

Your Mission

MESSENGER

CHRISTMAS EDITION 2024



Kokomo
Rescue Mission
Serving North Central Indiana

A Different Outlook

Your support is changing Ron's life one day at a time.

ALSO INSIDE

Beyond Words

How you gave Ayliza safety and stability.



Beyond Words

Because of you,
When Ayliza escaped abuse, she found safety and stability through your generosity.

Ayliza's story doesn't begin with where she was going, but what she was running away from.

"Long story short, it was a domestic violence situation," she says. "I needed to seek shelter and safety. This went on for a little over a year. Long enough," Ayliza concludes.

"Kindness goes a long way. That's all I can say."

That's what makes your support so important. Thanks to your help, Ayliza found refuge at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

"They've been very welcoming, and I am beyond words," she says of her experience here. "Incredibly grateful. I had nowhere else to go."

Ayliza is probably most thankful for what the Mission gives her that she didn't have for so long. "Structure, stability. I feel like I'm in the right place

at the right time," she says. "I'm not where I was. I'm not where I want to be [in life yet], but just ... baby steps."

Plus, Ayliza knows she's not alone because she has the support of other residents like her. "We're all in this together," she says. "That's the way that I look at it and see it."

She also helps people who are new to the Mission feel accepted. "I make them feel like they're part of the family," Ayliza adds. "Like my friend. Like I've known them for years."

Now that Ayliza has found stability and a renewal of her faith, she's looking forward to the future. She is planning to go back to school and pursue a career in cosmetology, with the goal of one day owning her own business.

She is quick to stress the importance of support from friends like you. "Everybody deserves a fair chance, and one donation could make all the difference in the world," she says.

"Kindness goes a long way. That's all I can really say."

Thanks for sharing your kindness and the love of Christ with neighbors like Ayliza.

A Different Outlook

Your compassionate support is changing Ron's life one day at a time.

While some kids imagine going to the town fair or an amusement park and never leaving, Ron actually got to live that dream.

"I spent 30 years of my life traveling the country with carnivals. I left home when I was 15, wound up with no money, and they hired me. I was a ride operator. I'd set up and tear down the ride, maintain it, fix it if it broke. Week to week, a different town, different people, different show."

Ron finally gave up the only job he knew to care for his father, but soon found himself in trouble. "I was having financial difficulties. I was on disability. I wasn't making enough to cover my bills," he says. In a desperate attempt to make ends meet, Ron started dealing drugs.

"I thought this would be an easier fix, and so that was the path I chose," Ron says. "I went down it and paid the consequences. I was arrested, charged and sentenced to 15 years."

Even after completing a recovery program in

prison and having his sentence reduced, Ron had nowhere to go.

"I was homeless. I had nothing," he says. "They offered me a chance to come here to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, and I took it. I've never looked back. I'm very thankful that I came here."

Through the support of friends like you, the Mission has helped Ron start over and stood by him, even through several health issues and procedures — including gallbladder removal, quadruple bypass surgery and even cancer.

"The Mission was behind me 100%," Ron says. "They helped me exponentially. They led me closer to Christ, and I got a whole lot different outlook on life than what I had before I came here."

"The Kokomo Rescue Mission is changing people's lives one day at a time."

Thank you for your life-transforming support!



"They offered me a chance, and I took it. I'm very thankful."

Thank you for giving our hurting neighbors a chance to rebuild.

Kevin's Special Message



You are the backbone of all we do at the Kokomo Rescue Mission because you understand that it takes compassion, love and the will to make a difference to transform lives from the inside out.

You understand that healing and transformation starts with a meal, a safe bed and the feeling that someone cares. When a man or woman first comes here, they're hurt. They feel vulnerable, frightened and alone.

But when they sit down for that first meal here at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, that's our chance — thanks to you — to show them compassion, that someone cares and they're NOT alone. That's especially important at Christmas.

This Christmas, Family Starts With You

There's something about spending the holidays with your brothers and sisters in the Lord that changes everything. It's about family. And in this family, you make the meals and shelter possible. Your compassion creates an atmosphere of love, friendship and community. All of it starts with you.

This holiday season, may the love and light of Jesus Christ fill your heart with peace and joy.

Merry Christmas!

Kevin L. Smith, Executive Director

“We give thanks to God always for you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.”

— 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2



Save the Date!

February 22, 2025

Our annual fundraising event features:

- A hot, delicious breakfast
- Tour of our two women's shelters
- Stories from residents

I Want To Transform Lives This Holiday Season

YES, I want to help men, women and families who are homeless and hungry this holiday season and beyond. Here's my gift of:

- \$25 provides **10 nutritious meals**.
- \$50 provides **1 night of shelter** for an adult.
- \$100 provides **grocery assistance** for 3 families.
- \$250 provides **3 nights of shelter** for a mother and her child.
- \$_____ to provide as much help 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
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		
PHONE		