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*“I felt like I killed my own father. That’s when I started doing meth real bad.”*

— Jennifer

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

# your mission messenger

FALL ISSUE 2013

## Little Girl LOST

— by Jennifer

I think most little girls want their daddy. I know I did. But my dad was an alcoholic who’d disappear from my life for years at a time.

So I looked for love in all the wrong places. I got pregnant when I was 14 — and had an abortion. After that, I went into a huge depression. I felt different from all the other kids and like I was never good enough.

The only people I felt attracted to were a string of older men who were physically and verbally abusive. I ended up with four children fathered by four different men, all of them bad guys.

But in 2006, my father got sober and came back into my life. He even moved in with me and my kids. For two years, it was really great — until he started drinking again. In

fact, it got so bad he ended up in the hospital in a coma.

And I had to make the decision to pull the plug on him.

I felt like I killed my own father. That’s when I started doing meth real bad. Meth numbed me from the world — and my life went straight downhill. I ended up in jail and my children were taken from me. I hit bottom.

### Giving it all up

But that’s also when everything changed. When I got out of jail, the courts sent me to the Kokomo Rescue Mission’s Open Arms, a shelter and program for homeless women.

Oh, I struggled, at first. I wanted to stay in control of my life. But one day, a staff member said, “Jennifer, you gotta give it all up. Your past, everything.” I went upstairs

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## Little Girl Lost

(continued from page 1)

and cried and cried. But she was right. I gave up my guilt for the abortion and for my father. I gave myself up to Open Arms and to God. And now, for the first time in my life, I feel like I deserve a better life. I'm going to make it.

As we enter into this Thanksgiving season, I want to thank you for your support and for giving me my life back.

## Help Us Fill Our Pantry During YWC! (Yes We Can)

September 22nd

If you live in the Kokomo area, local church youth groups will knock on your door and ask you to donate canned goods to our 'Yes We Can' scavenger food drive. This is a great opportunity to donate without ever leaving your home! If your congregation or youth group would like to participate, please call Anna at **(765) 456-3838**. This food drive is urgently needed to meet the ever increasing numbers KRM serves in the dining room and in the surrounding counties. Help us keep our pantry full to feed those in need!



## An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

**“H**ow great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.” — Psalm 31:19

I love that verse, especially with Thanksgiving right around the corner.

Kokomo has been through a lot in recent years — economic hardship, flooding, unemployment and lost homes, cars and other precious possessions. Times like these remind us that life, people and things are fragile.

But the psalmist reminds us, even in the face of all we've lost, to remember all the good things God has blessed us with.

And what has God blessed us with? The men and women at the Kokomo Rescue Mission remind me every day of what's truly important. Many of them, through addictions and other tragedies, have lost everything they own. Yet they've discovered that God has blessed them with so much more — people like you who care for them, a community that reminds them that none of us is ever alone, and most important, the knowledge that we all have refuge in the Lord.

These are the things they cling to. And those are the things we should all cling to.

### Thank you for standing together with us this Thanksgiving

Thank you for not only being a faithful supporter of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, but for your friendship, caring and love for all the precious men, women and children who stand with us in the shadow of God's refuge and strength.

Despite the losses we've endured the past few years, one thing Kokomo has never lost is our belief in loving our neighbors as ourselves. And of all God's good gifts that He has bestowed on us, that's one of the greatest gifts of all.

Your servant,

Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



*“I'm so grateful to you for everything that happens here.”*

## Thank You for Giving Hope to the Ho

**“G**ive thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:8-9).

If there's one attribute that best characterizes the heart of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, it's gratitude. All the hurting men, women and children here are deeply thankful, not only for the food and shelter, but also for the grace and healing. At the same time, every one of us who participates in this miraculous ministry is especially grateful for your extraordinary generosity and faithfulness.

*You are giving men, women, children a fresh start, to the full even the summer's*

# After the FLOOD

As the floodwaters of Kokomo's Wildcat Creek started to rise last April, I wasn't too worried — at least, not at first. After all, the water hadn't yet reached the first step outside my house, and I thought the worst of it was over.

But I was wrong, The water kept rising. So later in the day, when I saw boats floating down my street, rescuing stragglers like me, I told them I'm ready to go.

It was just one more challenge in my life. I'm used to challenges. I was born with Spina Bifida. While life wasn't easy for a kid like me, my parents always encouraged me to set my own limits and confront hardships head-on. As a result, I grew up more mature than many of my friends. And I realized early, if I don't do something myself, no one else is going to do it for me.

Still, the hardships I've faced didn't get easier. At one point, I ended up living under a bridge in Dallas, Texas. I overcame that challenge and moved to Las Vegas. But when the economy went south in 2008, I found myself unable to find work and struggling financially again. So I tried moving to Kokomo.

Well, when it rains, it pours, they say. And that sure came true in April, when



*"Thanks to you, I'm rebuilding my life after last spring's flooding."*

— Steven

I got flooded out of my home. But the good news is, the Red Cross sent me to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

I'm a Christian, and I've never done drugs or alcohol. The Mission has helped me strengthen my faith and remember that life is much more important than the things I lost in the flood.

It's also been an eye-opener spending time with the other guys here who ARE struggling with addictions. Thanks to my experience here, I'm now considering going back to school to study counseling, so I can help other men like these.

Thank you for supporting the Kokomo Rescue Mission — and me.



## Red Ribbon Christmas

The temperature outside still feels like summer, but fall is just around the corner. With fall comes cooler temperatures, and our thoughts start to turn to Christmas. For some in our community, Christmas is a difficult time. Our Red Ribbon Christmas volunteers work all year round to help make Christmas brighter for those in our community who are in need. You too can help bring the message of hope that comes with celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at **(765) 456-3838** to volunteer with preparing or delivering Red Ribbon Christmas boxes.

Many recent studies have shown that nearly half of all homeless women experienced physical or sexual abuse as children.

— National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

# Homeless and Hurting this Thanksgiving!

...ing these  
...men and  
...chance for a  
...to live lives  
...," to enjoy  
...implest of  
...pleasures.

### Please remember hurting people this Thanksgiving

Caring friends like you have sacrificially enabled the Kokomo Rescue Mission to provide nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter and the promise of God's transforming power to every man, woman and child who comes through our doors needing our help.

This Thanksgiving season, please remember all those who are homeless, hurting, lonely and struggling with addictions — and who are coming to us 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](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org) or by calling us at **765-456-3838**. Thank you for touching so many lives through your generous giving at Thanksgiving and throughout the year.



# Thanksgiving Is Quickly Approaching!

We are expecting to serve 2,600 delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meals at our Great Thanksgiving Banquets this year. We will be serving at two locations through our outreach in Frankfort called the Clinton County Ministry of Hope on Thursday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 26. We will collaborate with Kokomo Urban Outreach to provide the food for their 13 Neighborhoods of Hope on Wednesday, November 27. On Thanksgiving Day at Grace United Methodist Church, we will serve dinner from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



## To Serve 2,600 Meals, We'll Need:

- 90 Large Turkeys
- 25 Hams
- 150 #10 Cans of Green Beans
- 150 #10 Cans of Corn
- 2,600 Servings of Potatoes (Instant)
- 2,600 Dinner Rolls

## Dressing Ingredients:

- 460 Loaves of Bread
- 50 Stalks of Celery
- 50 Lbs. of Onions
- 30 Doz. Eggs

Please let us know as soon as possible what you can provide. Kokomo Rescue Mission's holiday outreach depends on your generosity.

More info about Mission events at [www.KokomoRescueMission.org](http://www.KokomoRescueMission.org)

## Fifth Sunday Focus "DISPOSABLE SUNDAY"

On September 29, you can help us stretch our ministry dollars. Organize a collection of disposable items such as:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Napkins
- Tissues
- Diapers Newborn thru XXLarge (\*\*size 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Plastic Wrap
- Styrofoam Plates
- Heavy Duty Foil
- Plastic Knives, Forks & Spoons



\*\* = greatest need

## Shop Our Stores

First Tuesday of the Month Special – 1/2 off everything in the store

Every Monday Is Senior Day – Seniors get a 25% discount

Watch our sign for weekly specials. Visit the Care & Share Store on W. Mulberry or A Great Find in Frankfort at the Frankfort Plaza.

# My Thanksgiving Gift

**YES, Van,** I want to help hurting and homeless men, women and families today and through the coming Thanksgiving season.

- Please bill my credit card:  
 VISA  MC

## Here's my Thanksgiving 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Kokomo Rescue Mission  
P.O. Box 476  
Kokomo, IN 46903-0476

RM\_43-0930\_H02KO

► Please mail this completed form with your Thanksgiving donation, or you may give your gift online at [www.kokomorescuemission.org](http://www.kokomorescuemission.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.