

The Connection

SPRING 2015

Love Never Fails

Gary had lost his job due to his employer closing its doors. He was having a difficult time finding new work. He applied for social security, but was still waiting for that to start up. Running out of money, Gary found himself at the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in December, 2009.


While staying at the Mission, Gary was able to find a janitorial job through Region 7 Area Agency on Aging. The job site happened to be at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. The job allowed Gary to move out of the Mission and into an apartment. After working through Region 7 for some time, Gary began volunteering at the Mission.

He worked alongside the men's shelter staff and was able to share his story with the male guests. "I share my story as an example to give the men hope for better days ahead," says Gary.

Nearly two years working as a janitor, he was told by Region 7 they may have to let him go due to a lack in funding. It was about that time Good Samaritan was looking for part-time staff in the men's shelter. In April, 2012, Gary began his career with the Mission.

Today, Gary lives in a home next to the mission with two co-workers while working part-time in the men's shelter. Most of his free time away from work is spent with his daughter, Amber, and his five year old granddaughter, Shanelle.

When asked about how things are going for him now, Gary says, "Everything is good. I'm content. I don't have to work but I do because I enjoy helping the guys who come into shelter. I hope everyone who donates and volunteers continues to help. I thank God for putting this opportunity in my life."



"I share my story as an example to give the men hope for better days ahead."

*Good
Samaritan
Rescue
Mission
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DIRECTOR'S DESK



A little over ten years ago there was a big push by the federal government to encourage local communities to develop strategic plans with the goal of ending homelessness. These were commonly called "The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness." You can do a web search and see a lot of the well thought out and sincerely generated concepts. Their overall idea was to coordinate national resources toward a common solution, get people under their own roof as fast as possible and delay dealing with what caused the person to become homeless in the first place. I was skeptical about a mass plan to help solve the problems of homelessness, and I remain skeptical today because

the causes of homelessness are usually more than what a dollar bill can solve.

These days we are serving more people than ever before.

As long as there remains greed in this world, there will be victims of poverty. As long as there remains sin in this world, there will be people making wrong choices.

But there is a solution, love. Love is the demonstration of care by elevating the need of another above my personal desires. The simple verse that many of us have memorized since our youth, John 3:16, exhibits the greatest example of love the world has ever seen. It is this same type of love that Jesus expects us to live out each day when he launched into the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 and He verbally demonstrated what it meant to "love our neighbor as ourselves."

Giving someone a dollar is easy; giving them love is life changing.

Our staff works each day just like the "Good Samaritan." Caring for wounds, providing assistance, helping people become restored. These are not easy tasks. Some require medical attention, some need vocational training, some need clothing, some need direction, but they all need love.

The problem is that the numbers needing help are more than what can be reached by our staff alone. We need your help in ministry. Becoming a volunteer to teach a class, assist in making a meal, or driving someone to a doctor's appointment. These are just a few practical ways to demonstrate God's love.

How can we solve homelessness in our community? When we work together to love our neighbor.

Printing Production:



Introducing the GSRM Care Crew!



Care Crew needs little introduction if you look at the words which make up the name. Care is what we do. Crew shows we work together. Marlene Sajdak, Care Crew Coordinator, loves the name of the program connecting Good Samaritan Rescue Mission with local churches. Joining hands and caring together is its goal. The Mission is recruiting one or two people from each local church to become members of the Care Crew.

Care Crew members will receive an invitation to a quarterly dinner meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to share information. Crew members are asked to bring church information on upcoming events that Mission guests and staff might like to participate in and the Rescue Mission shares needs and events as well. The quarterly meeting will take place in the Mission's Community Room. Crew members will receive giveaways, the name of a Mission guest for your church to pray for, and there is always the on-time drawing! The goal is to have you in and out within the hour as we understand how precious your time is. In our busy world, communication is becoming more and more important. We would love to have you join us in this new ministry!

Care Crew Coordinator Marlene Sajdak grew up in Bay City and has been part of the Mission team since 2008. Raised in the Catholic Church, Marlene has two children, Sean-28 and Nikole-15.

Sean will be graduating from Ferris State in May, 2015 and Nikole is a sophomore at All Saints Catholic High School in Bay City. Marlene is engaged to be married to Ken Mika in March, 2015.

If you are interested in serving as a Care Crew member please contact Marlene at **989-893-5973 ext. 221**.



Time To Order 2015 Hope & Care Totes!

This annual hygiene items drive provides hope & care to homeless men, women and children all year.

*Call Marlene at
989-893-5973 ext. 221 to order your kits.*

Or see our website for details
www.gsrmbaycity.org



**A little bag
makes a big
difference!**



Mission Statement:

"Expressing God's love by reaching out to the hurting and homeless of the Bay area by providing shelter and care, by developing a community of support, and by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ."

The Good Samaritan Rescue Mission • FAMOUS DUTCH APPLE PIE SALE! •



**Available in time for
Easter!
Only \$10.00 each**

Pie order forms are available on our website
www.gsrmbaycity.org or by contacting
Marlene at 989-893-5973 ext. 221 or
marlene@gsrmbaycity.org

*Proceeds benefit Emergency Shelter
Operations for men, women & children.*

**Your prepaid pie orders are available for
pick up 9:00am - 6:00pm at GSRM:
Monday/Tuesday, March 23/24, 2015 or
Monday/Tuesday, March 30/31, 2015**



Hockey for the Homeless March 14, 2015

Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan is partnering with the
Saginaw Spirit to raise operating funds for Rescue Ministries of
Mid-Michigan. Join us for the fourth annual Hockey for the Homeless
on Saturday, March 14, 2015. Enjoy an exciting Saginaw Spirit
hockey game and support the homeless.

Order your tickets online at www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales
Group ID: rescue Password: home



HELP US CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF PROVIDING HOPE

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission 10th Anniversary Open House & Dinner

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 4:00pm~7:00pm

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission
713 Ninth Street, Bay City, MI 48708
989-893-5973 • www.gsrmbaycity.org

Tickets: \$5.00 Adults • \$3.00 Children

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GSRM

**Help Us Build A
Legacy of Care**



713 9th St • PO Box 613
Bay City • MI 48707