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*“She ended up taking
the kids to the Kokomo
Rescue Mission and
I ended up living out
of my car.” — Mike*

*This Christmas season,
I’m grateful for you.
Thanks to you, I have
my life back.*

your mission messenger

WINTER ISSUE 2013

A Family CHRISTMAS — by Mike

Some folks say Christmas is all about family. But it’s hard when your family’s homeless, like mine is right now.

I never wanted my life to be like this. I always wanted it to be different — ever since I was a kid. But my father was an abusive man who often tried to choke me when I cried at night. That trauma stayed with me all my life. As a teenager, however, I decided I was going to have a better life and family. But I constantly struggled with depression and anxiety disorders. I would see how good other families were, then I’d just feel worse and worse.

Then a few years ago I met my wife. I thought I’d finally get the family I always wanted. We had two beautiful children. But our marriage was kind of rocky from the start.

My wife will tell you her story on page 3. But we finally separated last year and we both ended up homeless. She ended up taking the kids to the Kokomo Rescue Mission and I ended up living out of my car. I ended up so depressed I had to go to a hospital for help.

God Loves Me and My Family

But my wife and I started talking again and we realized we loved each other and wanted to work things out, so we could have a better life for ourselves and our kids. So I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission, too. The Mission started counseling us, both individually and as a couple. And they’re teaching us better life skills and how to manage our anger issues.

One of the best things, though, is that they helped us get closer to God. For a long time, I didn’t think God cared

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Serving Six Counties

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A Family Christmas

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about me. But now I know He loves me and my family.

My wife and I still have work to do. But I know that now, with God in our lives, I'll finally be the man and father my family needs me to be. And I think this Christmas really will be all about family. My family.



Sunday, December 29, 2013

“RESTOCK SUNDAY”

The final “Fifth” Sunday Appeal for 2013 is “Restock” Sunday, to help the Mission restock cleaning supplies and disposable items. Donate items such as: laundry detergent, window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, liquid hand soap, paper towels, toilet tissue, etc. For information on those items that are “most needed,” visit our website at:

www.kokomorescuemission.org

An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

“**T**he people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” — Isaiah 9:2

As we start preparing for the Christmas season here at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, I think about Joseph and Mary. The young couple was struggling along a hard road, essentially homeless and alone, and with few resources to help them cope. I'm sure Joseph worried about how he was going to care for his pregnant wife and family. And I'm equally sure Mary was equally scared for her unborn child and her family's future.

As I think of Joseph and Mary, I also think of Michael and Chloe in this newsletter. I think of all the hurting young mothers and struggling fathers here at the Mission. I think of all the hungry, desperate families in Kokomo who are wondering how they'll make it through another Christmas.

The darkness they face over the holidays is overwhelming. But you and I know the darkness doesn't win. A light was born into the darkness that brought hope to Joseph and Mary, to the lowly shepherds, to the entire world — and continues to light our world today.

Thank you for reflecting the Light of Christ this Christmas

Thanks to you, that light shines especially bright at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Your gifts provide more than meals and shelter. Your love and compassion offer broken people hope and healing, helping to put them back together piece by piece. People who were once lost are filled with new light as children of God.

I wish you could see the light in their eyes for yourself this Christmas. That's a gift you would never forget. Thank you for reflecting the light of Christ in our community and at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



“Thanks to you, that light shines especially bright at the Kokomo Rescue Mission.”

Please help give new life to homeless men,

It all started on that starry night, when God chose to launch His long-awaited project to reclaim and redeem His good creation, starting in a humble stable in Bethlehem. That night, through His holy angels, God offered peace on earth and goodwill to all humanity through His Son — our Savior — Jesus Christ.

Today, thanks to caring and compassionate people like you, God continues to offer His peace and goodwill to hurting and homeless men, women and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. People who were once enslaved to alcohol, drugs and unspeakable abuse have found freedom through the King of Kings. Those who've lost their way are now following the One who says *follow me*.

“This Christmas please remember the hurting and homeless seeking hope and healing.”

Working Toward My American DREAM FAMILY

— by Chloe

All I ever wanted was the American dream kind of family. A “real McCoy” family, like back in the 1800s, when husbands and wives married for life, worked together, raised their kids together and even died together.

I didn’t have that kind of family growing up. My parents struggled with emotional problems, especially rage. They passed their destructive temper and rage on to me. I got into a lot of fights as a teenager and was suspended from high school because of it.

I met my husband, Michael, in 2009 and we soon had two children of our own. I thought I’d found my dream family, but we bickered and fought, and my anger kept flaring up. We separated several times, often because of my actions. And things just kept spiraling out of control.

Learning to Put God First

When we separated again last year, Michael and I both became homeless. That’s when I brought our kids to the Kokomo Rescue Mission’s Open Arms, because I knew they sheltered families like mine. When I found out it was a Christian shelter, it was like God was telling me that He was looking out for us.



“This Christmas, I’m really looking forward to all the blessings God has for us.”

— Chloe

Michael wanted to reconcile, so he moved to the Kokomo Rescue Mission’s men’s shelter. Since then, the Mission has been helping us get back on track. They got me on medication and they’re teaching me how to manage my anger. We’re getting marriage counseling and learning to put God first in our lives and marriage. And we’re learning how to be better parents.

This Christmas, I’m really looking forward to all the blessings God has for us. Thanks to your support of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, I might still get my American dream family.

Save the Date . . . Recruit a Team Walk a Mile in My Shoes

February 8, 2014

The calendar says November, but here at the Kokomo Rescue Mission, we are already preparing for our 13th Annual “Walk A Mile In My Shoes” scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2014. So mark your calendar, contact your friends to form a team, and come up with a clever way to put “fun” into “fundraising” to benefit Open Arms, Kokomo Rescue Mission (KRM)’s shelter for homeless women and children.

Walk A Mile In My Shoes allows participants to step into the struggles facing homeless women and children. It’s a one mile round trip, from KRM’s main headquarters to Open Arms. Rest, tours and refreshments are provided at Open Arms.



Some walkers from the 12th Annual Walk, Feb 9, 2013.

Why hold this event in the winter? To help raise awareness in the community about difficulties the homeless members of our community deal with on a daily basis. Poverty and homelessness know no season.

Teams consist of 2 to 20 people. Each walker is encouraged to raise sponsorships of at least \$50 to \$100. Team packets will be available at the Mission in January. For more information, call **765.456.3838** or visit **kokomorescuemission.org**.

women and children this Christmas

Christmas season, remember all the homeless people and a new start.”

Please remember those who are homeless this Christmas

Your gifts to the Kokomo Rescue Mission offer every man, woman and child who comes through our doors nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter — and the promise of God’s peace, goodwill and transforming power.

This Christmas season, please remember all the hurting and homeless people seeking hope and a new start.

To donate immediately, please use the enclosed remit slip. You may also give your donation by visiting us online at **www.kokomorescuemission.org** or calling us at **(765) 456-3838**. Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous giving at Christmas and throughout the year.

Red Ribbon Christmas Outreach

The Red Ribbon Christmas project assists over 1,000 families in our 6-county area each year. For Christmas 2013, RRC is going to need:



RED RIBBON CHRISTMAS OUTREACH
A Ministry of Kokomo Rescue Mission



- Thousands of new and gently used toys, unwrapped
- 1,500 hams
- 1,500 loaves of bread
- 4,500 cans of green beans and corn
- 1,500 boxes of instant potatoes
- 1,500 pounds of margarine
- 1,500 pies
- 6,000 apples and oranges
- 1,500 bars of bath soap
- 1,500 bottles of liquid dish soap
- 1,500 packages of toilet paper
- 1,500 rolls of paper towels
- 1,500 bottles of shampoo
- 1,500 tubes of toothpaste



You can help us deliver boxes like these to bring hope to area families this Christmas.

Call **765.456.3838** to schedule a date for your group to wrap presents on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., from December 2 through December 12. Visit **kokomorescuemission.org** for the location of the Red Ribbon Christmas warehouse.

Delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes is an experience that will fill your heart with the real meaning of Christmas. If you have a truck or large van available, please register by phone or online. Then come and help us on December 20 beginning at 7:30 a.m.

WE'RE EXPECTING 2,600 GUESTS AT OUR THANKSGIVING BANQUETS

Our guest list is growing! We'll be serving a delicious Thanksgiving meal at two sites in Frankfort through the Clinton County Ministry of Hope. We'll partner once again with Kokomo Urban Outreach to provide the turkey and vegetables for their Thanksgiving dinners in 13 Neighborhoods of Hope on Wednesday evening. Then on Thanksgiving Day, we'll serve our traditional Thanksgiving Banquet from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. Call **765.456.3838** for delivery to shut-ins on Thanksgiving morning or to volunteer to help with the event.

No one should be alone and hungry at Thanksgiving. Please help us offer a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to all who come.



My Christmas Gift

YES, Van, I want to help men, women and families who need our help this Christmas.

- Please bill my credit card:
 VISA MC

Here's my Christmas 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 _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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