

# Harbor Light

PROVIDING A BEACON OF HOPE THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT

VOL. 16 ISSUE 4



“God needed me to be still...”



Muskegon Rescue Mission

*Helping Ann find her way back home - pg. 3*

**4** **Summer Camp**  
Your gifts give summer of hope.



**8** **New Life**  
Men graduate from New Life Program.



## Faithfully working for our always faithful Lord



Kevin Newton  
Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Our Lord is so totally faithful! Scripture says that His faithfulness reaches to the clouds! Well beyond our reach and as far as we can see, He is faithful. What a wonderful reminder of the qualities of God. What a blessing to us to have such a faithful Father! Our best response to His amazing faithfulness..is to gratefully follow His example and be faithful to whatever work or ministry He calls us to.

Here at the Mission, it is a busy and exciting time and we are working to be faithful in all that the Lord has given us. Work continues on the Women's & Family Shelter renovation. After a year of prayer, hard work, and planning...we expect to complete the project this Fall. Once everything is done, we will not only have a newer, safer, healthier shelter for women and children, but will also be able to keep many families together during their shelter stay; a real blessing and an urgent need. We are still in need of donations and pledges to finish the Re-Modeling Families Capital Campaign that will pay for this crucial project without any long term debt. Please pray about what you might be able to contribute.

We have also had Graduations from our Men's New Life program, ladies (like Ann, whose story is in this issue of Harbor Light) making real progress in transforming their lives, kids being blessed by a week at camp, volunteers serving in dozens of areas...so many great things happening, all because our Lord is faithful and we are faithfully doing our part!

Your prayers, financial support and other donations....YOUR faithfulness.....is what makes the vital ministry of MRM possible. When you are faithful in your support, we can continue to faithfully work and serve every person who comes to our doors, sharing the love of God and the Good News of Jesus.

Thank you for being our faithful friends! You are a true blessing. You have my promise that we will strive to continue being faithful as well in using donations wisely, clinging to the Gospel message, loving those who our society casts aside and being a place of safety, shelter and rescue for all of the precious souls the Lord sends our way.

I hope you are having a great summer. As you read the many great updates in this Harbor Light, please keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,

Kevin M. Newton  
Executive Director

*"Your love, O Lord,  
is higher than the  
heavens, your  
faithfulness reaches  
to the clouds."*

— Psalm 36:5

## There's no place like **home.**

*"If it wasn't for the mission welcoming me with open arms, time and time again, I don't know where I would have ended up."*

— Ann

For many years, Ann has found herself in and out of shelters. She remembers a time when life seemed to be heading in a positive direction and things seemed to be happening for her good. She was able to secure a house of her own, live independently with her children, and even had an opportunity that took her to Florida for 9 years. Life was good...or so she thought.

In 2010, after a series of events took a toll on her life, Ann felt called to return to Michigan and moved in with daughter. So she packed up her life in Florida and returned. It wasn't long after that when Ann was able to get an apartment on her own and return to independent living.

However, Ann never really felt settled. She constantly had a yearning to be a part of the city, a big city. So once again, Ann found herself moving to New York City. Bright lights, fast paced living... she was sure that this was where she was supposed to be and that the right doors had finally opened.

For three years she was living her dream.

But being away from her children was constant challenge for Ann. When she found out that her daughter was dealing with some relationship issues, Ann made the decision to leave the big city and return to Muskegon to help her daughter through this difficult time in her life.

After life returned to normal for Ann and her family, it didn't take long before she, once again, found herself desiring to be a part of the big city. This time, Chicago. With no place to stay or a job in line, Ann took up residence in a shelter for two months to pursue her city desires. Ann noticed that her attitude was not great and that the big city was leaving her void and empty. "I just knew that God was calling me back home...here, Muskegon" said Ann.

So just like the other times before, she moved back in with her daughter. A place that quickly became a negative situation for the entire family. "I just knew that we had to leave and I couldn't leave my

daughter in the situation either" said Ann. That's when they both came to Muskegon Rescue Mission. A familiar place, as Ann knew from being here when her children were small. "I knew we would be safe and welcomed here" Ann said.

After one month, Ann watched her daughter transition out of the mission into a place of her own. But Ann chose to stay. "I could have left here a long time ago" she says, "but the chapel speakers and the services that are offered kept me here." God was working in Ann's life and she was willing to let it happen.

"God needed me to be still... be patient because he was working his plan...for my good" said Ann. "For so long, I had tried to do things, in every which way on my own... and they weren't working." There was never a fulfillment in her life until she put Christ as her guide. "I listened to so many people and myself that I was drowning out what God was trying to say to me through it all" Ann says. In fact, her own father told her it was a mistake to come here, but she knew God

*Continued on page 5*





# Celebrate Camp 2016

*Donor Gifts Give Summer of Hope*



Thanks to the generous gifts from many of our donors, Muskegon Rescue Mission was able to send over 30 kids to camp at Grace Adventures. The excitement these kids have prior, during, and after their camp experience is gift enough. Not only do these kids get to enjoy a week of fun and being outdoors at camp with many other kids, but they are shown love, compassion, and kindness from the staff at camp.

For many of the kids this is the only opportunity that they will ever have to go to camp. And for some, because of the responsibilities that being at home brings, this is a week for them to truly go and be a kid, placing all worries and concerns aside.

When these kids return from camp, they are changed in so many ways. The seeds that the programs and activities at camp plant are a huge opportunity for hope and faith to grow in their lives. Many of the campers this year also accepted Christ during their week at camp. Praise God!

We cannot thank you enough for partnering with us, and praying for these young lives this summer. The impact that together we were able to make in each of their lives today, will greatly impact their future.



*Continued from page 3*

was calling her here and that's who she followed.

"There are things that will always stand out from my stay here at the mission, structure and stability" say Ann, "I needed that. I wouldn't always admit that, but I needed it. Curfew, wake up, classes, etc." They all prepared her for the next step and phase. Ann admits "I hated it while I was a guest at the mission, but it has structure my life for independent living." Even the money management classes, "I didn't come here for that, but it truly has helped me" she states.

Ann never liked going to chapel, "in fact it was probably safe to say that I hated it, but the message always seemed to be directed to me" Ann explained. "God was speaking to me, working on my heart and mind. I always felt like they were speaking straight to me."

There was one chapel speaker that had a major impact on me, Pastor Randall. I remember his message one day saying "there are never mistakes in life...our choices are learning steps, they all happen for a reason and have purpose." Ann left that chapel session forever changed.

Pastor Randall shared an illustration that day that Ann uses as a constant reminder that God is in control and that he has a plan always. Pastor Randall explained our lives as a "weaving project." When you look at life from the top side, you see a beautiful, lovely picture. But when you flip the tapestry over...you see strings, snarls, and a tangled mess. And that's the side that we tend to see and focus on, the mess. But when we begin to see life how God intends for us to see it, we see a beautiful picture in the end.

"If it wasn't for the mission welcoming me with open arms, time and time again, I don't know where I would have ended up" says Ann. "The services and programs here helped me to see that I need to live for Him (Jesus Christ) and not my crazy desires." Ann explained. My life verse is now "Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Ann says "My mind and my desires were calling me to big cities, but God was working in my heart and calling me home...both to family and to Him!" Ann is now living independently in an apartment of her own, has a job, and enjoys spending time with her family.





*Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of those remembered below. These gifts are a special legacy offering hope to those in need.*

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*(gifts received 3/4 - 7/25)*

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**WALK, 5K & 10K RUN**  
**Oct. 8th**  
Heritage Landing - Muskegon  
Register at:  
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*Fall Dinner*  
Please be our guest at our annual fall dinner  
**September 24, 2016**  
**Olivet Evangelical Free Church**  
6790 Harvey Street  
(just south of Pontaluna)  
**Doors open at 5:45 pm, Punch 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm**

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Now through September 24th!



Purchase the card shown in the picture for \$10 at the Meijer Store located at 5300 S. Harvey Street and Meijer will convert the donation card into a Meijer Food-Only Gift Card and donate it directly to Muskegon Rescue Mission!

**September 1-3 is DOUBLE MATCH WEEKEND**, Meijer will double match any food card purchased during those 2 days. Buy a gift card for \$10 and Meijer gives us \$20 for a total of \$30 to the mission!



When you send your memorial or "in honor of" gift to Muskegon Rescue Mission, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt and a card will be mailed promptly to the bereaved family or the friend being honored, telling them of your gift. Please mail your memorial and "in honor of" gifts to:

Muskegon Rescue Mission  
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# New Life Begins

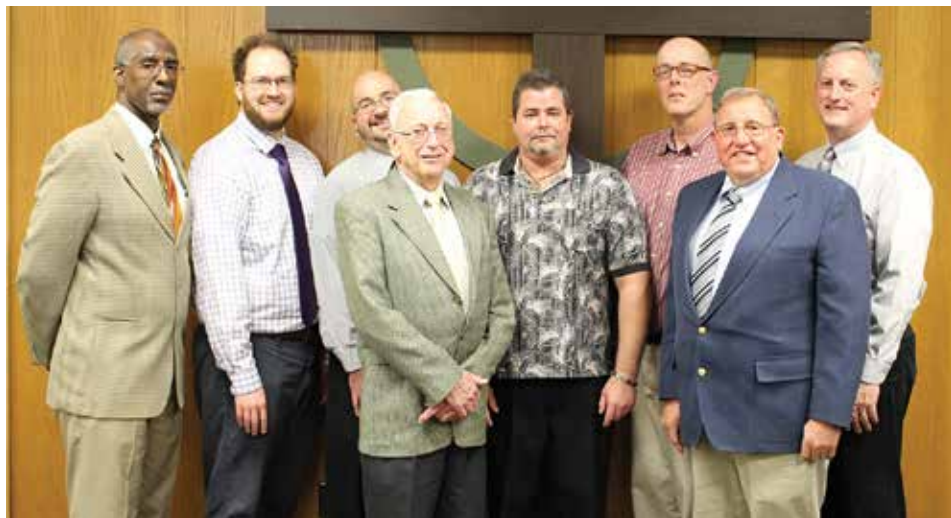
## Graduation Day for Men from the New Life Program

In the April issue of Harbor Light, you met Mike. He had come to Muskegon Rescue Mission after a series of unfortunate events took place in his life. Mike knew he needed help, guidance and direction and he knew he couldn't do it on his own.

Two other men, Scott and Will found themselves in similar, yet, different situations. Shortly after arriving these men entered our New Life Program. Our New Life Program focuses on rebuilding lives with a solid biblical foundation, offering life-long solutions. All aspects of a program participants lives are addressed - physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and social. They participate in Bible study and money management classes



Brian Plumhoff, New Life Program Director and Will, New Life Program Graduate



Barry Pierce, Case Manager, Michael Boersma, New Life Program Supervisor, Brian Plumhoff, New Life Program Director, Pastor Bill Randall, Chaplin, Mike and Scott, New Life Program Graduates, Joe Galy, Director of Men's Ministries, Kevin Newton, Executive Director

and receive spiritual and life skill counseling. Job training, as well as, job search assistance is provided. Everyone also actively attends a church in the community.

We are happy to announce that within the last few months, all three men have graduated from the program. A graduation ceremony was held and the men had an opportunity to celebrate with family, friends, and staff.

"It's a very exciting and emotional time," says Brian Plumhoff, New Life Program Manager. "To know and see where these men have come from, and to see the difference that Christ has made in their lives - to see the old desires gone - and life being lived for Him (Christ) is a very powerful testimony."

At their graduation ceremony, the men have a chance to share their testimonies. This is a public declaration in front of family and

friends, as the men acknowledge how far they have come and the fact that they could not have done it on their own, but through the power of Christ within them.

Now that the three men have successfully completed the New Life Program, they will transition into our After-Care Program where we will continue to mentor them as they transition to independent living. All three men have jobs working in the community, and are plugged in and growing with church communities.

Praise God for the work done in the lives of these men. The stories of these men are beautiful examples of the lasting change that is made possible through the help of faithful friends like you. These men have expressed their gratitude for the generous gifts that donors provide to help make programs and this ministry possible!



Muskegon Rescue Mission

### Muskegon Rescue Mission

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[www.muskegonmission.org](http://www.muskegonmission.org)

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