

Your Mission

# MESSENGER

EASTER EDITION 2024

## “I Didn’t Know What to Expect”

How you helped Marjorie rediscover her faith and start over fresh!

### ALSO INSIDE

## “Everything That I Could Ask For”

Discover how Angela escaped danger and found the warmth of your support!



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# “Everything That I Could Ask For”

**You helped a mother escape abuse, find her faith and hope for the future.**

Angela is a survivor. But sadly, like many women who find refuge at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, her story begins with an escape. “I came to Open Arms due to losing my home to an abusive ex-boyfriend,” she says. “It was a very terrible experience.”

Even more heartbreaking, Angela wasn’t alone. Her two little kids also needed a safe place to sleep. So, when the Department of Child Services told Angela about Open Arms — our women’s shelter for mothers — she made the move.

At first, it was hard on the kids. “They were scared, crying, telling me that they didn’t want to be here,” Angela recalls. But the community here helped them settle in. Now? “They feel like they’re home.”

**“I want people to know they’re not alone.”**

Angela has found the support and resources she needed, too: “I really enjoy the staff here. They’ve been supportive and encouraged me to move forward. They’re helpful in all types of ways.”

She also credits the acceptance and warmth



*Thank you for helping your neighbors find their way!*

around her for her success. “I feel safe,” she says. “All the girls here have helped me out and encouraged me. Just everything that I could ask for.”

Most important was the moment Angela learned where to put her trust. “The biggest change is I went to church, and I got right with God,” she remembers. “Me and my kids, we pray every night before bed. I could see a big change in them.”

Angela says her whole perspective has changed through this experience. “Almost losing my kids opened up my eyes and made me realize you got to just keep pushing and leave all that behind you. The abuse, it’s done. The homelessness, it’s done. And me and my kids can just be here.”

Angela also hopes her story inspires and helps others. “I just want people to know that they’re not alone and to be kind,” she says.

What’s next for Angela? “My happy ending is mainly to see my kids go through high school, go through college, something that I never got to do,” she says. “I want to lead them in the right direction and make sure they don’t end up where I’ve been.”

***Thank you for helping to lead your struggling neighbors in the right direction!***

## COVER STORY

# “I Didn’t Know What to Expect”

**How you helped a struggling woman find a fresh start.**

Not many people know what it’s like to lose their job and their home on the same day. Marjorie does.

“I was property manager for a storage facility,” she says. Why was Marjorie let go? “No valid driver’s license. I’d been in that position for about a year. That’s how I ended up losing my apartment — because it was attached to the facility.”

Suddenly homeless with nowhere to go, Marjorie was so grateful to find the open doors of Watered Garden, the Kokomo Rescue Mission’s shelter for single women. “Everybody was welcoming,” she says. “Especially the first night, because you are nervous. I didn’t know what to expect.”

The encouragement and community Marjorie discovered here has been life-changing. She’s grown by such leaps and bounds that she was recently moved up to resident leader! “Ever since she’s come, she’s been extremely helpful and

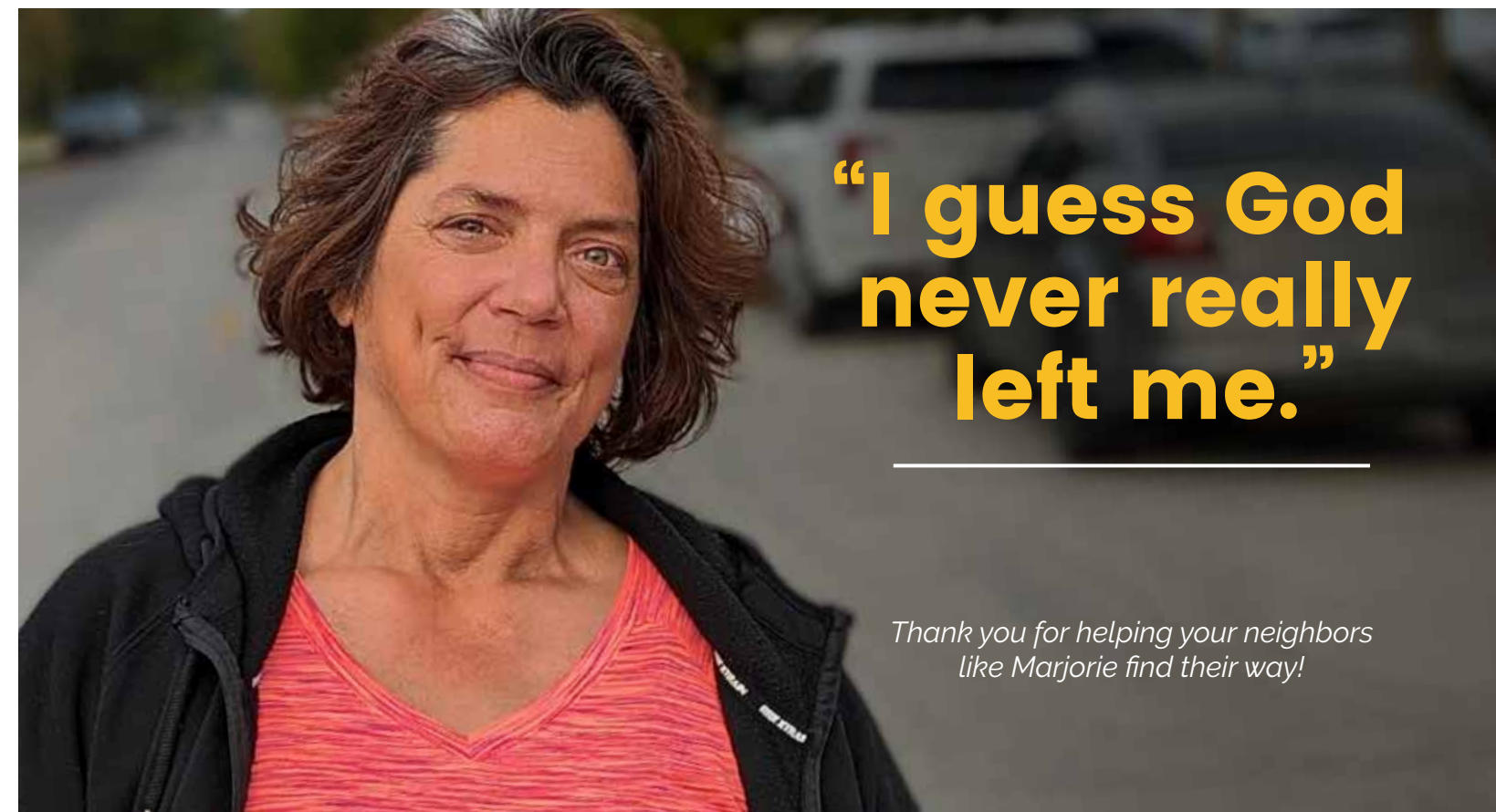
proactive,” her case manager says.

Marjorie hopes friends like you understand just what your support of the Mission means. “It’s people helping people through Christ,” she says. “The staff and everybody here, they encourage you to make the changes you want to make. They don’t push. They nudge, but they’re very patient.”

Watered Garden has helped Marjorie rediscover her own faith, too, which has become “a much more concentrated part of my life. I guess God never really left me.”

As for the future? “My goal is to go into the Peace Corps,” Marjorie says. “As long as I keep learning, I’m going to enjoy where I am on the way to where I’m going.”

***Thank you for helping your neighbors find their way!***



**“I guess God never really left me.”**

*Thank you for helping your neighbors like Marjorie find their way!*

# Kevin's Easter Message



**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

The promise of seasonal spring renewal is so comforting. It's also a reminder of the hope and renewal we have in Christ!

But like so many other blessings we've gotten used to, we often take them for granted. For instance, most of us don't worry about where our next meal will come from or wonder where we'll sleep at night. We buy groceries at the store and know we have a warm bed at home.

Can you imagine not knowing if you'll have any food to eat or realizing you don't know where you'll sleep? Sad as it seems, many of your struggling neighbors are wrestling with these very real worries.

Thanks to caring friends like you, last year, the Kokomo Rescue Mission was able to provide over 100,000 meals and tens of thousands of nights of safe shelter as well as help hundreds of families through various assistance programs.

Help us offer more powerful renewal by continuing your support!

Serving Him by Serving Them,

Kevin L. Smith  
Executive Director



**Walk A Mile In My Shoes**  
Saturday, February 24, 2024  
at Kokomo Rescue Mission

Join us for this annual 1-mile walk to raise awareness and funds for our Open Arms and Watered Garden shelters for women experiencing homelessness. Visit [kokomorescuemission.org/events](http://kokomorescuemission.org/events) for more info!

## I Want To Transform Lives This Easter

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

- \$25    \$50    \$100  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many meals and as much assistance as possible.

Please make your check payable to the 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**  
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