

The Connection



REBUILDING LIVES

One day before Don came to the Rescue Mission asking for help, he held a 9mm gun in his hand and nearly took his life. "I was a wreck!" But God had other plans. Convinced he had no future after a failed marriage, unable to find employment, and feeling hopeless, a friend told Don he could seek help at the Mission.

Upon coming into shelter and feeling broken, men's shelter supervisor, Rick, talked with Don and he recalls, "Rick told me to try praying for other people. That reawakened what was there." Don grew up in a local church but had drifted away. He got distracted and busy building a life. Don worked for 20 years as an engineer in the defense industry, got married, was laid off, and became his mother's care provider until she passed away. Then, unable to find employment again he 'gave up.'

Don arrived at the Mission and quickly rekindled his relationship with His Savior. He recalls something Kelly, a chapel speaker at the Mission, said to him, "No one is here by accident. God has a plan for everyone." That has stuck with Don. "Attending chapel (at the Mission) brought me back. I miss not having chapel on Saturdays and Sundays," says Don.

As a recent graduate of the Jobs for Life program at the Mission, Don is interviewing and actively seeking employment. "This is a good program for someone who wants the help and is sincere. I have a resume



Don Strasinsky (M), pictured with Jeff Hegenauer (R) and Craig Laszlo (L).

and my 60-second commercial," Don says confidently.

"I'm eternally grateful to the staff and donors. This mission does good things." Through tears Don says, "If you truly show you're interested in getting help at the Mission, Roland (men's shelter director), is behind you 100%! He's a good guy."

Don is close to receiving his housing assistance. He is hoping for employment soon and then he's only looking for a "simple, quiet life style, peaceful and serving others. The Mission has helped me to rebuild my relationship with God. I now know I'm going to a good place."



DIRECTOR'S DESK



One of my personal hobbies is jogging. I know that people usually equate a hobby with something pleasurable, and I am sure some of you would find no pleasure in jogging. However, for me, on a warm summer evening jogging while the sun is setting is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and experience God's creation. It's been a great opportunity to listen to scripture, Christian music, or meditate. But I hate it when the winter months come around and I am relegated to a treadmill. I am stuck in one place indoors and it's hard to feel a sense of accomplishment.

One of my favorite passages in scripture is Jude 22, *"And of some have compassion, making a difference."* God has put us on this earth to be an agent of change, not just to be consumed with ourselves and our desires. It is so easy to fall into the trap of allowing things to consume our time and resources that have little impact. Have you taken the time to consider what things in your life truly produce positive change? God has called us to make a difference.

Even as a staff, at the Mission, we can fall into the trap of doing good versus doing God's work. Doing God's work is more than meals and clothing. It can feel really good to see people in need and help them materially. If we're not careful, that can be a distraction from doing God's work if that is our only outcome. It's like being on a treadmill, it has minimal benefit. If life change isn't occurring, and people's lives aren't any different than when they came through the Mission doors, then we have missed the chance to make a difference...a difference for Christ.

So as we start another year of ministry together, let's challenge each other, staff, donors, and volunteers alike that we are making sure our time and resources are producing outcomes that make a difference!

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer



Thank You JOBS FOR LIFE CHAMPIONS

Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan is grateful for our Jobs for Life (JFL) Champion volunteers. Champions come alongside Mission guests to support them one-on-one in their journey to rebuild their lives. They attend classes with the guests, offering assistance, support, guidance and a sense of community. This is what JFL Co-Facilitators are saying about Mission Champions;



Champions (left to right) Dale Breternitz, Patrice Wollnski, Bill Winstorf



Champion Cruz-Gutierrez-Blondin (middle) pictured with two JFL graduates

"We love our Jobs for Life Champions! They graciously provide support, encouragement, and counsel for our guests throughout the course and beyond."

CRAIG LASZLO
Good Samaritan Rescue Mission of Bay City

"Champions are a pivotal part of the Jobs for Life classes. The volunteers work directly with the students sharing their own life experiences with them and building relationships with them."

JEFF HEGENAUER
City Rescue Mission of Saginaw

Join us
SATURDAY
March 3, 2018
Bring your church groups, employees, family and friends!
LIGHTING THE WAY HOME



Featuring pre-game Concert with **MODERN DAY CURE** and **FRANKENMUTH BIBLE CHURCH PRAISE BAND**



Tickets are **\$13** each, group of 20 or more, just **\$10!**

FILL THE **LIMO FOOD Drive**

DURING THE HOCKEY FOR HOMELESS GAME



Donate a **canned food item** or donate **\$1** and receive a ticket to enter the drawing to win the **Detroit Red Wings prize package:**

Package includes 2 tickets to an upcoming Detroit Red Wings game with transportation by Stretch Limo.



Premier Sponsor



Receive an entry ticket for every food item or dollar donated.

Mission Statement:

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



\$10.00

DUTCH APPLE PIES IN TIME FOR SPRING!

Order a Dutch Apple Pie for Easter, Mother's Day or just because you like them. Pies are limited to the first 500 orders. All orders must be pre-paid. Call Good Samaritan Rescue Mission to order your spring Dutch Apple Pie, today! You may order online at www.gsrbaycity.org or by calling Marlene at ext. 221.

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

The annual Operation Hope & Care is in effect. Operation H & C is a great project for church groups, civic groups and individuals. Every family and individual, who checks in to the Mission's emergency shelter, receives a Hope & Care tote filled with NEW hygiene products. Call Marlene to order your bags and posters at 989-893-5973 ext. 221. What a difference a bag can make!



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