use, thanks to friends like you.

Anastasia's life started spinning out of control at age 13 ... partly because of a painful ear infection.

Her father gave her a Lortab (a narcotic) to help with the pain, “and I just went from there,” Anastasia says. “Even after the pain went away, I continued to try to find some, any way I could get them.”

For nearly two decades, Anastasia continued her drug use. Sometimes she kept it relatively under control, holding steady jobs, getting married, having three kids.

Other times, she says “drugs tore my whole life apart. They really deteriorated my body, and they destroyed my marriage.”

A second marriage also ended in divorce, and her children landed in foster care.

Anastasia was arrested in 2019 for dealing meth, and she served a two-year sentence. She started to turn things around while incarcerated, and upon her release, she came to Kokomo Rescue Mission.

“The Mission is amazing,” says Anastasia, 33. “They genuinely care, and it shows. And they mentor me in my walk with God.”

Without the encouragement she receives at the Mission, Anastasia says she might have gone back to her old ways. Instead, she's been sober for three years.

Today, Anastasia looks forward to getting out on her own again, and she has big plans. She currently works at a car wash that employs a lot of teenagers.

“I want to go to college, get a business degree and own my own car wash,” she says. “I've watched these school kids grow into young adults, and it's amazing.”

She'd like to share some of her own life lessons with them, and help keep them on a good path — much like the Mission has done for her.

Thank you for giving women like Anastasia a second chance!

“I Was Down”

How you helped pick Duane up in his lowest moment.



Duane is grateful for finding peace.

When he was in high school in the early 1970s, Duane lost a few older friends in the Vietnam War and remembers others coming home with terrible wounds and PTSD.

Wanting to help in any way he could, Duane enlisted at 17, but never made it to Southeast Asia. The war ended soon after Duane signed up, but he served five years in Texas, Georgia and then in Spain, though never in a combat zone.

“But I served my country,” he says proudly.

After his service, Duane got an associate degree, had steady jobs, a nice home and was happily married, until ...

“I caught my wife messing around on me,” he says. “I got real upset and became a little violent.”

Duane ended up serving 90 days in jail and was then sent to Veterans Court, which arranged for him to come to Kokomo Rescue Mission where he has been turning things around.

“I was down in the dumps when I first got into trouble,” he says. “But the Mission has helped, and has gotten me back into believing a bit more in humanity.”

Duane, 65, hopes to have his own place again soon and spend a lot of time fishing.

“Fishing is very relaxing,” he says. “When you get a fish on the line, it seems all your stress and anxiety leaves your body.”

Thank you for helping men like Duane find peace and healing.

Continued from cover

“A safe place”

While in prison, Chasity decided to turn her life around. She dove into recovery. She took classes and got her GED. She was such a model inmate that she was released after three years — less than half her sentence.

Upon release in 2021, she returned to Open Arms where she had been inappropriate for services years before.

Chasity knew it was exactly where she needed to be.

“I knew it was a safe place,” she says. “I knew the structure. I knew the rules. I knew I would have accountability, and I knew I would learn patience.”

Chasity has been sober for almost four years — since her 2018 arrest. She wants to keep it that way, even when she moves out on her own.

She hopes to restore a relationship with her children, but for

legal reasons, she can't try to contact them till they're 18. (They're currently 15, 14 and 11.)

In the meantime, she's working a steady job and looking to get her own place. And she knows that once she leaves, she can reach out to Open Arms for help at any time.

“I'm blessed to have Open Arms in my life,” she says. “I'm blessed by the staff and everything they do.”

Thank you for blessings for women like Chasity, for giving them an opportunity for new life.

Birthdays, Shoes, Beef and More!

Visit our website for the latest news on these and other upcoming events.



June 16

Community Birthday Party!

Many of those we serve will never have a birthday party thrown for them. One day a year, we hold a party for our residents and those we serve through our Grab & Go Meals to celebrate everyone's birthday. Local churches partner with us helping with decorations, cake, ice cream, a clown and gifts. As they greet our guests, they record their actual birthday and commit to pray for them on that special day.



July

Back to School Shoe Program

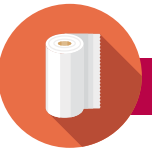
We believe every child should experience the feeling of new shoes on their first day of school. In July, we hold our Back to School Shoe Program where qualifying families receive new shoes, socks, T-shirts, underwear and gently used clothing from our Care & Share Store for their school-aged children. We are grateful for Crossroads Community Church, GM, individual donors and other churches for helping to make this possible.



July 10-16

4-H Beef-Up

At local county fairs' hog and steer auctions, animals raised by 4-H students are purchased by individuals and businesses, who then donate them to the Mission. These donations provide protein for those we serve in our shelters and community through our nutritional ministry. We appreciate all the donors from Carroll, Clinton and Howard counties.



July 31

5th Sunday Restock

On 5th Sundays throughout the year, we ask for supplies to help us restock items used daily at the Mission. These items include paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissue and powdered laundry detergent. For a complete list of our current needs, visit kokomorescuemission.org/get-involved/donate-items.

Honor Loved Ones With a Tribute Gift

This summer, 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 on a 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 a holiday.

You can easily honor your loved one by visiting our donation page at kokomorescuemission.org/donate. 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!*

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

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS SUMMER

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

- ☐ **\$23.70** to provide **10 meals** and other assistance.
- ☐ **\$35.55** to provide **15 meals** and other assistance.
- ☐ **\$71.10** to provide **30 meals** and other assistance.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much assistance as possible.

Please make your check payable to Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thank you!
To give online, visit kokomorescuemission.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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



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