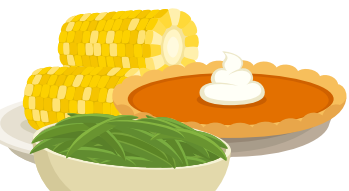


## Thanksgiving Is on the Way!

We're planning our annual celebration of Thanksgiving and God's provision. Can you help? To serve 800 meals, we need:

- 28 large turkeys
- 9 boneless hams
- 40 #10 cans green beans
- 40 #10 cans corn
- 800 servings instant potatoes
- 800 dinner rolls
- 40 loaves of bread
- 40 stalks of celery
- 8 lbs. of onions
- 8 dozen eggs

Please let us know ASAP what you can provide. Thank you!



*Thanks to you, Brian has turned his life around, and he's grateful.*

## “It Was Haywire”

*Brian's life was out of control ... until your kindness showed him the way.*

The death of a loved one can rock anyone's world. There's no telling how a person might react to such awful news.

When two people close to him died, Brian's reaction involved drugs.

At 17, his best friend was shot and killed. Brian's reaction was to clean up and fly right, so he quit his meth habit. Ten years later, his dad died. Brian's reaction this time was the opposite. Torn apart by grief and despair, he fell headlong back into addiction.

That's when his troubles really began. Multiple arrests. Getting fired from a job. Cashing in his entire 401(k) and spending it on drugs. “It was haywire,” Brian says now, looking back.

After his last arrest in July 2021, Brian was given an ultimatum: Go to prison. Or follow a drug-court prescribed program.

He chose the program, and came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission as his home base.

“I'd driven by the Mission many times,” he says, “but wasn't really familiar with it.” He's quite familiar with it now ...

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**“Everybody wanted to help me, to comfort me, to take down my nervousness. I liked it right away.”**

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Brian arrived at the Mission just four days after Thanksgiving last fall, worried about what they would think of him — a drug user with multiple arrests.

He was pleasantly surprised. “Everybody was really welcoming,” he says. “Everybody wanted to help me, to comfort me, to take down my nervousness. I liked it right away.”

Brian dove right into the recovery program. He's been sober ever since. And he's been transformed from the inside out.

“My faith has changed completely,” he

*Continued on page 3*



## An Encouraging Word From Van ...

Legend has it that Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey, not the bald eagle. That's mostly myth, but Franklin did write that the bald eagle "is a bird of bad moral character" and that the turkey is "much more respectable."

That makes me laugh as we look ahead to the Thanksgiving season ... and as we prepare to feast on that "more respectable" fowl. It certainly makes for a more than respectable meal as we gather in gratitude for what God has done — and continues to do — at the Mission.

Which brings me back to the eagle. Turkeys aren't mentioned in the Bible, but the eagle gets some impressive ink ... especially in Isaiah 40:31:

***Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles ...***

That's our prayer for everyone who comes to the Mission for help. And it's my prayer for you during this season of gratitude.

Your servant,

*Van C. Taylor*

Van C. Taylor  
Executive Director

# You Can Take Action Against Addiction



September is National Recovery Month, a time for spreading awareness of the hope-filled opportunities for people who struggle with addictions.

The Mission plays a vital role in helping neighbors overcome addiction ... by giving them a fresh start and equipping them for a hopeful future.

If you know anyone struggling, we can help. So can these practical tips:



## ATTENTION

Because addiction affects our communities and the families living there, it's important to bring attention to the situation. Using a variety of free online resources, you can educate yourself on the latest information, see what initiatives are already underway and discuss with your loved ones how best to help.



## ADVERTISE

The Kokomo Rescue Mission is more than just a homeless shelter. We also have long-term, Christian-based recovery programs for those who want to break free from addictions. Share about the Mission on your social media, at your church or with someone you think could benefit.



## ADVOCATE

Those struggling with addiction need compassion and understanding. More than that, they need a voice. Unfortunately, stigmatizing language like "addict," "drug abuser" and "junkie" push those seeking recovery further away. Being an advocate begins with positive, empathetic and solution-oriented language.



## ASSESS AND ALERT

Learn to assess possible signs of an overdose. These may include (but are not limited to): no response to stimuli; shallow or stopped breathing; and inability to be awakened. If you cannot get a response from someone, alert emergency personnel right away by calling 911, tell the operator your location and stay on the scene until an ambulance arrives.



## ASSIST

One of the best and most powerful ways you can take action against addiction is to assist those struggling directly — either by making a donation or volunteering to support an outreach ministry or recovery support organization like Kokomo Rescue Mission.

**Thank you for being a positive force for change!**

# A Downhill Spiral

*Depression and drugs derailed Rachel's life. But now she's found hope.*



*Rachel is grateful for your kindness this Thanksgiving.*

Rachel loves to cook, and wants to start her own restaurant. She makes a mean lasagna, and specializes in homemade noodles.

“That’s my dream,” she says. But it’s a dream deferred ... for now. Rachel is at Kokomo Rescue Mission, preparing to tackle the world ... and the rest of her life.

As a young child, Rachel was molested by someone she trusted. The trauma led to depression, and she began smoking pot to cope with the pain and anguish. She was only 11 years old.

Rachel got married at 17 and had a daughter. That marriage failed after about a year. She remarried and had a son. Six years later, her husband took off with the kids, and

she couldn’t find him.

Rachel’s drug use went out of control. She’d been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, but rather than taking prescription meds, she self-medicated with hard drugs.

Three years later, she got the kids back, but Rachel was a mess mentally. She continued using drugs and drinking. “It was just a downhill spiral for me,” she says. She first came to the Mission in 2008 after a jail stint on a drug charge. She kicked her addiction, and stayed sober for two years.

But her troubles continued on and off over the next decade, till in 2019, she went to prison for three years on a drug charge. When she was released in April, she came directly to the Mission, “because I’d been here before, and I knew they could help.” And thanks to you, we have.

“The Mission has shown me a better way to live,” Rachel says. “They’ve helped me get closer to God, to walk the right path. They’ve showed me love and compassion and understanding.”

She’s free to leave, but chooses to stay. She is back on her prescription meds for her bipolar disorder, and she’s doing much better.

She’s pursuing her ServSafe certificate, preparing for a career in food service. She’s also assistant manager in the Mission kitchen. And she’s saving up to start her own restaurant.

“It’s awesome to be at the Mission,” she says. “They are helping me open doors to a better future.”

***Thank YOU for helping to give Rachel that better future!***

## “It Was Haywire” *Continued from cover*

says. “They helped me see Christ. They brought me into my faith more than I ever was before.”

Brian started helping out around the Mission, doing chores and odd jobs. It kept him busy, it kept him focused. Mission staff started giving him more and more responsibilities — working in the thrift store, helping out in the kitchen and warehouse.

Within six months, Brian was on staff himself as a truck driver, making pickups and deliveries, taking things wherever they need to go. He loves it.

“I like my job a lot because I like helping people,” he says. “And I like communicating.” And this Thanksgiving season, he wants to communicate his gratitude to you. “Coming out of jail, you really don’t have anything,” he says. “But the Mission has helped me stay sober and save money. They’ve had a great impact on my life.”

***Thank you for having such an impact on the lives of men needing recovery!***



# A Lasting Tribute

Consider making a gift in the name of a loved one.



This year, why not start a tradition of honoring loved ones through a charitable contribution to the Kokomo Rescue Mission — either in memory of or in honor of a beloved friend or family member?

Your gift on their behalf is a wonderful way to ensure that those in our community will get the help they need, the kind of help that transforms 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 a tribute helps preserve the person's legacy.
- Honoring a person with a gift at the time of their favorite holiday — such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, their birthday or anniversary — can be another opportunity to share and show how very much you care for them.

To give online, go to [kokomorescuemission.org/donate](http://kokomorescuemission.org/donate). Then open the drop-down menu under “Designation.” Choose “Tributes,” and then, 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 and Memorial section on the back of the gift form enclosed.

## Volunteers Needed!

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, we’re in need of more and more volunteers at the Mission. Volunteering will change your life, and the lives of the people you serve, for the better. If you’d like to lend a hand, please email [volunteer@rescuekokomo.org](mailto:volunteer@rescuekokomo.org). Thank you!

▼ ▼ 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 Thanksgiving season. Here’s my gift of:

- \$23.70** to provide **10 meals** and assistance.
- \$35.55** to provide **15 meals** and assistance.
- \$71.10** to provide **30 meals** and 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, use this QR code, or visit [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org). Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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

Please charge my:  VISA  MC  Discover  AMEX

AMOUNT		
ACCOUNT NUMBER		
EXP. DATE	CVV	
NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
EMAIL		