

# Marbor Light

PROVIDING A BEACON OF HOPE THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT

VOL. 16 ISSUE 4

“I pushed God into the passenger seat.”



Muskegon Rescue Mission

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**Update**  
Capital Campaign underway to help re-model families.



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**Testimony**  
Junette finds a safe place.



## Remodeling hearts and lives

*Dear Friend,*

There is a lot of remodeling happening at the Mission this Spring! The most obvious is the physical remodeling of our Women & Children's Shelter to also accommodate families. You will read more about this exciting project in this issue of Harbor Light.

What is not always as obvious, but is happening every day at MRM, is the "remodeling" of hearts and lives. Men and women come to us in need of transformation and we have the privilege of leading them to Jesus Christ, the only one who can truly change their life.

In this issue of Harbor Light you will meet two people who came to the Mission in need of a remodel. Mike came to us struggling with addiction and grieving personal loss. He is now in love with Jesus and finding joy in each day. When Junette arrived at the Mission, she found the safe haven she had been seeking for herself and her children.

Mike and Junette are just two examples of the many that have come to the Mission and found new hope, peace and a second chance at life. Every day we serve meals to men, women and children who otherwise would go hungry; we provide a safe place that allows them to begin to make better decisions and take steps in a new direction; we counsel and encourage those who are hurting and provide valuable tools to help end cycles of poverty, addiction and dependence.

It is never too late for a life to be "remodeled". We know the power of a relationship with Christ and how it transforms the most hopeless situation. We thank God each day for the part we are allowed to play in these new beginnings and we also thank God for each of you.

Your prayers and support are what make our work possible and allow us to continue "remodeling" hearts and lives.....we couldn't do it without you! Thank you for the love, prayers and gifts that make such a difference in the lives of those who are hurting and homeless in our area. May you and your family enjoy a blessed Spring season!



Kevin Newton  
Executive Director

## *"I pushed God into the passenger seat."*

### *How Mike learned to give up control*

**I**f you met Mike today, you would meet a joyful, hardworking man who is on fire for the Lord and not afraid to tell you that. But that's not always who Mike was.

Several years ago, Mike was struggling with the grip of alcoholism. Though he hit what he thought was his "rock bottom" several times, he never managed to entirely quit drinking.

After Mike was in a horrible car accident that killed two people, including his young daughter, he vowed to start over. He and his ex-wife donated all of his daughter's toys to a place called Muskegon Rescue Mission. Mike then found himself grieving greatly over the direction his life had taken.

"I was in survival mode," Mike remembers. "I lived in a tiny room, cooking off a hot plate, melting snow to get water each day."

When he realized he could not continue living like this, Mike



*"I told God, 'I don't know why, but I always put You in the passenger seat and I'm done with that. I mess things up. I want you to drive.'"*

— Mike

knelt on the floor in his room and prayed.

"I told God, 'I don't know why, but I always put You in the passenger seat and I'm done with that. I mess things up. I want you to drive,'" Mike says.

Later that day, Mike ran into an old friend at the library, who pointed him to the same mission

where he and his wife had donated their daughter's toys years ago.

Mike says he immediately felt at home at the Mission.

"It's all about God here," he says. "As I read it in the Bible, that's what I see the staff doing. I feel at home here; I can be me now."

Now celebrating several years of sobriety, Mike's outlook on life has brightened. Christ has remodeled his heart, and as a staff member of MRM, Mike has found new direction.

"God is driving now," he says, "and I never want to put Him back in the passenger seat."

# Exciting changes are taking place at Muskegon Rescue Mission



The windows in the building were decades old and in need of replacing. They allowed heat to escape and cold air to enter into the building and rooms.



New window installation is nearly complete. A total of 99 new windows were installed. This adds additional comfort, efficiency and safety to the Women's, Children's, and Family Shelter.



This is the original entrance to the Women's and Children's Shelter. Our goal is to make the entrance as accommodating as possible to our guests arriving during whatever hardship they may be facing.



Masonry work is nearing completion. The new entrance will be handicap accessible and will offer greater security as guests enter the shelter. The entrance will be covered to offer relief from the elements, and will be monitored by security cameras.



The beginning stages of the new elevator shaft being constructed. The elevator has been relocated to be more useful and accessible to our guests and staff.



The new elevator is in the elevator shaft. Having this in place will make the shelter fully accessible to those with physical needs. What a blessing it will be to accommodate our guests in this way.



The bathroom facilities have been expanded. This photo shows the shower stalls cased in with drywall. The updated restroom facilities will be a great addition to the shelter.



Fresh primer and paint is starting to go on to the walls to give everything a fresh new look. We can't wait to show you the finished project! Stay tuned!

Exciting changes are taking place here at the mission and we want to share the details with you.

Over the past few years we have seen a growing need for Family Shelter. After time in prayer, planning and learning about how to best serve entire families, in October 2015, we began construction on our Women & Children's Shelter on Peck Street. Our goal, through this "Re-Modeling Families



Campaign", is to see a significant improvement in the services we offer, and the impact we make in the lives of women, children and soon, families.

The exciting part is we are more than half of the way to completion! Crews have nearly completed the installation of new windows, the elevator is "in

the shaft", masonry for the new entrance is nearly done, painting has begun and flooring selections are being made.

While our staff is working under challenging conditions during the construction, they are also very excited about the changes and improvements. Along with the building remodel, our guests are also making progress every day toward their goals; goals that help them rebuild their lives.

As we focus on changing lives

and bringing hope to those who have nowhere else to turn, we know a safe, clean, welcoming environment is the starting point. Our quality, caring, well-trained staff along with dedicated volunteers provide hospitality and a personal connection, showing God's love to our guests. Many guests need counseling, health care, mental health services and more. Partnerships with other ministries and agencies throughout West Michigan provide

the tools to assist our guests in starting over, finding suitable housing, gaining employment and returning to independence.

This remodeling will help us in all of these areas and we feel it is our responsibility to step out in faith and be obedient to God's calling to serve families in the best, most effective way possible. We want to help "remodel" families; giving them new hope in Christ and a new start in life.

Throughout this endeavor,

we remain humbly aware that we can't do this alone. We are deeply grateful for all of the support and prayers that we have received from friends like you, and ask that you would consider partnering with us if you haven't yet.

For more information about the Remodeling Families Campaign, please visit [www.muskegonmission.org/remodelingfamilies](http://www.muskegonmission.org/remodelingfamilies) or call 231-727-6090 to schedule your personal tour.



# Adopt-a-Camper



## Help remodel the heart of a child this summer!

Each summer, Muskegon Rescue Mission sends several dozen children to Grace Adventures Camp. This is not only a time of great fun for the campers, it is also a chance for them to just “be kids.”

“A lot of the kids we work with have had to step into a parent-like role in their homes,” says Yolanda Hall, Director of Women’s and Family Ministries. “Camp gives those children the chance to get away and be a child in a safe, loving, nurturing environment.”

Something special happens when kids are able to get away at camp. Shy children suddenly open up, kids who fall asleep hearing gunshots can play without fear and, most importantly, each child has the chance to hear about

Jesus and learn about having a relationship with Him.

Many young adults who went to camp, point to that experience as a turning point in their lives. A week at camp can change their focus and impact their future forever.

For \$250, you can “adopt” a camper and sponsor their week at Grace Adventures. This isn’t just an investment in a fun week away for a child – it’s an investment in their future.

For more information, please contact Tim Lopez, at 231-727-6090 or email [tlopez@muskegonmission.org](mailto:tlopez@muskegonmission.org). If you’d like to sponsor a camper now, please fill out the enclosed card and return it with your sponsorship.



**OVERCOME YOUR OBSTACLE.**

**May 21, 2016**

**Pere Marquette Beach, Muskegon**

- Over 20 obstacles on a wet and sandy 5k course
- Enter as teams or individuals
- Competitive or non-timed flights
- Family-friendly Kid’s Zone
- Friday night event/early check-in
- Participants receive: shirt, medal, window decal
- All proceeds benefit Muskegon Rescue Mission



Huntington

Register at [ForeShore.org](http://ForeShore.org)



**Fall Dinner**  
Sept. 24



**Hike for Hungry**  
Oct. 8



Muskegon Rescue Mission

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Enhancing Trust



Harbor Light is a publication of Muskegon Rescue Mission and is produced quarterly.