

# The Connection



# HOME

## -A Mother's Story

Two months ago, Tanya had a big decision to make for herself and her two boys. Stay where they were living, which was proving to be not a stable environment for her family, or swallow her pride and contact the Rescue Mission. "My boys are all I care about," explains Tanya.

After moving back from Kentucky, Tanya and the boys moved in with a family member. That didn't work out like she had thought and the day came that she picked up the phone and called Good Samaritan. "They were very nice and got us in the very next day. It was fast," says Tanya.

Tanya shares, "My kids are happier here. I feel at peace and we're safe. The Mission gave my kids a place to be warm, three meals a day, and they're helping me to save money to afford an apartment soon." Tanya's case manager is helping her get some documentation she needs to be able to move forward. Once that happens, she will be able to look for a place of their own.

"I'm learning a lot here. I'm learning patience and how to patiently wait on the Lord. I had a good relationship with God but I gave up on that. Now I'm getting that back with the help of the staff here," Tanya smiles.

"My boys are all I care about. I want to be able to have our own home, a car, and a stable place for my boys to grow up." While his mother is sharing a bit

of their story, Emanuel who is in 6th grade, quietly looks through some donated items and selects a handmade frame that he would like. He

shows the frame to his mom to show her what he has selected and she notices the frame is decorated with the words "God is with us". Tanya laughs and says, "He picked out the one that goes with his name, 'Emanuel means God with us.'"

Her youngest, Dejoin, is in the 4th grade, and Tanya says that he has been laying hands on people and praying for them since he was two years old. It isn't unusual to hear Dejoin singing worship songs or praying before lunch or dinner with the women and children. As all young boys would be, however, Emanuel and Dejoin are anxious to have their own home. It can be challenging with so many strangers around. It is true, there truly is no place like home.





# DIRECTOR'S DESK



***People don't become homeless when they run out of money; they become homeless when they run out of relationships.***

When you experience a problem, what do you do? You start thinking of someone that might be able to help you out. Maybe a family member, a friend, a neighbor..., but what happens when you run out of names?

Many of those experiencing homelessness in our community have run out of names. There are many reasons they ran out of names. Maybe their friends and family are also struggling in or near poverty and can't afford to assist. Around 60% of our community is receiving public assistance of some form.

Maybe they are struggling with mental illness or substance abuse and family or friends are worn down in trying to help. Around 30% of our guests have been diagnosed by a medical professional and are having to deal with mental illness. Another 20% have been diagnosed and struggle with substance abuse issues.

Some have lost jobs, experienced an eviction from a landlord, some are facing critical medical issues and extra resources are gone, and some have been terminated from receiving public assistance because they have reached their four year cap in the State of Michigan.

Can you imagine living in your car? Living in an abandoned house with no heat or light? Having to wash up in a public restroom before going to school? Many of our eventual guests are willing to live in one of those conditions for days or weeks because they don't want to risk having to hear another "No."

God has placed us on the front lines of need so that the homeless and hurting of our community can hear, "Yes!"

James 2:15-17 says, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

It really doesn't matter why or how they landed on our doorstep. What matters is that WE build a relationship that breaks the cycle of hopelessness and homelessness.

Dan Streeter  
Chief Executive Officer

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT DEAL ON APPLIANCES?

Rescue Ministries Thrift Store now has rescued appliances. Our appliance department has electric stoves, washers, electric dryers, dishwashers, and over-the-stove microwaves. Stop in and save money! Rescue Ministries Thrift Store is conveniently located in Green Acres Plaza, 4510 State St, Saginaw, MI by Kroger.





# 10 STEPS

to hosting a

# FOOD DRIVE



The Mission experiences an alarming drop in donations during summer months. To help keep our pantry stocked, consider these 10 easy steps in hosting a food drive.

1. Contact Marlene Mika at 989-893-5973 or marlene@gsrmbaycity.org .
2. Decide if your group will partner with any other groups or businesses.
3. Identify a person in the group who is in charge, as well as coordinators under this individual. Be sure coordinators have clearly defined tasks.
4. Clearly define necessary task and steps for success.
5. Pick a date and determine the duration of the drive. Drives can be as short as one day or as long as one month. Be sure and check community calendars for potential scheduling conflicts.
6. Decide if the drive will be held at one place or at several locations.
7. Secure a collection method. Medium sized boxes are ideal as they can be easily transported. Consider contacting a local grocery store and ask them to donate extra produce boxes.
8. Determine how the collected food will get from the collection site(s) to the Rescue Mission. Either volunteers can drive the food to the Mission or a Mission representative can pick up from the collection site(s).
9. Set a goal. This could be pounds of food collected or number of items collected.
10. Have fun!! The food drive will be a product of what you put into it.



# HOOPS FOR THE HOMELESS!



## WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you Nouvel Central Catholic High School and All Saints Catholic High School for hosting another great and exciting fundraiser event! The two schools along with their faculty, parents and alumni raised \$7, 877 with a grand total of \$79,198!



# Mission Statement:

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

The annual Al Christensen Memorial Golf Challenge takes place Friday, May 19 at beautiful Apple Mountain. The event was named in Al's memory because of Al's unwavering commitment to raise funds each year for the homeless at City Rescue Mission and the elderly at Community Village. Al golfed nearly every year since the inception of the event in 2000 until his health failed him.



If you would like to send a memorial gift in Al's memory, return the insert along with your gift or pledge to City Rescue Mission of Saginaw, PO Box 548, Saginaw, MI 48606.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Type:

Check  I will fulfill my gift online at [www.gsrmbaycity.org](http://www.gsrmbaycity.org)

*Please make checks payable to Rescue Mission*



Tuesday, June 20, 2017  
3:00 - 8:30pm

• COMMUNITY VILLAGE •  
**Strawberry Festival**

Community Village  
3200 Hospital Rd.

Games • Food • Prizes

Live Entertainment

Fresh Strawberries

Delicious Strawberry  
Shortcake ~ \$6.00

Admission - FREE

For More Information  
Call Community Village • 989-792-5442

## Pantry Needs:

- Dressing – Italian, Ranch
- Canned Fruit
- Drink Mixes – Kool-Aid, Lemonade
- Canned Vegetables
- Baked Beans



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