



## Celebrate Our 70th Anniversary

It's been 70 years since the Kokomo Rescue Mission got its start, and we're going to celebrate that milestone anniversary on Friday, August 4.

More details to come, but save the date now and plan to join the festivities.

Kokomo Mayor Tyler Moore recently proclaimed a "Legacy Day" in honor of the Mission.

The proclamation states, in part, that "for 70 years the Mission has remained a beacon of hope and love for the community and those in most dire need."

Watch for updates at [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org) and submit your own memories of the Mission to [CelebrateKRM@rescuekokomo.org](mailto:CelebrateKRM@rescuekokomo.org)

## Your compassion paved the way for Cindy to discover joy again.



## "I Had So Much Anger Inside"

*A traumatic childhood left Cindy scarred. You helped her find peace.*

Appearances can be deceiving. Just ask Cindy.

"I grew up in a middle-class family in southern Indiana," she says. "Everything looked good ... on the outside."

What the outside world didn't see — but that Cindy experienced every day from the ages of 6 to 13 — were the horrors occurring inside those walls.

Cindy says she was sexually abused by her father for all those years. Worse, her mother blamed her for it.

"I thought it was my fault," Cindy says. "Because if your own mother says it's your fault, it must be your fault."

At 13, Cindy learned that alcohol could

wash away some of her trauma. She ended up drinking heavily for much of the next four decades.

Along the way, there were two failed marriages. Her first was to an abusive man who beat her so badly that she miscarried; she was never able to have kids again. Her second marriage fell apart because of Cindy's alcoholism: "I would go into rages and tear up the house," she says. "I had so much anger inside."

One night while driving drunk, Cindy barely avoided a head-on collision with a minivan carrying a young mother with three children. Cindy was arrested for DUI. It was a sobering wake-up call.

"I could have killed them," she says. "But by the grace of God, I swerved

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**"When I got here,  
I knew it was where  
I needed to be."**

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# A Message from Kevin

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### This Is a Big Deal!

A lot of good things and organizations that were around in 1953 are no longer here. That the Kokomo Rescue Mission has survived, and even thrived, for seven decades is a testimony to the dedication of leaders, staff, volunteers and donors over the years.

Our 70th Anniversary is a time to thank our great community — friends like *you*!

When the Mission opened in 1953, it provided beds for a handful of men. Today, we provide care for 65 men, about 50 women and a dozen or so children. We helped more than 600 families last year. We fed 943 people at Thanksgiving and helped 743 families with Christmas boxes.

We are not yet done. We will continue to serve this community for a long time. We are glad for what has been accomplished, but there is a next.

**Behold, I am doing a new thing!**

Serving Him by Serving Them,

*Kevin L. Smith*

Kevin L. Smith  
Executive Director



Your support has helped him become a new man.

## “I Like Being Sober”

*How you helped Dustin get onto the right path.*

“When I was 17, I watched my mom get shot in the head.”

Dustin is speaking without emotion as he says this. Now 32, he’s sharing his life story ... including that vivid memory. And it doesn’t stop there.

He says that his mother’s boyfriend at the time was a crack addict who demanded that she give him money for bail. When his mom refused, he shot her. Dustin and his brother jumped toward him; he then pointed his gun at them and said, “You want to die next?”

They ducked aside, and the shooter took off running. He was later caught and went to jail for his crime.

## “They helped me practically and spiritually.”

Incredibly, Dustin’s mother lived. But that miracle wasn’t enough to keep Dustin from diving deep into the drug scene himself.

He spent the next 20 years battling his addictions, alternating between holding jobs and getting into legal trouble.

His most recent bust was for dealing cocaine and resisting arrest, which landed him in jail for almost a year. He had plenty of time to self-evaluate: “I did bad stuff my whole life. I’m done with that.”

Dustin plea-bargained for a reduced sentence, under the condition he’d go to the Mission for help. Before long, he was a changed man.

“They helped me practically and spiritually,” says Dustin, who works in the Mission warehouse. “I like living like this, being sober. It makes me realize what I’ve not been doing for years.”

*Because of you, men like Dustin find new life at the Mission.*

## “All Kinds of Help Here”

*When life fell apart, you helped Byron pick up the pieces.*

Byron’s life was humming along just fine. A veteran service tech for a cable company, he was up for a promotion to manager.

Then things changed in almost an instant: Byron contracted meningitis, possibly from a customer while on the job.

He was cured of the infection, but it left him with a scar on his brain, and he began experiencing frequent seizures: “My life changed drastically,” he says.

He lost his job. He applied for disability income, but was turned down for two years. He eventually lost his home and later ended up at the Mission.

“When I got here, I didn’t have anything,” Byron says.

At the Mission, Byron has landed on his feet. Mission staff helped him get back on disability income. They’ve surrounded him with love, prayers and encouragement.

“There’s all kinds of help here,” Byron says. “If it weren’t for the Mission, I don’t know where I’d be right now.

“If people asked me if I would recommend the Mission, I’d say yes!”

*Byron would also recommend friends like you, thanks to your kindness!*



Byron says that people’s prayers — including yours — helped him land on his feet.

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## “I Had So Much Anger Inside”

and missed them.”

Still, Cindy continued to drink and deal with depression. She had multiple suicide attempts. A friend recommended the Kokomo Rescue Mission; Cindy decided to give it a try.

“When I got here, I knew immediately it was where I needed to be,” she says. “I could feel it in my spirit.”

### Finding a Loving Father

Cindy was finally able to talk to someone about the terrors of her childhood.

“I lived with that shame for decades,” she says. “It wears on a person. But it felt safe enough here to dig in and deal with it.”

Part of that process has been coming to understand the notion of God as a loving Father. “That was so foreign to me, because of the way my father was,” she says. “I couldn’t conceive of it, and I didn’t want anything to do with it.”

But at the Mission, the love — real, lasting, unconditional

love — was relentless. In time, it broke down Cindy’s walls and brought her hope, peace and joy.

Cindy has grown in leaps and bounds ... so much so that she’s now a leader and mentor to younger women who come for help.

“I feel like I’m giving back,” she says. “I want to give them hope.”

She says that if it weren’t for the Mission, “I’d be dead. I would’ve drunk myself to death.

“But thanks to the Mission, I see everything in a different light. I’m very blessed to be here.”

*Thank you for helping to rescue women like Cindy who desperately need hope!*



# Mark Your Calendars

Save these dates ... and check our website for updates and other events.



**JUNE**

## Community Birthday Party!

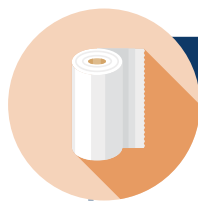
Many of those we serve never had a birthday party thrown for them. One day a year, we hold a huge birthday party for our residents and those we serve through our community meals. People from local churches help with decorations, cake, ice cream and gifts. As they greet guests, they record their actual birthday and commit to pray for them on that special day.



**JULY 11-14**

## Back to School Shoe Program

Every child should experience the feeling of new shoes on the first day of school. In the Back to School Shoe Program, qualifying families receive new shoes, socks, underwear and gently used clothing from our Care & Share Store for school-aged children. Crossroads Community Church, GM, individual donors and other churches help make this possible.



**JULY 30**

## 5th Sunday Restock

On fifth 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](http://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](http://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 IT WITH YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU. ▼ ▼

## I Want To Transform Lives This Summer

**YES, Kevin, 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 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.
- ☐ I'd like to give monthly. My first gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thank you!



To give online, scan 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

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