



Holiday Memorials & Tributes

Memorials and tribute gifts are a great way to thoughtfully remember family members and friends who have been a vital part of your life.

Gifts made during the holiday season can show how special they are to you.

To make such a gift, go to kokomorescuemission.org, and choose the "Donate" option at the top. On the donation page, choose a gift amount. Then, under "Designation," choose "Tributes (In Memory of)," and then enter your loved one's name in the comments.

Alternately, you can make a tribute or memorial gift by calling 765-456-3838.



Christine has found peace and comfort at Open Arms.

Christmas Joy

Your kindness gives hope during the holidays.

Christine knows the joy of Christmas because she is filled with the joy of Christ. But it was a long, hard road to get there.

Her mother disowned her as a child, and they remained estranged for 40 years. Christine's grandparents raised her in a loving home, but the separation from her mother left lasting trauma.

A few years ago, Christine's mother said these harsh words: "I just carried you. You are not my daughter."

For years, whenever someone said the word "mom," Christine would be filled with "anger and animosity toward her, and it would eat at me. I was having nightmares."

Christine turned to drugs, partly to numb her pain, partly to fit in. "Meth became my coffee in the morning," she says. "The more hectic life got, the more I depended on it."

When a drug bust landed her in jail, Christine decided she'd had enough of the pain. She read a book about forgiveness, and decided to forgive her mother.

"It was immediate relief," she says. "It was a weight off me, and it broke chains for her as well."

When Christine was released from jail, she came to Open Arms to continue her recovery, to stay on solid ground and to enjoy a restored relationship with her mom. The Mission has helped.

"I was meant to be here," she says. "The support has kept me following my faith, and now I feel ready to step out as a strong woman of faith."

Thanks to your help, Christine recently moved into her own place, which she has enjoyed decorating for Christmas!



Kevin's Christmas Message

Many of those we serve know what it's like to be homeless, to sleep on the streets, to have no place to lay their head.

They have felt what it's like to have "no room at the inn."

Joseph and Mary experienced that as they desperately sought a warm, safe place to have their child. Instead, they spent that night essentially on the streets, in a dirty stable, surrounded by animals and dung and straw.

It's unbelievable, isn't it? That the baby Jesus — the son of God — would enter the world in such an environment?

But in that astonishing moment, the angels broke into song:

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased.*

When homeless travelers — or those struggling with addiction or escaping abusive situations — knock on our door, they will always be welcome. There is *always* room at the inn ... precisely *because* of the baby born that day.

This Christmas, I'm grateful for the gift of your kindness. Thank you!

Serving Him by Serving Them,

Kevin L. Smith, Executive Director



Thanks to you, Leslie has found new life at the Mission.

"I Lost Everything"

Decades of drug abuse were costly. But now things are looking up.

Leslie looks back on the last 30-plus years with a lot of regret. He'd been a successful businessman and had opportunities for a good life. But he threw a lot of it away with drug addictions, including about a decade on meth.

So he was in and out of jail. In and out of jobs. And along the way, he had five kids with four different women — and then faced paying child support for them all.

"I lost everything to drugs," Leslie says.

But not quite everything. Now he's got a chance to gain some things back.

He came to the Mission last year from drug court, where he was facing a 12-year sentence. He says he's motivated to turn his life around this time — particularly as he reflects on his poor choices over the years.

"It's discouraging to look back and know what I've had, with a successful business, and think where I am now," Leslie says. "But at the same time, I know I've had success before, and it gives me confidence I can do it again."

In the meantime, he's working the programs at the Mission, learning the tools he'll need to stay sober and live clean. He says the spiritual emphasis is helping too.

"I'd gone to church off and on," he says. "But this time, I'm paying attention in church, I'm reading the Bible too, I'm taking notes. I'm trying to get closer to God."

He's saving money and eager to live independently again, reunited with his wife and his 10-year-old son. He says he has a good relationship with all his kids, ages 10-22.

"I want to be a better father to my kids," he says. "They deserve it. And so do I."

Thank you for helping men like Leslie on their road to recovery!

Nothing at the Bottom of a Bottle

With your support, Kim is leaving that old life behind.

Kim has emptied enough bottles in her life to know that she never wants to go there again.

"I really want to succeed in life," she says. "You can't do that with a bottle. Nothing's at the bottom of that bottle."

Nothing but heartache and pain.

But then, heartache and pain are what made Kim turn to the bottle in the first place. Her mom died when she was 6. Her dad died when she was 21 ... and a new bride and mother. Her husband died after 12 years of marriage.

Tragedy after tragedy.

"I've dealt with a lot of death," Kim says matter-of-factly. "A lot of trauma."

She has tried to quit drinking a number of times over the years, but has had relapse after relapse.

Several times, she came to the Mission for help, and found it. But it'd be two steps forward, and one step back.

"This time, my actions are going to prove I've changed."

"I would always put too much on my plate and get overwhelmed," she says. "I was working, going back to school, doing my chores around here, helping in the thrift store, going to meetings. It was too much."

This time around, Kim is trying to focus on one thing at a time and not get overwhelmed.



Her faith is helping Kim restore her life and relationships with her children.

"The staff here is very supportive," she says. "They have an open-door policy, any time you need to talk."

"They're nonjudgmental. They're stern when they need to be to keep you on track, but with a lot of compassion and understanding. And my faith has gotten a lot stronger this time."

Kim believes she now has the tools she needs to succeed, and that with God's help, she'll stay sober this time. And she's motivated to restore her relationship with her children, now 19 and 22.

"When I was drinking, they never knew the mom they were going to get," Kim says. "Happy mom? Or angry mom? I did a lot of damage. But this time, my actions are going to prove I've changed."

Thank you for helping to change lives at the Mission!



Save the Date
Walk a Mile in My Shoes
Saturday, February 24, 2024

At this annual event, walkers are given the opportunity to learn about the experiences of people who are homeless while also raising funds for the Mission. You'll form teams (2-20 people) and find sponsors for your 1-mile walk from the Mission headquarters to Open Arms, our ministry for women and children.

To learn more, go to kokomorescuemission.org/events

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

— JOHN 10:10 (ESV)

That's not a Bible verse you usually see at Christmas. More typically, you'd see verses about Joseph and Mary, the birth in a manger, the shepherds and the angels and the wise men.

But it all points to the same thing — or, more specifically, to the same one whose birth we celebrate at this time: Jesus. Which brings us to that verse from the book of John.

Jesus promises us not just life, but to have life abundantly.

Living on the streets is not abundant life. Poverty is not abundant life. Hunger is not abundant life. Abuse is not abundant life. Addiction is not abundant life.

Kokomo Rescue Mission exists to bring abundant life to people who are experiencing such things — to every man, woman and child who comes through our doors. That's what we're all about.

And that means that your support of the Mission helps to deliver abundant life to people in our community who need it most.

There's no better gift this Christmas than the gift of life ... of abundant life. Please remember the Mission with a special gift today. Thank you!

Red Ribbon Christmas Outreach

Each year, our Red Ribbon Christmas project assists 600-700 families in North Central Indiana.

This Christmas, we need the following donations:

- Hats, scarves and mittens
- Mugs
- School supplies
- Backpacks
- Children's books
- Crafts for boys (3-10) and girls (3-11)
- Games for kids
- 900 bars of bath soap
- 900 bottles of liquid dish soap
- 1,800 packages of toilet paper
- 900 rolls of paper towels
- 900 bottles of shampoo
- 900 tubes of toothpaste
- New and gently used doll clothes of all sizes
- Thousands of new and gently used toys, unwrapped



Learn how you can help with Red Ribbon by calling 765-456-3838.

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help wrap presents the first two weeks of December and to help deliver them on our Red Ribbon Christmas delivery days.

If you'd like to pitch in and make a difference for struggling families and children this holiday season, please let us know!

To learn more, call 765-456-3838 or go to kokomorescuemission.org/events.

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

I Want To Transform Lives This Christmas

YES, I want to help homeless, hungry and hurting men, women and families today and throughout the Christmas 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, use this QR code,
or visit kokomorescuemission.org/give.
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		

N23A1N
MISF-KRM-23095