

# The Connection



## RECLAIMING Hope

*“I had a very normal, happy childhood,” reflects Todd.*

One of six children, Todd grew up in Essexville in a typical Catholic family. But in 2001, things took an unforeseen turn. Todd had an accident at work. Falling 30' off of a roof, Todd was lucky to have survived. He would spend the next 4 years enduring multiple surgeries and receiving pain meds along the way.

It was 2007 when Todd realized he had become addicted to his pain medication. Continuing to use the meds and not able to work, he turned to selling some of his pain meds. That was about a six-year journey until he was arrested, the first time. Put on probation, one year later, he was arrested for selling narcotics again. This time he was sent to prison.

In 2017, paroled from prison, Todd could have leaned on family. But he knew that if he decided to return to his old habits, he would be able to hide it from his family again. “I didn’t want to hurt my family again and I didn’t want to be a burden,” says Todd. So in 2017 Todd turned to Good Samaritan for help and shelter.

Upon arriving at the Mission, Todd felt ashamed. He was never supposed to wind up addicted to drugs, be in prison or need help from a homeless shelter. He did not expect any compassion or for anyone to understand what he



*Todd (left) with Bryan Pike, GSRM Kitchen Manager*

had been through. But after being at the Mission for only about 5 days, Todd noticed he felt comfortable. “The staff helped me to see that I am a child of God and that I do matter. They showed me how the Lord truly is the Truth.”

Todd entered the Mission’s S.A.V.E. program while staying in shelter. He successfully completed the program and was ready for employment. Today, you can find him happy, serving meals to the homeless guests in shelter. “I will continue to show others who pass through the Mission how God loves me and them.”

Joe Today is a board member at the Mission and recently saw Todd working in the kitchen. “Todd is a former student of mine. As a board member at R3M, I was very happy to see him doing well and working in the Good Samaritan kitchen, serving others.”

Todd says, “My whole family has seen the change in my belief in God. My future is great. I used to worry but now the Lord has shown me how to trust in Him to be the true way.”

# DIRECTOR'S DESK

## Summer of Hope

If you haven't read the book or seen the movie, "Same Kind of Different As Me", then you have missed out on a wonderful real life Mission story of redemption and forgiveness that is relatable, relevant, and repeatable.

God continues to do the work of forgiveness and restoration. Hopefully, you can relate to a time in your life in which Christ's gift of salvation and redemption penetrated your heart, and you can remember your need to draw to him. Sometimes we forget the amazing provision available for all when we have drifted from the fresh awakening that accompanies redemption.

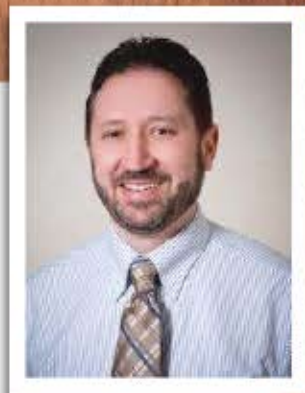
Another great theme of the movie is how God moves us out of our comfort zones in order to reach out and minister to others. The prompting of God doesn't always make sense to our thinking, but in the end when we follow his guidance, great things happen.

We will be blessed this fall, on September 25th, to have the author and screenwriter of "Same Kind of Different As Me" join us as our keynote speaker for our Anniversary Gala. Ron Hall is a tremendous speaker, and he will share from his real life experiences on how God moved him out of his comfort zone into an eventual role of helping those homeless all across our country. This will be a great evening that you will not want to miss. There is a good chance that we will sell-out, so don't delay in securing your spot for this special evening of praise, testimonies, as well as an update of the exciting things happening in the ministry.

So plan to join us on September 25, as we refocus together on how we can strengthen the work of reclaiming lives in our community.



Dan Streeter  
Chief Executive Officer



## Summer Match Opportunity

Summer is an especially critical time of the year because our financial support drops as many of our friends leave for well-deserved vacations. This puts a tremendous strain on our ability to minister to homeless people.

A group of compassionate friends have offered a Summer Matching Challenge gift of \$25,000 to provide emergency food, shelter and life-changing help for the Great Lakes Bay Region's neediest men, women and children this summer. You can help us jump start the matching gift challenge by returning the special matching gift coupon with your gift today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Summer  
Relief Matching  
Gift Campaign



\$10=\$20    \$25=\$50  
\$50=\$100    \$100=\$200



# HERITAGE OF Hope

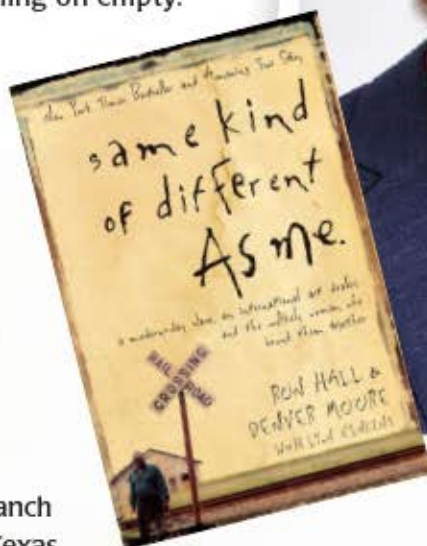
**D**ENVER MOORE was a dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery – in the 1960s. RON HALL was a successful art gallery owner who had a healthy bank account but emotionally was running on empty. Although worlds apart, their destiny collided when Ron's wife Debbie insisted that Ron join her in serving food at a local homeless shelter. As soon as she met Denver there, she had a vision that he would change the city and that her husband must befriend him. Sadly, she didn't live to see the incredible result of the unlikely friendship she initiated.

Ron Hall's life was centered around a successful career as an international art dealer and a passion for his Rocky Top ranch on the Brazos River west of Fort Worth, Texas. All this changed in 1998 as a result of an encounter with a homeless man who was threatening to kill everyone in sight in the homeless shelter where Ron and his wife Deborah had begun to volunteer two weeks earlier. They had gone there as a result of her prophetic dream they would meet a homeless man who would confound them with his wisdom.

This life changing encounter, featured on many television and radio shows such as CNN, Fox News, and NPR, inspired Ron to write his first book *Same Kind of Different As Me*, a story of hope and redemption.

In 2014, Paramount Pictures announced a film adaptation of the book with the same name. The cast consists of Renée Zellweger (Deborah Hall), Djimon Hounsou (Denver Moore), Olivia Holt (Ron's daughter), Jon Voight (Ron's father) and Greg Kinnear (Ron Hall).

Ron Hall is Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan's Keynote speaker at its 113th Anniversary Dinner Gala. The Dinner is September 25th at Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State St, Saginaw Township. For ticket information contact Marlene Mika at 989-893-5973 ext. 221.



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# Mission Statement:

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

# SUMMER OF Hope

2018 Rescue Ministries Al Christiansen Memorial Golf Challenge breaks the record! The annual Golf Challenge was held May 18 at the beautiful Apple Mountain Golf Club. The Golf Challenge sponsored by InCal Technologies raised a record **\$102,228** providing over 3,000 nights of hope and care to the homeless and elderly in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Our top three teams raised  
**\$42,746!**



## 2nd Place

Steve Miller, Kurt Schwannecke,  
Mark Kinzer, Jeff Sams



## 1st Place

Tom Najawicz,  
Bill Denno,  
Frank Dawe,  
Mike Karas



## 3rd Place

Charles Lange, Eric Nordquist,  
Stan Sobol, Pat Curry (not pictured)



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Rescue Mission of Bay City

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