

The Connection



God's Love warms the Soul

It's a modern-day love story with a short layover at the Rescue Mission.

Having endured a lot in their lives and going through a lot together in the past year and a half, Ed and Teresa are in love with The Lord and with each other. Married July, 2016, the couple believes God brought them together at a time in their lives when they were ready for each other.

But let's back up. Like many people their age, Ed and Teresa have survived bad relationships, harmful circumstances, and poor decisions. Their individual situations led both of them to Port Austin where they met a couple of years ago. They knew they wanted to be together but also had a lot to overcome.

Teresa was not able to work because of a prior injury. Ed was working but his job was seasonal and did not pay enough to cover rent. The couple did get married on July 11, 2016 and began their love story while living in the woods and using park bathrooms. Eventually they got a tent but were still in the woods. One day when Teresa was doing some grocery shopping, a stranger overheard her telling the store employee that she and Ed were living in the woods but were hopeful something

would break for them soon. The 'stranger' covered Teresa's groceries and promptly contacted a friend from her church who had a camper. He let the couple move into the camper temporarily so they had shelter.

That situation being temporary and Ed's seasonal job almost done, Teresa began calling and asking around about shelters. She knew someone who had toured Good Samaritan Rescue Mission before and highly recommended she contact us. Teresa was very happy with what she was told about the Mission when she called to inquire. In November, 2016, the couple arrived at Good Samaritan.



Roland Watley, men's shelter director, says of the two, "They are persistent, patient, and are intentionally doing what they need to do to get back on their feet."

Ed and Teresa agree, "We love going to church seven days a week, both chapel services here and attending our new church, Bay City First Church of the Nazarene. We appreciate the staff, support of the community, Life Skills classes, and volunteer chapel speakers." They look forward to completing the SAVE (Spiritually Accountable Vocationally Equipped) program soon and getting their own home. Ed will be happy to find a new job. Teresa would love to come back to volunteer at the Mission and work with the children or maybe lead a Bible study for the women.

DIRECTOR'S DESK



If any man (woman) be in Christ, he (she) is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Why do we get so excited about the New Year? For many of us, we have a list of shortcomings, unattained hopes or failures from the past year and we are looking for a chance to have a clean slate. It may be a new exercise plan, the goal to lose weight, get better organized, eat healthy, give more time to God, and the list can go on and on. The idea of a fresh start invigorates us and provides us the hope that we can make it work this time if given another chance.

For many of our guests coming to the Mission, their life has been a culmination of failures, and many times, many years of failures. They have received numerous reminders of their shortcomings by friends, family, past employers and landlords, and have come to accept others perceptions as their reality. One failure has built upon another, and now they know no other way to live than in failure and low self-esteem. Fortunately, that is not the end of the story!

We are given the promise of scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that things don't have to be the same. That through the transforming power of Christ, we don't have to remain in the bondage of addictions and bad decisions. That God always intended a better life, and that if we follow his plan, then peace and fulfillment are available for anyone and everyone regardless of your past. So the primary goal of our volunteers and staff is to help every guest come to know the transforming power of Christ and experience a new start: spiritually, vocationally, and in their relationships.

As we venture into 2017, think about your personal excitement for a new start each year, but more importantly, think about what you might be able to do to help someone homeless experience a new start in his or her life!

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer



What A Difference a Bag Makes – Operation Hope & Care is coming soon! Operation Hope & Care was designed to assure that every guest checking in to emergency shelter would receive a BAG filled with new hygiene products such as bar soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, comb and brush that reflect the Hope & Care others have for them.

Church, civic and business groups are welcome to participate. It's fun and can be done in three easy steps: 1. Pick up a Hope & Care Bag from your local church or business. 2. Purchase all or some of the items listed (no used products, please). 3. Drop your bag off to your church or business or at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

a Year in Review

In 2016 Good Samaritan Rescue Mission provided emergency shelter to 1,046 individuals. 58,972 nutritious meals were served to Mission guests. We appreciate everyone who made a monetary or gift in kind donation, volunteered, hosted a food, clothing or hygiene drive and those who have prayed for Good Samaritan. If you would like to be a part of the Mission's 2017 calendar as a volunteer or to participate in one of our events, call the Mission at (989) 893-5973.

Upcoming Events:

Hockey for The Homeless
March 4

Hoops for the Homeless
April 7

Annual Golf Challenge
May 19



**Hope
& Care
Tote**

Operation Hope and Care

A little bag makes a big difference!

Help Provide Hope and Care to the Homeless
Fill a hope and care tote with items:

- Toothbrush & Toothpaste (Children & Adult)
- Tissues
- Body Wash
- Socks (Men, Women & Children)
- Anti-Bacterial Liquid Soap
- Disposable Razors
- Lip Balm
- Hand or Body Lotion
- Shaving Cream (Men & Women)
- Anti-Bacterial Wipes
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Brush & Comb
- Deodorant (Men & Women)



Individuals served 1,046 &
Meals served 58,972





Orders being taken now!

Available in time for Easter!

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission Dutch Apple Pies are made fresh and quickly frozen. Still only \$10.00 each. The FIRST (500) PAID pie orders will be filled. Pie order forms are available on our website or by contacting Marlene at (989) 893-5973, ext. 221 or marlene@gsrmbaycity.org.

Collect orders from family, co-workers or church members. Proceeds fund Emergency Shelter Operations. Thank you for your continued support of the Rescue Mission.

Prepaid pie orders will be available for pick up from 9am-6pm at GSRM on Monday, February 27, 2017.

Call Marlene for more information.

Mission Statement:

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

HOCKEY For The Homeless
• RESCUE MINISTRIES OF MID-MICHIGAN •

Join us **March 4, 2017**
for a fun-filled night including:

- ▶ 4:45 PM Broomball Hockey Tournament
- ▶ 5:00 PM Pre-game Concert featuring Modern Day Cure and Frankenmuth Bible Praise Band
- ▶ 7:05 PM Saginaw Spirit Hockey game!

Plus, Fun Kids Activities!

Modern Day Cure

Broomball Tournament

Frankenmuth Bible Praise Band

SAGINAW SPIRIT
Merrill Lynch
Bank of America Corporation
The Iles Schropp Group

RESCUE MINISTRIES
Of Mid-Michigan

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Single Tickets are \$13. Visit <https://www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales> to order your tickets. **Username:** rescue2017 **Password:** spirit

Groups of 20 or more are just \$10 and must be ordered by calling Kimberly Ancel at **989-752-6051 ext. 123.**