

# The Connection

A Publication of Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan



## RESTORATION, DIGNITY, Hope

For Daniel, life began in a healthy family. "My childhood was happy to average." Sadly, when he was 18, his mother died. Things gradually slipped away after that. Tragically, his father succumbed to alcoholism and died five years later. Daniel says eventually everything was gone, their family home, cars, and finances.

Doing what he needed to do to get through these tough times, Daniel eventually found someone, got married and settled down. They had a son. But things didn't last, unfortunately. He found himself losing his home and his family again. When COVID-19 hit, he lost his job. Now he had no income and nowhere to go.

Right around Thanksgiving 2020, Daniel came to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in need of shelter and food. Our doors were open for him. He arrived at the Mission feeling angry, defeated, and lost. "I was running from my responsibilities and my worldly outlook gave me the justification for thinking God wasn't real," he shares. Daniel will tell you he knew of God but even recently, still considered himself an atheist.

It wasn't long after he arrived at the Mission, he recognized the 'comfort in the structure and support

that he received from the Mission and staff. Even though his mind was clouded by anger, hurt and betrayal, the Mission soon made an impact on him. He realized the staff members each had their own strengths which he could trust. There was a balance with the men's shelter staff that he noticed. They are 'strict but compassionate and patient'.

"I am now a believer in God and Jesus Christ," he happily shares. "I try to put myself in His hands." He even bought himself a Bible and he reads it. Daniel is going into the Army. He is excited and encouraged with his future. "I will be able to buy a house and make my life better for my son," he says, "I want to clean up my own 'room' and then help in the community and beyond."

Daniel is now focused on taking care of himself. He has come full circle from life starting out 'happy and healthy.' Today he is happy with his direction in life. He is making better choices; eating well, exercising, he quit smoking, and is following a desire to do "whatever I can do to help more people. The kindness of others has not only nourished my body, but my spirit as well. For that, I am forever thankful."

# DIRECTOR'S DESK



The last twelve months are unlike anything we have ever experienced. COVID-19 has revealed our shortcomings, like adversity does, but it has also revealed saints that are serving. It has produced moments of great heartache from loss but has also produced great blessing and the chance to experience the comfort of our Heavenly Father. For those that don't have the foundation of God in their lives, I don't know how they made it through the last twelve months without going insane.

Even with the difficulties of the pandemic, God has blessed. We are excited to announce the opening of two major enhancements of ministry: the Samaritan Youth Shelter in Bay City, and Impact Designs in Saginaw. Both projects required a lot of planning, fundraising, prayer, and patience, but the day has arrived, and we are open at both facilities for service. I want to say thank you to many of you. Your donations and prayer support helped make these projects a reality. Please take a couple minutes to go to our website [R3Monline.org](http://R3Monline.org) and check out the details of what these new programs will be providing in the community. The launch of these programs is a great example of how God will bless us when we stay on course and don't allow for distractions to cause us to drift from His purposes.

It is so easy to get distracted when things don't go the way that we desire. It is easy to swing into complacency and complaining and to lose hope. So many of our guests have experienced many levels of disappointment in their lives and they show up on our doorstep in despair. I suspect you are seeing many neighbors, family, and friends who also are on the verge of disappointment and despair due to things that have happened during the pandemic. What will they do if there is no one ready to deliver the message of hope?

Allow me to challenge you. These are the days that people should see the evidence of God's love in our lives. We have a foundation of hope that should be rising above the uncertainty of health and politics. Instead of chaos, people should see our care. Instead of complaints, they should hear our compassion. Our world needs our witness, our peace, and our demonstration of God in our lives now more than ever.

Philippians 1:20 is a great passage to help us focus, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

In these days of pandemic instability, we need to rise up with a message of hope. A message not conflicted through opinions of masks or vaccines, but a message of certainty. I have experienced an abundance of Christians ready to verbally share their thoughts about the handling of the pandemic but say nothing about their Savior. Instead, we should take the opportunity to share these thoughts. God is in control. God cares. God provides. God is here for you in your despair. Allow God to magnify and amplify His message of hope and salvation through the example of your life.

Dan Streeter  
*Chief Executive Officer*



## Easter Needs:

French style green beans

Cream of mushroom soup

French fried onions

Pineapple Rings

Yellow cake mix

Canned sweet potato (yams)

It's Official! The new Samaritan Youth Shelter (SYS) has officially opened to welcome homeless and runaway youth ages 12 -17. SYS has three main goals in assisting teens:



### REUNIFICATION

To reunite youth with a parent or other suitable family member.



### EDUCATION

The SYS team will work with youth and families to strengthen the youth's connection to their school and services the school provides.



### LIFE SKILLS

The objective is to enhance the youth's ability to meet age-appropriate milestones.



The Shelter is licensed by the State of Michigan and received widespread community support. It will; provide emergency shelter for up to 30 days; it is a voluntary program for youth and their families and will house up to five males and five females. To help a teen in need of shelter, call SYS at 989-893-5973 ext. 214. To learn more about the youth shelter, visit [www.r3monline.org](http://www.r3monline.org).

# Operation Hope and Care

*A little bag makes a big difference!*

Be sure to order your Hope & Care Tote bags! This is a great project to do alone or invite family and friends to do it too!

The H & C hygiene program is a vital part of the everyday life of Rescue Ministries' guests. Each family or individual checking in for emergency shelter receives a Hope & Care Tote filled with brand new hygiene products. Help us meet the basic needs of those experiencing homelessness.

- Body Wash & Scrubbie
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Anti-Bacterial Liquid Soap
- Hand or Body Lotion
- Lip Balm
- Deodorant (Men & Women)
- Shaving Cream (Men & Women)
- Tissue
- Anti-Bacterial Wipes
- Diaper Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Hairbrushes

Your filled Totes can be delivered to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Tuesdays & Thursdays, March 16-April 1st, 10am-4pm.

Call Marlene to order your Totes at 989-893-5973, ext. 221. Thank you in advance!



## Mission Statement:

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

# ACROSS THE BAY

**Welcome to "Across the Bay." In this space we will share news about our Saginaw shelter, City Rescue Mission.**

Impact Designs has launched! Impact Designs (ID) helps families transitioning out of emergency shelter. The ID team made up of staff and volunteers turns an empty house or apartment that a guest has leased into a clean, dignified home. It is a simple idea that changes a family or individual's future. Impact Designs... Helping Home Happen!

**For donation information call Aaron at 989-752-6051 ext. 145 or [aridley@rescuesaginaw.org](mailto:aridley@rescuesaginaw.org). To volunteer, Contact Jenny ext. 122 or [volunteer@rescuesaginaw.org](mailto:volunteer@rescuesaginaw.org).**



The 15th annual "Sharing Hope" Radiothon was a huge success! The annual Radiothon hosted by WSGW, Moose 94.5, Mix 106.3 and Kiss 107.1, had a different feel and look due to the pandemic. The Martin Chiropractic Phone Bank was located at City Rescue Mission. R3M guests called the radio stations to share their stories of hope.



**At the end of the day listeners donated a record \$50,100!!** Special thanks to our presenting sponsors Tim Hortons, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and Fisher Contracting, our Morning Drive Sponsor Euclid Industries, Mid-Morning Match Sponsors Kerkau Manufacturing and Dick Williams Gun Shop and Over-the-Top Sponsor Champagne & Marx Excavating. Thank you, Great Lakes Bay Region, for providing 1,600 nights of safe shelter and hope to the homeless in our community!

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