

# The Connection

MAY 2019

## New Life New Hope

**Meet Cindy.** How are you doing today, Cindy? "I'm good. Happy. Really happy," is her reply. You can find her working in the kitchen at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission and finally living in her new home. One year ago she was in the hospital on dialysis and eventually found herself at the Mission. "After (being released from the hospital) I had nowhere to go. I had no job, no money and no prospects."

Cindy grew up in Pinconning and says she had a normal, happy childhood. About 10 years ago, her son was killed. Cindy says it was too much and she gave up on God. She turned to pain killers to get through that time of her life. That escalated to using heroin, which led to her overdosing last year and winding up on dialysis.

Cindy has been putting her life back together for the past year. When she arrived at Good Samaritan Cindy said she felt numb and abandoned. She had never been homeless before. She was very quiet. After about a month or so, things began to feel better. "Going to chapel twice a day (at the Mission) led me to God. He was my strength. The Mission staff was really great too," reflects Cindy, "They felt like family and were very supportive."

What a difference a year can make! In March Cindy was able to move into her new home. She has spent months working in the Mission kitchen and through our S.A.V.E. program has earned her ServSafe certification. Remembering the days when Cindy was still living in shelter, women's shelter supervisor, Tanida fondly recalls the times Cindy would open up to her and joke with her. "When you saw Miss Cindy smile, you knew it was a good day," comments Tanida.

Cindy has reconciled with her parents and says "they are proud of me." She has a new church family and says her future is now hopeful. Cindy dreams of going to school to pursue web design. "I'm still growing closer to God. I know He's in my life and know I can do anything. I have God back in my life, thanks to the Mission and I believe in myself again," she says. To Cindy, there's an important message to be told, "Don't give up hope. There's always hope."





# DIRECTOR'S DESK



*Psalm 40:1-2*

*I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*

Every year as Spring approaches, I believe each of us living in Michigan have a great eagerness for the promise of warmth and new growth. Our eagerness may be greater than many others in the United States, because we usually have seen several months of bitter cold and snow. Just the hint of the smell of new flowers and warm breezes renew and invigorate our passions for life.

In Psalm 40, David shares of his personal experience and struggles. While it isn't fully clear what "pit" David was referencing, there is no doubt he was delivered from great suffering. The fact that Psalm 40:3 references that the drastic change will ultimately bring praise to God, would lead us to believe that David is relaying his struggle with sin that controlled him for a period in his life.

This is a recurring theme that many Mission guests know all too well. But fortunately, they can relate to the great deliverance, just like King David. Some bad choices have crept into their lives, and they experienced the "horrible pit". But God, in His great mercy, has provided a place like the Mission to help get souls back on stable ground. And even though the promise of spring can be refreshing, nothing can be more reinvigorating than a life transformed by God.

*Psalm 40:3*

*And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.*

Meals, clothes, and shelter are important, but may we never lose the zeal of a fresh new start that can only be provided by the grace of God!

Dan Streeter  
Chief Executive Officer



## Mission Pantry Needs

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Fruits
- Sloppy Joe Sauce
- Drink Mixes - lemonade, Kool-Aid, etc.
- Ranch Dressing





# 2020 Vision



## New Samaritan Youth Shelter Coming Soon!

The Great Lakes Bay Region is experiencing a new wave of homelessness among 12 to 17 year old teens. Bay and Arenac Counties are not prepared to meet this need because emergency shelter services for youth aged 12-17 are simply non-existent.

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission opened in Bay City in 2005, and almost every year the ministry has expanded to serve more people in their hour of greatest need. Now GSRM is venturing into emergency shelter for homeless teens. A 10-bed shelter for youth, aged 12-17, is being developed in an area of the Mission previously used as rented office space. The new Samaritan Youth Shelter will be licensed with the State of Michigan.

Last September Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan launched its 2020 Vision campaign which includes \$600,000 to open the new youth shelter. To date over \$200,000 has been raised toward the \$600,000 goal. For more information contact Kimberly at **989-893-5973 ext. 123** or [www.gsrmbaycity.org](http://www.gsrmbaycity.org).



## 2019 Hockey for the Homeless RAISES \$65,935!!

A special thank you to the fans and our premier sponsor Glastender for helping make this year's event a great success. Sponsors included Dick Williams Gun Shop, Hopevale, InCal, John E Green Co, Serenus Johnson, Spirit Foundation, Merrill Lynch Iles-Schropp Group, GM Powertrain, Redmond Auto Collision, CPI Fluid Engineering, Fullerton Tools and Reimold Printing.





## Mission Statement:

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



*Are you thinking about  
spring cleaning projects?*

***Are you planning to  
clean out your closet?***

Did you know that Good Samaritan  
Rescue Mission has a clothing room for  
Mission guests? We **NEED** your clothing.  
Please drop off your clothing donations  
Monday – Friday, 9am - 6pm and  
Saturday, 10am - 3pm.



## • COMMUNITY VILLAGE • **Strawberry Festival**

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

3:00 - 8:30pm

Community Village • 3200 Hospital Rd.

**Games • Food • Prizes**

**Live Entertainment**

**Fresh Strawberries**

**Delicious Strawberry**

**Shortcake ~ \$6.00**

**Admission - FREE**

For More Information

Call Community Village • 989-792-5442



Printing Production:



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