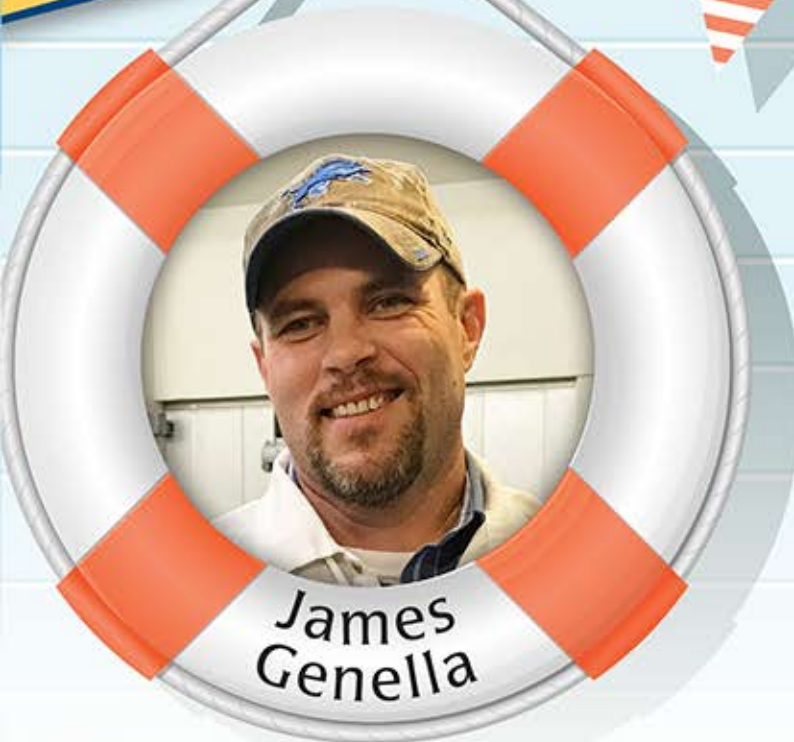


The Connection



Summer of Hope

and began attending Life Skills classes in the Employment Readiness Program. "Attending chapel services, I learned who God is and I let go and put God in the driver's seat," smiles James. Since day one, he has done all that is expected of him and then some. He is always willing to help, in fact, he told the men's staff to ask him to help whenever they needed it.

James laughs about the fact that he is volunteering in the kitchen, and enjoying it. He remembers his first job at age 15 working at A&W. He hated it but his grandfather said he would give him his first car if he had a job to pay for gas and insurance. That was all the motivation the 15-year old needed. He had been working ever since, until about three years ago.

While here, James says he has been 'trying to learn everything I could.' As of June 1st, James has completed the men's Stepping-Up Bible study and the Jobs for Life program, positioning him ready for employment. And as a matter of fact, he is now employed in the kitchen at Community Village.

"This place provides food, shelter, clothes, and opportunity. They give you the opportunity to help yourself and it gives me hope that someone else cares. I went from nothing to being recognized as a leader," James says thankfully. "This place is beyond amazing."

James could be your brother or your uncle. He is a father of five as well as a grandfather of five. His story is one of riches to rags and he's on his way back to riches, but maybe of a different kind this time. James contacted Good Samaritan Rescue Mission because he didn't want to burden his family and friends anymore. He had been staying on couches and in spare rooms of family and friends. Three years ago, James was let go from his job of 16 years because "the work just wasn't there anymore." Once making \$70,000 per year, he lost his job and then eventually his home. James leaned on the help of others until he realized and decided it was time to "take care of business." James recalls, "I had to humble myself (and walk into the Mission)."

With his I'm ready to do what it takes and put the work into improving my situation-attitude, James quickly was assigned to volunteer in the kitchen

DIRECTOR'S DESK



Many of you have already made plans for your summer vacation. It may be up north at the lake, or getting away with family, or a couple days to your favorite amusement park. Hope and anticipation is building. I have a friend on Facebook that has been counting down the days until his summer vacation for over 150 days!

Anyone planning to become homeless this summer? That may sound like a strange question to you, but the reality is that 41% of those experiencing homelessness in Michigan are doing so for the first time*. Last year Rescue Ministries assisted 2,242 men, women, and children. For approximately 900 of them, that was the first time in their life that they had become homeless.

Another staggering statistic is that families with children make up exactly half of the homeless population in the State of Michigan.* Our perceptions about why people become homeless lead us to think that poor choices and behavior are chief contributors, but the reality is that poverty and mental illness have risen as primary causes. It's hard to believe but it happens each year, the summer is our busiest time of the year for our Women and children's ministry. Many families are struggling and living with friends or family members, but when the warmer weather arrives and the threat of cold has gone, these families are turned to the street. Facing rejection and poverty can make a person lose hope.

So when someone arrives at the Mission for the first time, our primary goal is to help restore their hope. They have lost hope in their abilities, and in their friends, but we share with them about the true friend that will never leave them.

Psalm 31:24 says, *"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."*

Sure we help with meals, clothing, counseling, and education, but our greatest impact is when we can lead someone to a lasting hope with Christ.

I don't know what your summer plans may be this year, but consider making a minor modification. Think about investing in the lives of our neighbors in need and have a part in providing a summer of hope.

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer

*Statistics provided by the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness 2015 Annual Report.

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Left to right: Timothy Meyette, Darryl Lamblin, Randall Zimmer

Job Well Done!

Three candidates completed Rescue Ministries' eight week professional Janitorial Training. The on-site training and materials are provided by Clean Check Training System. Candidates who complete the training are certified in nine areas for commercial cleaning and meet the requirements for the CIMS Green Building Standard. Rescue Ministries' Maintenance Assistant, Tom Hodder (who is not pictured), is the instructor for the training. If you have janitorial employment opportunities, please call the Mission's job coach Travis Buckley at (989) 752-6051, ext. 139.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

RESCUE MINISTRIES OF MID-MICHIGAN ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Featuring Guest Speaker
Dennis Van Kampen,
President/CEO
Mel Trotter Ministries,
Grand Rapids



RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

For Ticket Information Contact
Marlene Sajdak
at 989-893-5973 ext 221

Monday, September 18, 2017

6:00pm - 6:30pm Punchbowl • 6:30 - 9:00 Dinner & Program
Doubletree Hotel, 1 Wenonah Park Pl., Bay City, MI

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

6:00pm - 6:30pm Punchbowl • 6:30 - 9:00 Dinner & Program
Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State St., Saginaw, MI



Pantry Needs:

For Summer:

Canned Chicken
Chicken Broth
BBQ Sauce
Ketchup
Spaghetti Sauce

For Shelter:

Shorts – Boys & Girls
Tennis Shoes
Men's Razors
Men's Shaving Cream
Women's Underwear (sizes 4-8)

Mission Statement:

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



2017 Rescue Ministries Al Christiansen Memorial Golf Challenge was a huge success. The annual Golf Challenge was held May 19 at the beautiful Apple Mountain Golf Club. The Golf Challenge sponsor by InCal Technologies raised over \$77,000 to help provide vital services to the homeless and elderly in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Our top three teams raised \$35,285.



1st Place
Bill Denno • Tom Najawicz
Dave Magsig • Frank Dawe



2nd Place
Robert Owens • Jeff Sams
Kurt Schwannecke • Rob Klaczkiwicz
Mark Kinzer (not pictured)



3rd Place
Brian Hammond • Eric Nordquist
Charles Lange • Stan Sobol

Event Sponsor – InCal Technologies

Club House Sponsor – Westminster Presbyterian Church

Putting Contest Sponsor – BEAM Industries

Closest To The Pin Sponsors – Community Baptist Church, First Student

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Hospitality Cart – Smith & Klaczkiwicz, P.C.

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