

The Connection



GOD'S LIGHT Shines through



"THE PERFECT STORM"

"I was living a normal life, working for a good company, and my mother came down with Alzheimer's." Nick came home to take care of his mother. Then one day, "I was in a vehicle going camping with family and a truck pulled out and hit us. I was in the backseat. I tried to brace myself and got injured severely."

Nick lost his income due to his ongoing pain. He quickly went through his savings and had nowhere to turn. A few months after the accident, Nick's mother passed as a result of her disease.

Growing up, Nick moved a lot with his family and later with his job. As a boy, his father wasn't in his life. Although he doesn't have family in the area, he has a good relationship with his siblings and stepfather. Nick calls his large family a "blessing."

Not knowing where to turn, Nick was told about Good Samaritan from friends. "I didn't want to go to a homeless shelter!" Nonetheless, in mid-December 2019, Nick knocked on the door of the Mission, "scared and nervous of the unknown." Always able to take care of himself, his unusual circumstances seemed to create a perfect storm which led him to the Mission.

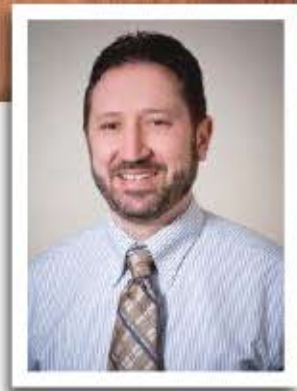
"My first impression of the Mission was it's clean, not like what you see on TV. You can feel God helping people. Rick (men's shelter director) is nice and humble and helps us a lot," acknowledges Nick.

"I'm learning to leave it all in God's hands. I attend chapel when I can and I have more trust in God. I'm learning patience, not to judge people, and not to take life for granted. I put God first." One passion Nick can and does share with the other guests in shelter, is free haircuts.

Feeling "optimistic and hopeful" about the future, Nick shares his dreams. Although he was doing well for himself in the gas and oil field before his accident, he says his dream is to open a barber shop. Feeling grateful Nick says, "The Mission has changed many people's lives. They're helping people find homes and jobs."

If you would like to hear Nick himself tell his story, please visit our website at gsrcmbaycity.org/category/videos/.

DIRECTOR'S DESK



As Rescue Ministries leaders started strategic planning two years ago, we looked forward to the year 2020 being a year with tremendous change to how we would deliver services and shape lives for Christ.

Obviously, none of us would have ever imagined COVID19 and the havoc it would play in our daily lives.

But even with the concerns for health and safety consuming so much of our efforts the last couple months, we still are positioned as a ministry to see amazing changes that will reshape the ministry for many years.

Our first major change has resulted in the sale of Community Village. We didn't anticipate this move two years ago, but God brought along the right partner at the right time, A & D Charitable Foundation and Pace. They are passionate about providing care for low income seniors, and they have tremendous resources. It was a good fit for our community, for our present residents, and for the future of Rescue Ministries. So, Community Village will continue to exist and thrive, just not under our management any longer. This will allow us to become stronger focused in accomplishing our ministry vision and values.

Next, we are in the home stretch of opening the Samaritan Youth Shelter in Bay City. The facility remodel and refurnish is completed and we are finalizing licensing requirements with the State of Michigan. COVID19 has created a few time delays, but this new branch of service for homeless teens is ready for launch this year. When the time is right and we can safely assemble, we will hold an open house to let you see the fulfillment of many years of planning, praying, and your giving.

Last, we are still on track to launch our new program, Impact Designs, in 2020. The construction funds have been raised, final plans submitted, and when COVID19 allows, site work will begin for the 5,000 square foot warehouse that will store furniture and household items. This will allow us to help each family leaving shelter and moving into permanent housing to have the materials needed to make their new apartment a real home.

Keep us in prayer over these next couple months. The extra work and stress of dealing with COVID19 has had an impact on all our lives, but especially our staff. There have been no layoffs, no suspension of services, just more demands for our care and needs of safety and security for our guests.

We are keeping the promise of Galatians 6:9 in the forefront of our prayers, *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer



RADIOTHON

RESCUE MINISTRIES OF MICHIGAN SHARING HOPE!

The 13th Annual "Sharing Hope" Radiothon was a huge success! The annual Radiothon hosted by WSGW, FMTALK 100.5, the Moose 945, Mix 106.3 and Kiss 107.1 raised a record \$47,190!! Special thanks to our presenting sponsors Tim Hortons, Fisher Contracting and Bronner's Christmas Store. Thank you to our Sharing Hope Phone Center sponsor Martin Chiropractic and to our match sponsors Champagne & Marx, Dick Williams Gun Shop, Euclid Industries, Saginaw Bay Underwriters and Veterinary Health Center. Thank you, Mid-Michigan for 1,500 nights of safe shelter and hope to the homeless in our community!



Pictured are; (L-R) Art Lewis, Simone Vaughn, Miss Saginaw County and Dan Streeter.

When Saginaw County decided to close Community Village in 1991, Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan knew that assisted living services for low-income seniors was needed in our community. For the past 27 years Rescue Ministries has provided loving care to the elderly in our community. During this time the number of people 65 years old and over has grown tremendously... so have their physical and medical needs. In recent months Rescue Ministries Board of Directors realized that our season with Community Village was ending. On April 1, 2020 God orchestrated the sale of Community Village to A & D Charitable Foundation and Pace. They have similar service values and specialize in meeting the physical and medical needs of the elderly. We're grateful for God's guidance in this decision.



*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1*



Your partnership with Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan helps provide hope and care to the homeless in the Great Lakes Bay Region. R3M thanks you for your partnership. Our commitment to this partnership is to provide emergency shelter services to those in need and we will continue to do so during the COVID-19 crisis. It has been our practice to send you a thank you letter for your gift within 4 to 7 business days. Due to the crisis, our office staff is working limited hours. Because of the limited staff we are not able to send thank you letters starting April 1st. We want you to know that we will send you a statement for your gifts when the COVID-19 crisis is over. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Kimberly at 989-752-6051 x 123.

Mission Statement:

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



THE FUTURE SAMARITAN YOUTH SHELTER

The Great Lakes Bay Region is experiencing a new wave of homelessness among 12 to 17 year-old teens. Emergency shelter services for teens are simply non-existent in Bay and Arenac Counties. This crisis is magnified because problems with opioid abuse and human trafficking seem to be growing at a parallel level with teen homelessness. In response to this community concern, the Samaritan Youth Shelter will be open soon!

With construction complete and the furniture on sight, our Policies and Procedures have been submitted to the state for approval. Once the state inspector can come on site and give us the green light, we will open our doors to serve homeless youth. Then any young person, ages 12-17, who is experiencing homelessness will have a safe place to come for relief and care. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us to provide the much-needed care for at risk youth in our community.

We are very close to reaching our goal. Your help could put us over the top and help us make the Samaritan Youth Shelter a reality.



Thank You!

If you would like to give a gift, please send to:

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission
Attn: Samaritan Youth Shelter
PO Box 613
Bay City, MI 48707

Printing Production:



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