

The Connection

A Publication of Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan

Growing in Grace



Born and raised in Vassar, Michigan, Edward Davis is no stranger to hard work. That's why when he ended up homeless, he was more surprised than anyone. "I worked for 42 years and retired in 2015." Ed's jobs ranged from the family farm and newspaper distribution business to serving in the Army for 4 years as a military tank mechanic. Once he left the military, he worked for an industrial paint shop and for Grede Foundry in Vassar until his retirement. Then, 6 years later Ed decided to move more than 3,000 miles away.

Although he was hopeful that his time in Alaska would be well spent, things did not go as planned. As Ed describes, "I was living with my son in Alaska. He has uncontrollable temper issues. One day he came home from work and beat me so bad I was taken to a local hospital." Knowing that he could not live this way anymore, Ed moved back to Michigan but had no place to go. "I lived in a motel until I ran out of money. Then I stayed in my storage unit."

Once the authorities became aware of Ed's less than ideal living arrangements, they brought him to Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Since being at the mission for the last few months, Ed has a new, more positive outlook on life. "The mission has helped me help myself by providing guidance with housing and a clean place to sleep and eat. My blessings have been great! I now am looking at having my own place again, thanks to the mission."

With confidence, Ed is looking forward to his housing voucher to come through and being on his own again. And, although he does not have contact with his son anymore, he knows how important his stability and growth are. In fact, when he's able, he attends the mission chapel services as well as a local congregation service whose pastor is one of the mission's chapel speakers. Referring to his time at the mission, Ed states, "It's been the best choice I've made. Thank you for everything that you have done for me."

DIRECTOR'S DESK



Come Grow with Us

Mid-Michigan has deep roots in being an agriculturally based economy and environment. Anyone who prides themselves in growing whether commercially or personally would agree that regardless of the time of year, there is work to be done all year round to prepare for the growing season. Farmers clearly know the Biblical principle that you must be a "doer" in order to ever see growth. For some reason, in Christian circles, we lose contact with this very basic but necessary concept.

James 1:22 says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only..."

Pretty straightforward but take a personal inventory. How much time do you spend weekly "doing God's Word?" Just like a farmer must cultivate to see growth, so must a Christian become active in the fields of life in order to ever see any fruit. Reading God's Word is commendable and instrumental in having the right mind to serve God, but at some point, we need to actually do the serving. If the farmer only spends time reading manuals about growing and only works on the maintenance of their equipment, will they ever see a harvest? Obviously, no!

Look at the promise that follows in James chapter one just a few verses later in verse 25...

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Growth and blessing await those who do God's work!

Our Christian community has changed over the last couple years. We are not doing as much for the cause of Christ as before. I know the primary reason has been out of caution and safety, but we have shifted and changed in our habits. It's a natural result when we change practices for any extended period of time. Ask any Pastor about the habits of their congregation over the last 24 months and each will acknowledge that congregations have decreased in engagement. That is a dangerous trend if we don't get back to work. Spiritual growth will diminish and cease.

Let me encourage and challenge you to get back to using and exercising your spiritual muscles. Maybe it's at your church, maybe it's at the Mission, maybe it's somewhere else. Doesn't matter where, God will help clarify where He wants you, but one thing is for sure, we need to get back to doing.

Dan Streeter
CEO, Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan



You're Making an IMPACT

If you've volunteered, donated financially, or donated much needed household items to Impact Designs, you are truly making a difference. Since the launch of Impact Designs, 29 homes have been furnished with gently used household items for those moving out of emergency shelter and who have successfully completed their case management requirements. Thank you for caring enough to make an impact on those who need it most.



ACROSS THE BAY

Across the Bay is where we share with you highlights about our shelter in Saginaw, City Rescue Mission.

The City Rescue Mission is located in a building constructed in 1928 with a 24,000 sq ft addition completed in 2000. The current 1,200 sq ft kitchen is in the 1928 portion of the building. The layout makes meal preparations inefficient and much of the equipment is outdated. Plans for the remodel will enlarge the City Rescue Mission kitchen to 1,600 sq ft and make meal preparation easier and more efficient.



(Photo circa 1990)

Mission Statement:

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

Come Grow with Us

Are you looking for something to do with extra time you have? Do you like helping others? Maybe you have a skill set that we're looking for. If you do, we're inviting you to come grow with us! Rescue Ministries is looking for volunteers to help with daily operations in a variety of ways. Whether it's directly helping shelter guests or helping to make meals, hygiene bags or assist with facility maintenance. Whatever you like to do, I'm sure we can find a volunteer spot for you! Call Jill at 989-893-5973 x 215 to see what opportunities are waiting for you.



Operation Hope and Care



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.

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| ■ Kids 3 in 1 Wash | ■ Lip Balm | ■ Deodorant (Men & Women) |
| ■ Body Wash & Scrubie | ■ Shaving Cream (Men & Women) | ■ Tissues |
| ■ Anti-Bacterial Liquid Soap | ■ Hand or Body Lotion | ■ Anti-Bacterial Wipes |

Deliver Filled Totes to:

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission
Monday - Friday
March 2nd - April 15th, 10am-4pm

Call Jill to order your totes at
989-893-5973, ext. 215

Thank you in advance!

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