

# The Connection

A Publication of Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan



## "Home in One Word: Security"

If you ask Cathy what "home" means to her in just one word, she'll answer: "Security."

A devastating fire took nearly everything from her in 2022, and she found herself at the door of Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. She had never been homeless. "It was really scary," she said.

Cathy entered our Impact Shelter program and embraced it completely, especially the chapel services. "I thought the mission was going to be just someplace to sleep. I didn't know there would be so much support and people who care," she said.

This spring, after completing our program and becoming eligible for an Impact Designs move, Cathy finally moved into a new apartment. It was fully furnished with donated household items and designed by a loving volunteer designer who made sure Cathy's artsy, eclectic style shined. There was even a space for Cathy to display her impressive Pez dispenser collection!

Cathy was all smiles on move-in day, so thankful to once again have a safe, secure and beautiful home of her very own.



## "A Family's Hopeful, Fresh Start"

"It was like I was gracefully falling for two years. I had lost all hope..."

Katrina and her four young girls were forced to escape an unsafe environment in another county. She called many places in our area for help, but no one had room for them. Shortly

after calling Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Katrina and her girls were welcomed by helpful and caring staff, and moved into a room of their own.

As an Impact Shelter Program

guest, Katrina participated in life skills classes and chapel services. She found a job and housing, and plans on returning to school to study Criminal Justice. Earlier this year, with the help of our Impact Designs volunteers and staff, Katrina's family moved into their own fully furnished and designed home.

A special call to donors ensured that the mission was able to provide enough bedding for Katrina's four daughters. She was so thankful on move-in day and each of the girls was so excited to have a special place of her very own!

In Katrina's words, "We found help and hope."

  
**HOPE FOR HOME**  
SUMMER 2023 CAMPAIGN



# DIRECTOR'S DESK

Have you ever been on a long business trip? Ever have an extended time away to help family or friends? Ever have a hard day at work? You pull into your driveway and immediately a sense of relief and comfort happens.

**You are home!**

Now think about this scenario. You have been evicted. You had to choose between food, medical care, and keeping your car running. All your material items now sit out on a curb at the side of the road. Your five-year-old child has no real idea what is happening. They are crying because they are hungry. You rummage through your items on the curb to figure out what can fit in your car. You have \$20 until your next paycheck. How do you keep going?

This is not an uncommon story, in fact around 220 people staying at Rescue Ministries last night can relate to this well. For many of them, this was real, and frustrating, and depressing, and exhausting. One night at the Mission does not make it go away. It's overwhelming. Everything has gone wrong for so long, how can it ever be right.

So, our staff and volunteers take action one person at a time, one day at a time, one conversation at a time, one devotional time together, to help crack open doors to hope. What can you do to help? What can you do to make a difference? Donating is an easy answer, but dollars alone are not the solution. Caring is the solution. Caring is what helps you go the extra mile. How can you increase your caring? By doing something. Care enough to take an action.

Maybe that first action is praying, or bringing excess clothing to the Mission, or going for a tour, or maybe calling to volunteer. Something...We have worked hard to develop meaningful solutions like life skills classes, chapel and devotional times, great meals, supportive parenting, and Impact Designs! But planning means nothing without helpers. We need you! So, as you read through this newsletter, take the time to think and pray and care and meditate about what your part can be.

Dan Streeter, CEO



## THANK YOU SO MUCH

to everyone who participated in this year's Operation Hope & Care tote drive. It was a great success, with more than 1,200 full totes donated! Because of all of you, our guests will have the personal hygiene items they need when they come to us for help.

We appreciate all the local churches and other organizations who donated, and special thanks to all our volunteers who are currently working to organize and put the items to use in our shelters.





# COME FOR THE SHELTER, *Stay for the Impact*

Most guests first come to us seeking shelter in a time of personal or family emergency. No matter why someone is in need of help, they'll find it at the mission, thanks to our caring staff and generous supporters. Every guest receives access to shelter and facilities, two nutritious meals per day, and any required clothing and hygiene products.

However, our prayer is for people to go beyond emergency services and take part in our **Impact Shelter program**. This program focuses on spiritual and long-term needs, leading to God-honoring, sustainable solutions, and permanent housing.

Impact Shelter guests receive additional help in these key areas:

## CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Hearing the good news about Jesus is the first step towards a changed life. In our chapel, pastors, church leaders and staff share daily messages of hope. Guests are also encouraged to become involved in a local church.

## LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Our trained staff collaborates with other service organizations and businesses – such as Mid-Michigan Adult & Teen Challenge and Wildfire Credit Union – to present life skills training each weekday. Sessions cover topics such as: Parenting, Health & Wellness, Financial Literacy, Communication & Conflict Resolution, Housekeeping & Time Management.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

Impact Shelter guests regularly meet with a case manager to assess needs, coordinate resources and celebrate successes. Case managers also discuss ways to grow spiritually, and introduce additional tools and resources, all to help guests become productive community members.

## HOUSING COORDINATOR & IMPACT DESIGNS SERVICES

Our housing coordinator meets with Impact Shelter guests to assist with post-shelter housing options. Guests who complete our Impact Shelter program are also eligible for Impact Designs services.

*If you would like to get involved by volunteering or donating, please call 989 893-5973. Visit our website and Facebook page for more information. Our Facebook page regularly features heartwarming pictures and stories from Impact Designs moves, so don't forget to like our pages!*



Impact Designs helps those working toward independent living for themselves and their families. Through this program, donated household furnishings and volunteer designers transform entry-level, unfurnished rentals (that a guest has rented) into warm and pleasant homes.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPT 26, 2023

Tickets are required and go on sale August 1st!

## 118<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

# Heritage of Hope

Social Hour 6:00pm - 6:30pm | Dinner and Program 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Featuring Guest Speaker Jo Saxton

Jo Saxton is a speaker, podcaster, author, guest TV host and leadership coach. She hosts a digital coaching community and is the founder of the Ezer Collective, two initiatives dedicated to investing in women leaders around the world.

Born to Nigerian parents and raised in London, England, Jo now lives in Minneapolis with her husband and two daughters. She loves the everyday stuff like good music, good food, and good friends.



## Thrivent Cans Hunger Campaign



COME CHEER ON  
THE GREAT LAKES  
LOONS WITH US!

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 | DOORS OPEN: 6:00PM | GAME BEGINS: 7:05PM

As part of "Thrivent Cans Hunger" campaign, Thrivent will be collecting canned goods for Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan. For every non-perishable food item collected, the Thrivent Member Network will donate \$3 per item up to \$3,000. Tickets to attend are \$5 per person. Sponsored by Thrivent. To order tickets go to <https://bit.ly/GLLThrivent> by Friday, June 9th. Tickets include dinner, seats in the Northern Lights Pavilion and fireworks after the game. Seating is limited.

*Rescue Ministries current needs include the following items: cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, baked beans, canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, ranch or Italian dressing, mayonnaise, and BBQ sauce.*

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