

The Connection

Sharing

HOPE



"I was fed, clothed and housed, and received faith and hope when I needed both," Mark is very humble as he shares his story of being in shelter. Mark moved in with and took care of his parents the last two years of their lives. After their passing, Mark was not able to find full-time employment to cover the mortgage and bills. A year after losing his parents and without full-time work, Mark had to let the house go and found himself "without money, housing, or support."

Seeking shelter at the Rescue Mission he says wasn't his "first or second choice." Feeling he had no other options, Mark arrived at Good Samaritan in the winter of 2015. Dealing with anxiety issues, being around so many people drove him out after only 4 days. Doing what he had to do to survive most of this year, he finally made the decision to go back to the Mission and do the work needed to complete the SAVE program, Spiritually Accountable Vocationally Equipped, which includes Life Skills Classes, Jobs for Life classes and mentorship and a Step Up Discipleship program. Mark knew making it through this program would give him employment options.

In September he returned to GSRM and is happy to say he has completed the SAVE program. He is working part-time in the Mission kitchen and is full of hope for his future! "This place saved my life. I probably would have been on the streets and seeing no hope at all."

Working through the SAVE program, Mark met Jerry, a Mission volunteer and one of the Jobs for Life champions. Mark says he prayed with Jerry about getting control of his anger issues. "It worked. I no longer have that battle."

Mark is seeking full-time employment and housing. He says he has been cooking as a profession since 1973 and is an "award-winning" cook! "I can see myself cooking for an institution, maybe a home for the aged, and be very happy," says Mark.

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DIRECTOR'S DESK

Sharing Hope

The Mission recently participated in a national survey with the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM). It asked general questions of the homeless population across the United States with nearly 300 member ministries like ours. Some of the statistics showed recent trends that were similar to many other communities: Veterans comprise 11% of the homeless population, 34% of those that are homeless struggle with mental illness, and that 63% of the total homeless population are single individuals.

A statistic that caught my attention was that 37% of those coming to the Mission had never experienced being homeless. That means that better than one out of three people are coming to the doors of the mission in a point of distress in their life that they have never known. Fear, failure, anxiety, low self-worth are just a few of the emotional struggles that our guests deal with personally.

One of the first goals of our staff is to help restore hope. Hope in what Christ has provided for each of us, and also hope in what they can accomplish. Romans 8:24 says, *"For we were saved in this hope: but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?"* Staff and volunteers endeavor to engage and motivate our guests to see a future that they can't even see for themselves or have given up on a future that they don't believe they will ever attain. We want them to know personal value again, and see themselves the way that God sees them...His creation that He loves.

So we are in the business of sharing hope, one person and one interaction at a time. The need continues to grow as we continue to see an increase in the number of people coming to our doors to receive services and care. The demand for volunteers, material goods, and financial donations are needed more now than ever before. We are striving to provide meaningful and impactful instruction, counsel, and open the doors to life changing opportunities for our guests.

Please consider what God would have you do to be a partner in sharing hope.

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer



*Merry
Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

from the staff at *Good Samaritan Rescue Mission!*

MERRY & BRIGHT!

It will be a merry and bright Christmas this year for a few men occupying the new permanent housing apartments! This will be their first Christmas in their new apartment.

THANK YOU to our room sponsors for covering all the furnishings; Men's Philanthropy Group at the Bay Area Community Foundation, the Lewis Community Group from Hopevale Church, Dr. and Mrs. G T Buechle, an anonymous donor, Weinlander Fitzhugh, Friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Leadership Bay County class of 2015, Family of Phil and June Herter, Dow Corning, Family of Jerry DeGroat, and Family of Pat and Debby Downing. The ribbon cutting ceremony included a special proclamation from Mayor Kathleen Newsham proclaiming October 24, 2016 in Bay City, MI as Good Samaritan Rescue Mission-Men's Permanent Housing Day! Special thanks to PNC Bank for helping with the initial grant obtained from Federal Home Loans Bank of Pittsburgh and Serenus Johnson Construction Company for all of the remodeling.



Shown left to right: Joe Todey, Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan Board President, Tom Johnson of Serenus Johnson Construction, Michelle Vannest of PNC Bank, Mayor Kathleen Newsham and Dan Streeter, CEO of Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan.



STUFF THEIR STOCKINGS WITH TICKETS AND SUPPORT THE HOMELESS

**Purchase March 4, 2017 Hockey For The Homeless
Tickets For Only \$13.00 (regular \$15.00)
\$10 Group Rate for 20 or More**



For more information contact
Marlene Mika 989-893-5973 ext. 221

Mission Statement:

To glorify God by serving people in need, proclaiming the Gospel, and establishing disciples among disadvantaged people.



SHARING HOPE RADIOTHON

Brings Hope to the Homeless

You can help make the 2016 Sharing Hope Radiothon presented by Tim Hortons, Fisher Contracting, Euclid Industries and Bronners, a huge success! **Please tune in December 21, 2016 to WSGW, FMTALK 100.5, Moose 94.5, Mix 106.3 and Kiss 107.1.** The average cost for a night of hope and care is \$30. Our goal is to provide 1,500 nights of emergency shelter services. You can help us reach our goal by going to www.gsrmbaycity.org to make your gift today or by calling Kimberly at 989-752-6051 ext. 123 or use the form below.



Yes, I want to share hope and care with the homeless in our community. I would like to make a \$ _____ for the Sharing Hope Radiothon.

Your Name (please print) _____

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