

Your Mission

MESSENGER

WINTER EDITION 2025



**Kokomo
Rescue Mission**
Serving North Central Indiana

Saved by Love

You bring lasting hope to women like Breanna.

ALSO INSIDE

A Whole New Future

Because you care, Ellionia is building her life on a firm foundation.



A Whole New Future

Because of you, Ellionia found a new way to live.



Saved by Love

Thanks to you, Breanna is rebuilding her life.

Growing up, Breanna never experienced the amazing healing power of love. Her parents were addicted to drugs, and throughout her childhood she dealt with physical, emotional and sexual abuse. "My sister pretty much raised me, and I then raised my brother," she says.

When she was 17, Breanna left home, and for the next several years she had a somewhat normal life — a job and her own home. But, at the age of 26, she was experiencing serious back problems and was prescribed pain medications. Longing to ease emotional as well as physical pain, she began using other drugs too, including heroin.

To support the habit, Breanna started dealing as well as using drugs. She had a son

during these years but lost custody because of her drug use. She finally wound up behind bars for four years.

Breanna ultimately found the love she longed for at Open Arms, the Mission's shelter for women and children. Her faith in God saved her, and she credits Open Arms for giving her love, support and hope as she rebuilds her life for herself and her son.

Thank you for supporting the Kokomo Rescue Mission and helping people like Breanna find acceptance, direction and the healing power of love.

Ellionia says she had a great childhood. She was raised by her dad, stepmom and grandparents. But in her teen years, her life took a drastic turn.

She started drinking alcohol and smoking pot with a friend and then was introduced to crystal meth. "When I was around 17, I started using crystal meth and I would hang out with the wrong people so I could get the drugs." She admits that though she had a happy home life, her low self-esteem led her to drug and alcohol abuse.

Throughout the next several years, Ellionia was in and out of rehab. She would stay sober for several months and then relapse into drug use.

At the age of 25, she began a relationship with a man who was very violent toward her, and she moved to the Kokomo Rescue Mission to escape the abuse.

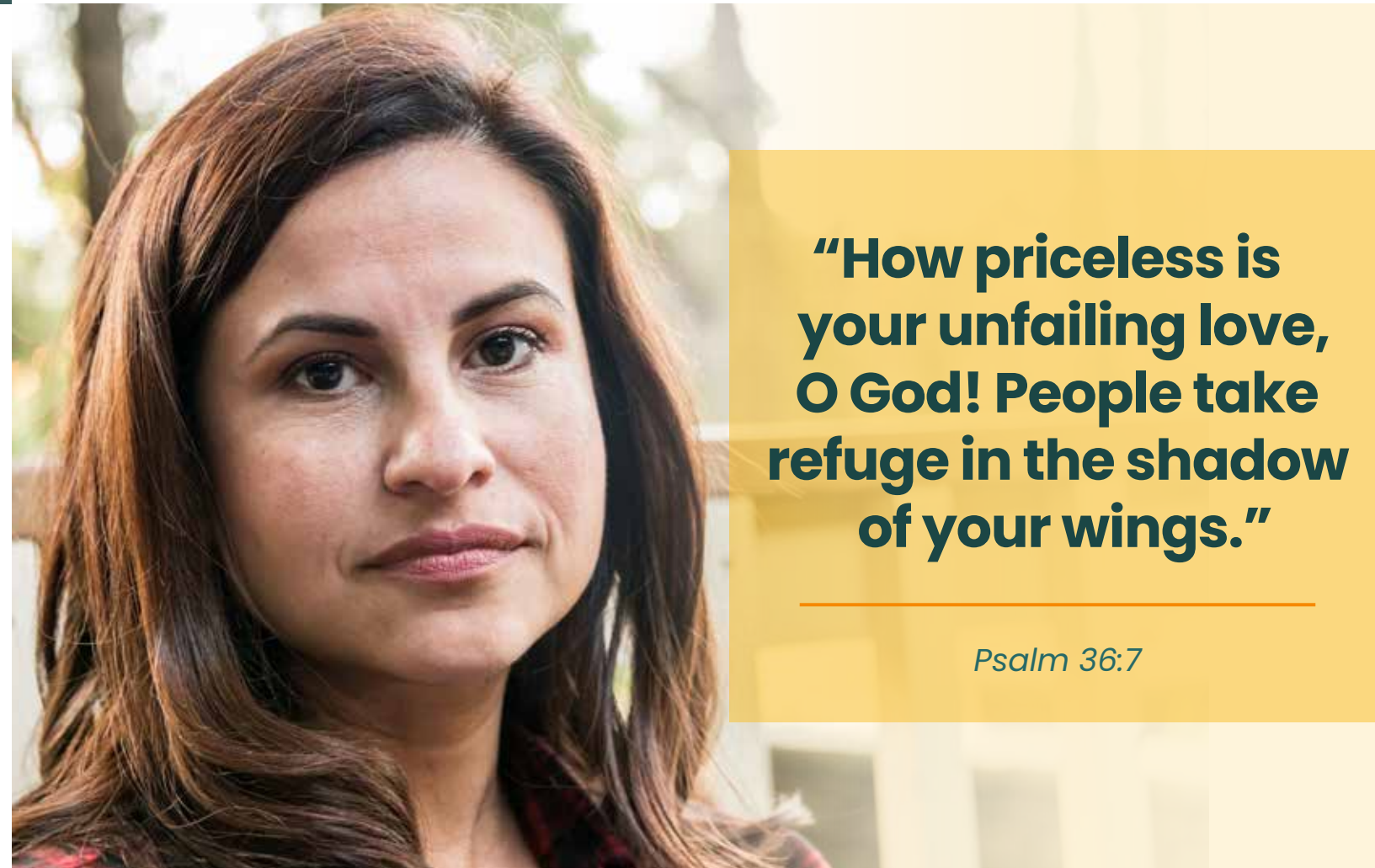
She's been at the Mission for over a year. She's clean and sober and she became a Christian

a few months ago. "I want to thank everyone who supports the Mission," she says. "Your support gave me the stability that I need, and you helped me find Jesus when I needed him. I have a whole new future because you support this place."

Because of the help she received through classes and the staff at Watered Garden, Ellionia was able to get the first job she's ever had and is on her way to becoming self-sufficient.

"Your support helped me find Jesus."

Through your support, you give women like Ellionia the hope and help they need for a better life.



"How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings."

Psalm 36:7



Kevin's Special Message

Dear Friend,

In this issue of *Your Mission Messenger*, we have featured two courageous women who were able to find help and hope here because of your compassionate and loving support.

Donor support allows us to care for immediate needs by providing nourishing meals and safe shelter while also addressing short- and long-term goals like life and job skills that can transform someone's life.

And most importantly, our guests are introduced to Jesus' healing love, some for the very first time. That alone is the most consequential and life-transforming meeting of all.

Please note that while you may never meet them, your prayers and support will continue to impact the journeys of Breanna, Ellionia and many others to new lives of hope.

I pray that the Lord bless you and your loved ones, now and always!

Kevin L. Smith

Kevin L. Smith, Executive Director

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you fulfill the law of Christ.”

— GALATIANS 6:2



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 Help My Neighbors in Need

YES, I want to help my neighbors who are struggling. 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
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