

Your Mission

# MESSENGER



**Kokomo**  
Rescue Mission  
*Serving North Central Indiana*

SUMMER EDITION 2024

**“Literally  
Changed  
My Life”**

Discover how Les  
escaped addiction and  
found the warmth of  
your support!

ALSO INSIDE

**“You Don’t  
Know Who  
You Impact”**

How you helped Brandi  
start over fresh!

# “You Don’t Know Who You Impact”

How you helped a struggling woman find a fresh start.



Thank you for helping your neighbors find their way!

“I love taking care of people,” Brandi says. Sadly, people have also been a source of pain for her.

First, Brandi’s marriage of 12 years collapsed because her husband was unfaithful. After the divorce, she moved to Indiana to be closer to her mother and sister, and began working as an assistant in a nursing home — a job she liked.

and I couldn’t handle regular life anymore,” Brandi says candidly. “It got so overwhelming that I wanted to commit suicide. I finally sought help, and that’s how I ended up at Open Arms.”

Open Arms is the Kokomo Rescue Mission’s shelter for single women and women with children — made possible by friends like you! It’s a haven for people like Brandi, who are desperate to find stable ground under their feet again.

“The big thing for me when I first came in was relief,” she says. “I had a roof over my head, and a whole bunch of stress was relieved. I felt like it was coming home where I belonged.”

What does Brandi have to say to donors like you?

“You may think it’s not significant, but you don’t know who you impact. That one donation could change somebody’s life.”

On a personal note, Brandi concludes: “Everybody has a hero, and my mom is mine. I wouldn’t have come as far as I have without her.”

***WE wouldn’t have come this far without YOU. Thank you for your kind and generous support!***

But once the pandemic hit, everything changed. “Watching people die within days, it just broke my heart,” Brandi says. “I don’t think I got over that.” To make matters worse, Brandi endured the death of her ex-boyfriend — whom she was still close to — when he succumbed to his struggles with alcohol.

“I got to a point of very severe depression, anxiety,

# “Literally Changed My Life”

You helped a father escape addiction, find his faith and hope for the future.

Les has struggled with drug addiction most of his life ... and it nearly cost him everything.

In fact, Les was so caught up in his destructive habits at one point that he’d moved out of state and away from family. Cut all ties. He wasn’t even talking to his kids. It was a real low point.

After getting arrested and charged with dealing meth, Les enrolled in a drug court program. “Part of the program was you moved into the Kokomo Rescue Mission,” he says. “That’s how I ended up here.”

It was a big adjustment for Les, but it was worth it. “I’d been in jail for four months. So, when I got here, I was really depressed, feeling very alone,” he says. “All the friends that I thought I made weren’t there anymore. Then, once I got into the program, the loneliness of not having my kids kicked in and it was like, ‘All right, I’m going to change.’”

With the help of compassionate friends like you, Les was true to his word! “It literally changed my life,” he says. “I’ve restored relationships with my family and my kids. I’ve found Jesus.”

Les now runs Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings and is even employed by the Mission as a cook!

“It’s a really good feeling to be accepted,” he says, “To really feel as though the help you’re receiving comes from a personal, genuine place. They’ve been really good to me. All of the staff accepted me like family.”

Looking back, Les is amazed by the transformation in his life that your kindness made possible.

“I’m definitely not going backward,” he says. “In my old life, not having to wake up one morning and look for drugs would’ve been a good day. Now, it makes me happy to give to people instead of trying to take from people.”

Les hopes you know just how much your support means. “Your donation will help,” he affirms. “It’ll spread to lots of people like me that otherwise may not eat today ... or may not eat tomorrow.”

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

## “I felt like it was coming home where I belonged.”

## Back to School Assistance Program

Tuesday, July 9 to Friday, July 12

With your support, we’re helping local income-qualifying students look and feel their best for the new school year!

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade can get:

- New shoes (fitted to them)
- New socks
- New undergarments
- A clothing voucher for school clothes from our Care & Share Store



Visit [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org) to donate or learn more.



**\$52**  
sponsors  
a student

Local students can get the new shoes, socks and undergarments they need, thanks to you!



# Kevin's Summer Message



**Whatever is true,  
whatever is noble,  
whatever is right,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is  
admirable ... think  
about such things.**

—PHILIPPIANS 4:8

As we do our best to lift up those less fortunate each and every day, we are grateful that you have joined us as a friend and supporter — standing by us and our work across North Central Indiana.

Even during times that continue to be difficult for so many, my thoughts remain on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable — all the many acts of kindness that donors like you have made possible for our neighbors in need.

After all, what is more true than showing love to your neighbor? What could be more noble than offering a meal to a hungry family, or more right than providing shelter to a family in need? Is it not pure to give hope to someone who has lost their way? And isn't it lovely to see someone's face light up when they receive the help they need?

It is truly admirable that you — through your generosity — have done all these things to demonstrate your compassion for those in need.

May God bless you for your kindness!

Serving Him by Serving Them,

Kevin L. Smith  
Executive Director

## I Want To Transform Lives This Summer

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

- \$20** to provide **8 meals** and assistance.
- \$22.50** to provide **9 meals** and assistance.
- \$35** to provide **14 meals** and assistance.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ 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**  
P.O. Box 476  
Kokomo, IN 46903-0476

Please charge my:  VISA  MC  Discover  AMEX

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