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“In a drunken blackout, I hurt someone I loved.”

— Brady

I'm still struggling to forgive myself, but thanks to you, I'm on the right path.

your mission messenger

SUMMER ISSUE 2014

While I was STILL A SINNER — by Brady

Romans 5:8 says, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” For me, that verse sums up my life. It is my only hope.

Twenty years ago, I was 19 years old, and in a drunken blackout, I hurt someone I loved. I went to prison for three years. But that was nothing. I’ve had to live with the guilt and shame of what I did ever since.

After prison, I tried to live a normal life. I had a good job, got married and helped raise three stepsons. I still drank, but I didn’t really struggle with it — until my wife died unexpectedly in 2009 following gall-bladder surgery.

That same year, I got laid off from job. From that point on, I spent every dime I had on alcohol. Every day, I drank at least a half gallon of vodka. I sunk into a deeper and deeper depression until I couldn’t take care of myself or find a way out.

I Had to Face My Life Head On

I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission in 2010, but after 11 months I got kicked out for drinking again. I tried making it on my own, but nothing worked. I just couldn’t shake the depression or the alcohol. So in 2012, I returned to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, determined to face my life head on.

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While I Was Still a Sinner

(continued from page 1)

They say depression is really just anger turned inward on yourself. At the Mission, I had to admit I was mad at myself. I had to face all the mistakes of my life. I had to admit that, while alcohol was a problem, the real issue was the guilt

“I’m still struggling to forgive myself, but thanks to you, I’m on the right path.”

and shame I’d lived with for twenty years. And neither alcohol, antidepressants nor doctors could take it away.

Only God, through His Son Jesus Christ, could do that. And He did. Thanks to the Mission, I now know God has forgiven me. I still struggle with forgiving myself, but alcohol is no longer a temptation for me and I know I’m on the right path.

Thank you for helping guys like me.

An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

With summer just around the corner, if you’re like me, you’re breathing a big sigh of relief after the winter we just got through. Last winter was pretty rough on all of us, especially the poor and homeless. But as much as I’d like to sit back and relax in the summer warmth, right now, I can’t. Summers can be equally hard as winters on the homeless — and the Kokomo Rescue Mission, as well.

In summer, more homeless men and women try to make do living outside. They drink bad water, eat more out of dumpsters, are more vulnerable to violence and predators, and more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Landlords are more willing to evict vulnerable families. Kids no longer have school lunches to depend on, adding further economic burden on their families. The truth is, our women’s shelter operates at full capacity every summer, and we’re seeing more children every year. And more heartbreaking, we sometimes have to turn families away who need our help.

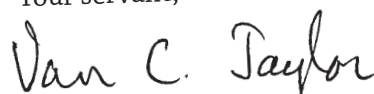
And all of this stretches our Mission’s budget nearly to the breaking point. Making matters worse, giving always declines in summer, as well.

Thank You for Remembering Us All Year Long

The one thing that brings me comfort this summer is knowing that caring people like you understand that there is no season for homelessness. Those who struggle with hunger, poverty, homelessness and addictions struggle all year round. But thanks to your generous support, we continue to offer God’s loving care, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Everything that happens here — everyone who gets saved, breaks an addiction, eats a meal or finds their way home — it’s all thanks to you. God has used you, and continues to use you in powerful ways. So as we head into summer, thank you for all you do.

Your servant,



Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



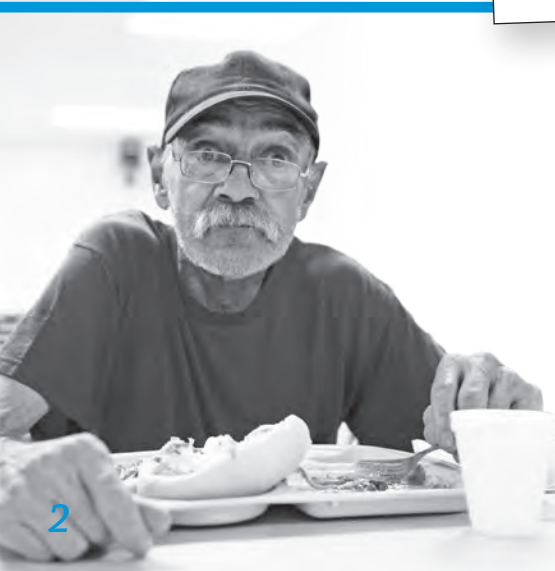
“Thanks to your generous support, we continue to offer God’s loving care, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

Please Give Hurting People Hope and

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9

Thank you for all your extraordinary acts of love and compassion for hurting men, women and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. As the Apostle Paul promised in Galatians, you are reaping a harvest as your gifts give new hope, health and life — both today and for eternity — to our guests struggling with poverty, addictions and homelessness.

Many of our guests have spent years, sometimes decades, believing their lives don’t matter, that no one cares for them. But your kindness shows them beyond doubt that they do matter and they are loved — by you and by God.



I'm Worth Love and A SECOND CHANCE

— by Marika

All my life, I questioned God. If God is so almighty and powerful, why did He let bad things happen to me?

Both my parents were physically abusive. I was often beaten and locked in closets — and I witnessed things no child should have to see. It got so bad, I was put into foster care at the age of 12.

But the damage was done. I refused to listen to anyone or let anyone tell me what to do. Angry, depressed and hurt, I realized no one was going to take care of me. So I would take care of myself — by any means necessary. I went to jail more than once. And I didn't care.

Looking back, I realize now I ached for attention, acceptance and love. But I knew it wasn't going to happen. So I hated everyone — and I hated myself. I spent my adulthood in and out of abusive relationships, addicted to drugs, and I struggled with mental illness: borderline personality disorder, depression and anxiety disorder.

The Best Choice I Ever Made

But last April, I was 36 years old, tired, and I wanted a different life. I wanted the pain to go away, to erase my past, and experience peace of mind. I had to let go of all my questioning of God and accept responsibility for the choices I'd made. Then I made the best

"I ached for attention, acceptance and love. But I knew it wasn't going to happen."

— Marika

choice I ever made. I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission's Open Arms shelter.

I've been clean and sober ever since. I'm studying the Bible for the first time and I'm even going to church. But the hardest thing of all is opening myself up to the love these people have for me — and God's love for me. I'm not used to love and I'm scared. But I know I'm entering a whole new world.

I'm learning that I can trust God, after all. And He's showing me that I'm worth being loved and I deserve happiness. Everyone deserves a second chance, no matter what their background or what they've done.

Thank you for loving me and giving me this second chance.



Beef Up the Mission — 2014 "Where's the Beef?"

By spring, we had used all of the beef that was donated at last year's 4-H Fair livestock auctions. The supply of pork is low. During 2013, the Mission served 118,076 meals.

We need your help! If you know anyone who will be buying an animal at a fair this year, please ask them to consider donating the animal to the Mission. We need at least five steer to provide enough beef for a year, and 80 to 90 hogs for pork. The Howard County 4-H Fair is the week of July 7 – 12.

For a list of current kitchen needs, see kokomorescuemission.org/how-you-can-help/current-needs.

New Life – Today and for Eternity!

Please continue to care this summer

For most of us, summer is a time to relax, enjoy backyard barbecues, and take hard-earned vacations. But people burdened with homelessness and poverty don't get a vacation from their misery. Every day is another challenge to hold on to hope or even to survive. They need our help — they need *your* help. We dare not become weary in the face of so much need.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. You may also call us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for being a caring friend to men, women and children who need your help this summer.

"Your kindness shows them beyond doubt that they do matter and they are love – by you and by God."

Walk-a-Mile-in-My-Shoes

2014 Results

On Saturday, March 22, the 13th Annual Walk A Mile in My Shoes event was held to benefit the Open Arms shelter. The event was delayed from February due to the extreme winter, but the results were still positive. When the tally was completed on March 22, over \$129,000 had been raised, and the staff praised God for His goodness and provision. The following teams were this year's winners:

- First Place – Golden Sneaker:
Rossville Bible Fellowship at \$9,527.45
- Second Place – Silver Slipper:
Kokomo Chrysler Casting Plant at \$2,868.08
- Third Place – Bronze Baby Bootie:
Grace United Methodist Church at \$2,631.38

We are so thankful for our sponsors and walkers who support this annual event.



Yes We Can September 14, 2014



On Sunday afternoon, September 14, young people will be ringing doorbells asking for canned food for Kokomo Rescue Mission. They have answered a resounding YES WE CAN to the challenge to collect 11 tons of food.

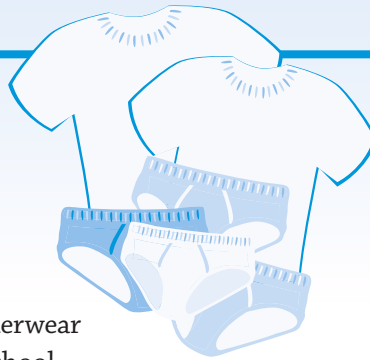
Make sure your school or church youth group plans to participate, and get the whole church involved in the kick-off collection at the church before the youth "hit the street." For more information: visit the "Upcoming Events" page on our website at kokomorescuemission.org, "Like" the Kokomo Rescue Mission page on Facebook or call our Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator at **765-456-3838**.

Fifth Sunday Focus on the Mission

"Undy Sunday"

June 29, 2014

Please organize your church group, Facebook friends, or family to collect packages of new underwear and socks for school age children for back-to-school. Remember, many of the children wear adult sizes. The underwear will be given to children staying at Open Arms and to families receiving free clothing through the Care & Share Store. Items needed are: socks, T-shirts, panties, briefs and boxers.



Did you know?

Kokomo Rescue Mission provides shelter and food services 365 days a year.

For more information, please visit <http://www.kokomorescuemission.org/about/annual-report-highlights.html>

REMEMBER KOKOMO RESCUE MISSION IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN.

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My Summer Gift

YES, Van, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people.

- Please bill my credit card:
 VISA MC

Here's my gift of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

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▶ Please mail this completed form with your donation, or you may give your gift online at www.kokomorescuemission.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.