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*Your love, and the grace you've shown me, changed my life. Thank you.*

# your mission messenger



SUMMER ISSUE 2017

## Living in the Gray – BY TIMOTHY

I never struggled with drugs or alcohol. My biggest problem was relating to people. It certainly helped ruin my marriage and hurt my kids.

It started after my parents got divorced when I was a kid. It hurt me so bad, I determined that I'd never feel that kind of pain again. So I closed myself off from people. I

**“Hurt is inevitable, and success depends on relationships and being open.”**

became rigid, living in a world of absolute right and wrong, black and white, and I'm honest to a fault. I'll tell people the truth as I see it, no matter how it hurts them. But let anyone inside me? Get to know me? No way.

I did manage to get married and we had two wonderful kids. I wanted the kind of ideal family I always saw on TV. But after 10 years of marriage, my wife decided she would get what she needed somewhere else. At the same time, I was struggling to keep adequate employment. So after we got divorced, I couldn't afford a place to live and I came to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

At first, I didn't want to let anyone get close to me. I didn't want any friendships or relationships. I just wanted to get stable and get out. But whatever I was doing wasn't working. So I started trying to figure out what God wanted me to do. That's when I decided to join the New Life program here, so I could biblically refocus my life on God's will.

I've slowly learned that hurt is inevitable, and that success depends on relationships and being open. I have to

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## Living in the Gray

(continued from page 1)

be open and honest with *myself*. I'm learning to let people in and how to relate to them. I'm not a jerk anymore. I have friends.

I'm still pretty black and white, but I'm learning to live in the gray. I've reached out to my wife to make amends, and my relationship with my kids is a lot better.

Today, I'm working and I hope to move out soon. Thank you for giving me the chance to find God's true will for my life.

A Gift of: **\$53.20**  
provides groceries for  
3 days for a family of 4:

- 4 cans of vegetables
- 4 cans of beans
- 4 cans of soup
- 4 cans of chunky-style soup
- 4 "meal in a can"\*  
(ravioli, beef stew, etc.)  
\*Must have protein in it.
- 2 lbs pork sausage
- 2 boxes of mac & cheese
- 4 lbs rice
- 4 boxes Hamburger Helper
- 4 cans of tomatoes
- Chips

## An Encouraging Word from Van . . .

Dear Friend of the Kokomo Rescue Mission,

**C**hange. Sometimes it's the most natural thing in the world, like the transition from spring to summer. Other times, change can be heartbreaking and tragic — like what we're seeing happen to homeless men, women, and children in Kokomo.

Every year, it seems like the hurting people seeking help at the Kokomo Rescue Mission get younger. Also, more and more are vulnerable women and families, with children growing up homeless. And one of the most heartbreaking trends is the growing number of young people addicted to heroin and painkillers — some as young as 11 and 12 — and these are the future men and women who will come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission and Open Arms.

Homelessness is changing in Kokomo, and it threatens to change our community in ways we can't even imagine. It's going to affect all of us — you, me, our families, friends, and neighbors.

**Thanks to you, lives are changed forever.**

But there's another kind of change. The kind of change YOU make possible through your support for the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Thanks to you, the lives of struggling men, women, and children are transformed forever, just like the lives of Callie and Timothy, in this newsletter. Thanks to you, they have food to eat. Shelter. Unconditional love. And the chance to meet the One who can truly transform their lives . . . Jesus Christ. That's the kind of change we all hope and pray for.

In other words, some things never change. One is the gospel message of hope and the life-changing message of Jesus Christ we've preached since 1953. Another is your faithfulness and generosity. That never changes. And neither does our gratitude for you. In the midst of a changing world, you're making a big difference in Kokomo.

Thank you!

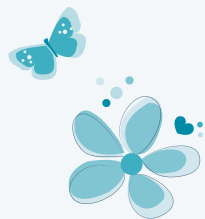
Your servant,



Van C. Taylor, Executive Director



*"There's another kind of change. The kind of change YOU make possible through your support."*



## Your Generosity and Love Resurr

**T**he season of Easter may be past us now, but your prayers, generosity, and partnership with the Kokomo Rescue Mission continue to resurrect the lives of hurting men and women this summer and all year round.

*Thank you!*

The Apostle John wrote, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth," (1 John 3:17-18). Clearly, that very love of God lives in you. Thanks to you, those who are hungry are fed, those who are homeless are sheltered, those who are friendless are loved, and those who are lost are found. None of this is possible without you!





# Picking Up the Pieces – BY CALLIE

**G**rowing up, my brother was my best friend. Our parents both worked a lot and weren't really there for us. But, at least, we always had each other.

When we were teenagers, that all changed. He started rebelling, drinking, and doing drugs. I still loved my brother, and I wanted to help him. But I went in a different direction. I got married and had my first child at 18.

By then, my brother was living on the streets and had three kids of his own he couldn't take care of. So I agreed to raise them, too. By age 29, I had six kids altogether. Unfortunately, however, I got divorced three years later.

Through it all, my brother was in and out of my life. We had a lot of ups and downs, but I was always determined to be there for him. A few years ago, however, he stole everything I owned, and I never got it back.

From that point on, I struggled to get back on my feet. I had to put my whole life back in order. But it was my brother's betrayal that hurt most. I was overwhelmed and all alone. I had an emotional breakdown. I couldn't work and I lost my housing. So in January 2016, I came to Open Arms.

## “Open Arms showed me I didn't have to do it alone.”

I needed a safe, stable place for me and my kids, a place that could guide me and help me put my life back together. They've given me all that and more. They showed me I didn't have to do it alone. They've walked with me every step of the way. And most important, they grounded me spiritually in God and church. They're like mothers and sisters I never had.

Today, I feel stronger and more confident every day. Soon I'll be able to leave here, completely ready to live my life and mother my children — and to think about my future. Something I haven't done in a *long* time.

Thank you for giving me and my children hope, not just for today, but for the future.

*Thank you for giving me  
and my children hope.*



## Upcoming Events

### Re-Stock Sunday Sunday, July 30, 2017

Throughout the year, you can help us stretch our ministry dollars. Organize a collection of household items and supplies that will be used at the Mission. Items used most throughout the year are things like:

Paper towels  
Toilet paper  
All-purpose cleaner  
Powdered laundry detergent



For a list of current kitchen needs, see [kokomorescuemission.org/gifts-in-kind](http://kokomorescuemission.org/gifts-in-kind)

### Yes, We Can Sunday, September 10



On Sunday afternoon, September 10, young people will be ringing doorbells asking for canned food for the Kokomo Rescue Mission. They have answered a resounding “YES, WE CAN” to the challenge of collecting 11 tons of food.

Make sure your church youth group plans to participate, and get the whole congregation involved in the kickoff collection at the church before the youth “hit the street.” For more info, visit the events page on our website at [kokomorescuemission.org](http://kokomorescuemission.org), or call our Volunteer Coordinator at **765-456-3838**.

## Gifts Bring New Life This Summer

### Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People

I hope Callie's and Timothy's stories in this newsletter inspire you. They are just two of the lives you have helped transform through your gifts and prayers. But every day, more hurting men and women like them come to the Kokomo Rescue Mission seeking our help — and they need caring people like you to give them hope and another chance for new life.

*To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at [kokomorescuemission.org](http://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.*

*“Every day, more hurting souls come seeking our help — and they need people like you to give them hope and another chance for new life.” 3*

# Tribute Gifts – September 1, 2016 to March 24, 2017

## Memorial Gifts

### Norma Allman

James Allman

### David Andrews

Jack & Carole Shutt  
James & June Slane

### Ross & Josephine Bourne

Nancy Hoover

### Charles D. Brown

Eva Bright  
Bartley & Michelle Deese  
Jennifer Dudley  
Mary Hedding  
Ora Jaenicke

### Tom Carey

Brian Carey  
John & Christine Carey

### Lois Karlene Carter

Pamela Carter  
Phillip & Nancy Carter  
Steve & Carmen Carter  
Bill & Lois Dickison

### Joyce Cook

Jerry Cook

### Brad Dodson

David Huffman

### Vers Ferguson

James & Judith Donnoe

### Jewel Fife

Vonda Hughes

### Keith A. Harshbarger

Paula Harshbarger

### John Higgins

Eva Higgins

### Marjorie Hochstedler

Daniel & Lisa Hochstedler  
Jerrold & Holly Hochstedler

Merv & Sue Hochstedler  
John & Shirley Powell

### Martin Hanly

Anonymous

### Alta Hunter

Linda Austin

### Richard Ingels

John & Janet Adler  
Tom & Dorothy Baird  
John Burgett  
Kathryn Bohnke  
Caterpillar Financial Services  
Russell & Pamela Dance  
Gilbert & Kristy Everhart  
Waldo & Betty Lou Fahling  
Tom & Lynn Folkers  
Shirley Heinzman  
Stephen & Vivian Heronemus  
Bill & Ginny Hingst  
Robert & Mary Hingst  
Richard A. Ingels  
Dana Kemp  
Richard & Florence Moeller  
Ross C. Morkal  
Roy & Mary Quinn  
Mary Stephenson  
James Thrasher  
Phil & Judy Wehmeyer  
Sally Wycoff

### Bob Maddox

James Thrasher

### Lois Meacham

Trinity Wesleyan Church

### Jocena Miller

St. Luke's Joy Fellowship

### Janice Milner

Nancy Hoover

### John Richard Nesbitt

Doug & Lisa Nesbitt

### Mick Ortman

Jeff & Debra Ortman

### John Parsons

Lois Leib  
Maude Ragan  
Jan Seitz  
Linda K. Smith  
Troy Turley

### Pat Pratt

City of Firsts USBC Association

### Albert Reutemann

Susan Bertrand  
Kevin & Danielle Clancy  
Richard Engman  
Marie Geist  
Lena Reutemann

### Ann Rotrough

Linda Austin

### Robert Scholl

Linda Austin

### Max & Betty Underwood

Cynthia Higgins

### Barbara Weber

City of Firsts H.O.G. Chapter

## In Honor of Gifts

### May Jo Barnett

Sue Ford

### Diane J. Bever

Cynthia Lipken

### The Britton Family

Jean Johnson

### Russ & June Cherry

Wesley & Sharon Vincent

### Barbara Cline

Michael & Dawn Augustyn

### Adam & Jessica Culp

Franklin Culp

### Greg Goodnight

NIPSCO

### Richard Green

Jack & Anne Gable

### Rhonda Heytens

Clark & Melissa Walker

### Craig Jones

Marilyn Swanson

### Pam Jones

Timothy Jones

### Kyle Kavanaugh

Kimberly S. Host

### Kokomo Dental Community

Ron & Amy Thompson

### Greg & Beth Kuhlman

Anne Hines

### Pastor Jeff Landon

Penny Adamec

### Weldon Mast

Brent Pomerhn

### Lisa Nesbitt

R & R Travel

### D J Pugh

Michelle Colbert

### Max & Mary Rose

Charles & Geraldine Rose

### Ed & Beth Schimmel

Amber Wright

### Michael Serowik

Dorothy Facci

### Patricia Tesluk

Mariesa Skogland

### Bill Walker

Anonymous

### Jack Walker

Carl Roudebush



## My Summer Gift

YES, Van, I want to help give hurting men, women, and children new hope and a second chance at life.

### Here's my summer 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

- Please bill my credit card (please print):  
 VISA  MC  DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. EXP. DATE AMOUNT

NAME SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL ADDRESS

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

▶ Please mail this completed form with your summer 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.

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