

The Connection



HOPE for the HOLIDAYS



Mom, daughter, cousin, grandma...and homeless. Milene grew up and raised her children in Michigan. She recalls being 'spoiled rotten and got anything I wanted (when I was young), except affection.' Her mother was away a lot running her business. Milene spent a lot of time with her grandparents and an aunt in those early years.

As a young adult, Milene wound up in prison for a year and a half. She has spent time in and out of rehab facilities as well. Then she was clean for 10 years. She was happy. Milene went out of her way to help people back then. Unfortunately, about two years ago, one of those people took advantage of her kindness and promises made were broken. Milene fell into depression. She felt like everything she had worked so hard for for 11 years was slipping away. Milene moved in with and took care of her mom. Earlier this year, Milene's mom passed away. Milene lost her mom, her job, her car, and eventually lost their home to back taxes she was unable to pay.

Needing a place to stay, Milene lived in a shed for a while. Completely broke, she reluctantly found her way to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. "I was bitter and numb and knew I had to do something. I was skeptical (about the Mission) but hopeful. I didn't have faith in myself or God," confesses Milene. It took some time but Milene started to see things happening. "The staff kept me grounded and reminded me of things I needed to do. I didn't want to end up back on the street."

Once depressed, completely broke in spirit and financially, Milene now says, "I am very optimistic about the future. I have hope for the future because I'm seeing my life getting better and better!"

Milene is working two other jobs. She expects to sign a lease on a new apartment any day now and is excited for a new, fresh start. "My job at McDonald's has helped give me my hope back. And if it wasn't for Sue (women's shelter director), I wouldn't have gotten this far. She saw something in me I didn't see myself," says Milene.

"I was bitter and numb and knew I had to do something."

DIRECTOR'S DESK



It's December. Time for Holiday movies on the TV. Everybody loves a happy ending. That's the main reason that the Hallmark Channel and holiday movies are so popular, because every movie ends with smiles and hugs. Doesn't matter the storyline or the setting at the start, in fact the deeper the trouble or despair at the beginning, the better the hook to keep you to the end. Obviously, real life isn't a holiday movie.

Unfortunately, 250 people are presently experiencing real life at Rescue Ministries. They don't have anywhere else to turn. Some have made bad choices, but many have been so close to the edge of financial survival that it was just a matter of time until they would need help. Haven't we all been at that point where we needed somebody? What would have happened to you if that "somebody" in your life didn't respond in your time of need?

It's easy to think we are demonstrating God's love because we have emotions of concern for others, we pray for others, we give a couple cans of food, or a couple dollars to a panhandler, or give our excess clothing. Just like real life isn't a holiday movie, real love isn't convenient.

Real love requires real action. God's Word says in 1 John 3:18 ... "let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." I can't answer for you where real love starts or ends, but things start getting "real" the further we get away from convenience.

There are a lot of "real" activities around the Mission every day that could use your help. Make a meal, teach a class, mentor a young mom, paint a room...and there are many more practical deeds and actions that could be suggested. Happy endings happen at the Mission, but only when real love is present. We have a lot of real partners helping make things happen at Rescue Ministries, but the demand is so great that we need many more. During the hustle of the holiday season, take a moment to prayerfully consider how God would have you to be real in the life of someone in need today.

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer

GSRM December Needs

- Whole Hams
- Chicken Broth
- Pajamas, Women & Children
- Long Thermal Underwear, Men
- Bath and Hand Towels, Wash Cloths



Sharing Hope **RADIOTHON**

Alpha Media and Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan are partnering together to help raise donations and awareness for our neighbors in need. The 13th annual Sharing Hope Radiothon presented by Tim Hortons is Wednesday, December 19th, 6:00am to 6:00pm. Be sure to tune-in to WSGW 790 AM, WSGW-FM 100.5, WCEN 94.5, WGER 106.3 and WTLZ 107.1 to hear stories of hope.

Samaritan Youth Shelter

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission is venturing into emergency shelter for homeless teens. The need for this type of shelter has become so acute that several service agencies have written letters of support for GSRM to take this step forward. A 10-bed shelter for youth, aged 12-17, is being developed in an area of the Mission previously used as rented office space. Samaritan Youth Shelter is part of our 2020 Vision campaign. For more information go to www.gsrmbaycity.org or contact Kimberly at 989-893-5973 ext. 123.

2020
Vision



Mission Statement:

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

2018 SAMARITAN AWARD HONOREES

Congratulations Tom & Phyllis Najawaicz, Hopevale Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Annually the Rescue Mission leadership considers all of the volunteer efforts that have been observed. The Mission, being a volunteer driven organization, literally has hundreds of potential "Samaritans" demonstrating love to their neighbors every year. Some share clothing, some dress wounds, and some offer transportation. Some give financially to help provide emergency shelter services, but all are interested in assisting those in need. The Samaritan Award is presented to one whose charitable acts have somehow stood out among the hundreds of kindnesses. A special thank you to our Samaritan Award sponsors Catholic Federal Credit Union and Maier & Associates Financial Group, Inc.



ANNIVERSARY DINNER

This year Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan hosted its first annual Anniversary Gala. Our keynote speaker was Ron Hall, author and screenwriter of "Same Kind of Different as Me." There were over 850 guests in attendance. The dinner marked the first time all three Rescue Ministries divisions were together to celebrate God's blessings. A special thank you to our premier sponsors Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, InCal Technologies, Serenus Johnson Construction and Dick Williams Gun Shop.



Mark Your Calendar

SATURDAY
March 2, 2019

Bring your church groups,
employees, family and friends!



Join us for a fun-filled night including:

- BROOMBALL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
- PRE-GAME CONCERT featuring Frankenmuth Bible Praise Band
- SAGINAW SPIRIT HOCKEY GAME

PLUS, Fun Kid Activities!

Single Tickets are \$13.

Visit www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales
to order your tickets.

GROUP ID: **rescue2019** PASSWORD: **spirit**

Groups of 20 or more are just \$10 (EACH)

and must be ordered by calling
KIMBERLY ANCEL at
989-752-6051 ext. 123.



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