

The Connection



SUMMER OF HOPE

Romans 15:13a, "Our hope comes from God."

"Yolanda puts 100% into everything she does. She is one of the hardest working ladies I have worked with. She's stayed patient and positive through all of the uncertainty COVID-19 has brought," says Rachel Wise, Women's Shelter Director.

A young 43-year old mother, Yolanda was 21 with 6 children. She lost her mom to drugs and her dad to the prison system. Yolanda, her siblings, and their cousins, 10 kids in all, were raised by her Grandmother. Through tears she says, "I am truly grateful for my Grandma. She didn't have any money, but she worked hard every day taking care of us. We always had food on the table."

Growing up in Chicago, Yolanda lost many other people, including a brother, to gang violence and drugs. She and her children have seen horrible things people should not have to witness, especially children.

At one point, Yolanda moved to Alabama for a while. When things were not working out, her children who live in Michigan, convinced her to come live with them. She tried that and appreciated their efforts, but Yolanda knows it's time for her to take care of herself. One who has always put others before herself, Yolanda says, "I have to do this for me."

Working at a local restaurant and hotel, yet still unable to support herself, a co-worker suggested she check out the Mission. Against her families wishes, Yolanda arrived at GSRM. She'd been told negative things to expect. When she arrived, she was immediately looking for all the bad things she was warned about. To her surprise, she didn't find them. "I guess it was what the other people were or weren't doing when they were here. You all are amazing! Miss Rachel keeps me on my toes."

"I don't have to worry about where my next meal will come from, where I'll lay my head, or even if I have a toothbrush. Basic things are taken care of and I'm saving money. I love to work! I'm working on my credit, plan to get my GED and maybe college. I hope to one day own a restaurant or a food truck and my own home. I want a place for my grandchildren to visit."

When asked how she's been able to get through all she's endured and remain hopeful and grateful, Yolanda quickly says, "God! I get through everything with prayer."



DIRECTOR'S DESK



One thing that has been constant over the last three months is change. Since our world was turned upside down with COVID-19, every week and sometimes everyday produces a new set of challenges.

We have been on the front lines open and providing essential care for those experiencing homelessness. Our staff have logged some difficult hours during these days with heightened cleaning, diligence in following safety precautions, encouraging and instructing our guests on safe practices, and putting their own health at risk by continuing to show up for duty each day. We have been diligent to know healthy practices, been in step with our local health departments, and constantly learning and increasing safety protocols as we all learn more about how to best deal with this virus.

We had a small bout at Good Samaritan at the end of April. Fortunately, it remained contained with just one positive case. Then COVID found its way into City Rescue Mission with a few more cases which required a quarantined environment. It's a blessing that numbers remained low. Even with all the efforts in place, COVID still found its way into our facilities. It was inevitable. However, through it all, lives are being changed. I think this has been a perfect time for our staff to model trusting God even when we don't know the outcomes and even when life isn't easy.

Psalm 119:71 says, *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."*

Many times, our greatest growth comes through adversity. So, through this time of COVID, we may not enjoy or understand what is happening, but realize this is our time to depend and grow closer to God. Just like our guests are watching and learning from our staff, I am sure your neighbors and friends are watching your example as well. Let's make sure we demonstrate our belief that God always sustains and provides!

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer

Just a simple meal can make a huge difference in someone's life!

OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

Chicken Broth, BBQ Sauce, Ranch Dressing, Brown Sugar, Canned Peas and Canned Carrots.





During the "Stay Home-Stay Safe" time, our guests in emergency shelter have had opportunities to enjoy various Quality of Life Events to help fill down time for them. Bingo, many movies, craft opportunities, and making hope hearts and thank you posters. "Thank you for all the great movies," says Matthew. "I am happy to say, 'thank you' for a safe place to stay," says Marissa. With the help of your donations there were prizes, popcorn, snacks and drinks for our guests to enjoy as well. Lots of smiles, laughs and appreciation from our guests help to make this time rewarding for our staff. Thank you for your continued prayers for our staff and guests in emergency shelter.



Operation Hope and Care



A little bag makes a big difference!

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, collection of hygiene products for Operation Hope & Care was temporarily halted. Now that bans are lifted, church services restored, and businesses re-opened, please consider donating much needed hygiene products for our emergency shelters. Call Marlene to order your bags and posters at 989-893-5973 ext. 221. What a difference a bag can make!

Fill a hope and care tote with these items!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste
<i>(Children & Adult)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant
<i>(Men & Women)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body Wash | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Bacterial Liquid Soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable Razors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lip Balm | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand or Body Lotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Cream
<i>(Men & Women)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Bacterial Wipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo & Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Diaper Wipes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer |

Mission Statement:

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

MEET RICK AND TANYA, THE SAMARITAN YOUTH SHELTER (SYS) STAFF

RICK DOUD is a SVSU and Delta College graduate. He earned a MA in Public Administration in Human Services and BSW (Social Work) from SVSU. Rick started his professional career in human services in 1983 in Saginaw County. Since that time, he has been passionate about serving youth and families in areas such as foster care, adoption and high risk situations. Rick joined the SYS team as the Chief Administrator in 2019. Rick states; "My 35 plus years of employment in the human services field working with families at risk, will continue to provide me with good insight to help youth and families that come to the Samaritan Youth Shelter for help and direction."

TANYA ALBER has been working for the Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan for two years. She is currently the Spiritually Accountable Vocationally Equipped (S.A.V.E.) Program Director. As Program Director Tanya works with guests who come through emergency shelter and choose to enroll in the S.A.V.E. Program. She assists guests in their pursuit to education, employment, careers, and transition into long term housing. Tanya has a BA from Cornerstone University. She is continuing her education to obtain a master's degree in Public Administration. Before working at The Mission Tanya spent many years working with at risk youth. Tanya is beyond excited and blessed to be a part of this new ministry at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.



"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."

Psalm 127:3-5

Samaritan Youth Shelter

During the past few months we have often felt like the Israelites waiting to enter the Promise Land. We have our occupancy permit from the City for the Samaritan Youth Shelter. The furniture is in place. The State has reviewed our policies and procedures. We are ready to open. However, due to COVID-19 the State of Michigan has not been able to come for the final site visit needed to issue our license. So, we prayerfully wait upon the Lord.

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