

HARBOR LIGHT

Muskegon Rescue Mission



APRIL 2018



"WHATEVER
YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT, OR
THINKING ABOUT
GIVE IT TO GOD."

- JOHN >>

a publication of



MRM

Muskegon Rescue Mission

HOW TO CHANGE A LIFE

With the start of summer comes change, more sunshine, warmer weather, and family time. Change is on our minds at the Mission, the Women's and Family Shelter is completed and we are now serving families. The New Life Program at the Men's Mission is growing and evolving as more men choose to follow Christ.



For many of us summer is full of excitement, warm weather, kids are home, family vacations, beach days, camping, and picnics, however the families we serve, summer brings new struggles.

With school out for the summer parents struggle to provide three meals a day for their children, and find child care while they are working. Men and woman struggle with anxiety from the pressure of their lives; a place to call home, food to eat, peace, security, and safety, for their children.

Your donations make it possible to share Christ love in many ways, a safe place to sleep, nutritious food, case management, and sharing the life changing message of the Gospel.

Please join us in praying and asking the Lord to lead us as we continue to minister to those in crisis. Would you prayerfully consider a financial gift to help the guests that stay with us? We want to share with them the hope of the Gospel giving them assurance to help change their lives. Thank you for remembering homeless men, women, and families.

Blessings,

Dan Skoglund, Executive Director



FINDING STRENGTH

Doris came to Muskegon on a greyhound bus from Arkansas, looking for a place to start over. "I was being evicted, I could not afford rent, and I knew Muskegon Rescue Mission was a place that could give me a second chance," said Doris Winburn.

She knew she could not make it work anymore with the lack of public transportation, high cost of living, and a recent job loss in Arkansas.

"I knew if I came to the mission, that I would get a roof over my head, stability, counseling, and guidance. That is why I came to Muskegon Rescue Mission."

Since Doris came to the mission she has enrolled in the life skills classes that are offered every morning. She is learning how and where to apply for jobs, and different housing options in the Muskegon Area. But one lesson in particular really stuck out to Doris.



"They started talking about our issues, and things we have kept buried for a long time. That is what is holding us back. It clicked that is why I can work for three years and fall back into bad habits."

For the first time in a long time Doris started putting all the pieces together that she needs the Gospel and God's grace. She realized she needed to forgive herself, and know that she is strong through Christ.

Doris is now actively involved in a church where she likes to serve in Sunday school. Doris is now working full time. Doris would not have been able to receive the help she needed without donors like you. Thank you for helping men and woman like Doris find their strength through Christ.

FEAR TO FREEDOM

"I AM NOT EQUIPPED TO DO STUFF ON MY OWN. I AM HOPELESS, POWERLESS, AND WORTHLESS WITHOUT GOD. I NEED GOD CONSTANTLY IN MY LIFE." – JOHN JONES

John's words are evidence of his growth and faith he has gained since joining the New Life Program at Muskegon Rescue Mission.

GOOD INTENTIONS

John Jones felt like he had everything, job, family, friends, home, and a church. Trying to help a friend John allowed a co-worker to move into his home. A few months later his friend left and stole everything John owned. To add

to the stress of losing his possessions John's mother passed away. "I started to become depressed, losing sleep, which made me sick, miss work, and I got fired." John wasn't able to pay rent. He was living on the streets, homeless.



FINDING THE MISSION

A friend recommended to John that he go to Muskegon Rescue Mission. "I was extremely resistant, I knew I had to be here, I had no other choice," said John. John was aware of the New Life Program but out of stubbornness refused to apply for the Program. "People were telling me that it is not much of a life to live on the shelter side. I knew inside God was calling me back to him." He started attending the chapel services, and realized he had to push his stubbornness aside and apply for the New Life program.

NEW LIFE PROGRAM

"Once I got into the program it was the Bible studies and devotionals that basically told me God was there for me. I was given new tools that I never knew I had. That when you struggle you give it to God, and whatever your thinking, saying, and doing, whatever your worried about, or thinking about whatever is on your mind give it to God," said John with Confidence. Through the new life program John is overcoming his anxieties by receiving job training, counseling, money management, and bible lessons. His favorite Bible verse that has helped him overcome his fears is 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." "God is talking to me, through all the messages, bible studies, and devotions given at Muskegon Mission. It has truly changed my life."

John is currently attending Central Assembly. Every Saturday night he works with the pastor to arrange for a ride so he does not miss a church service. "The only way I can truly explain it, is that God was meeting me in my low place. Just like Psalm 34:4 God met me more than halfway, he freed me from my anxious fears."

Please continue to pray for John as he continues to work through the New Life Program. That God will continue working in his heart, and that he will overcome his fears and depression.





SPONSOR A CAMPER

A week at summer camp is a special week for any child, but for the boys and girls at Muskegon Rescue Mission, it's a wonderfully shocking experience.

For most of these children it is their first time away from home, camping in the woods, and being surrounded by Gods creation. For others it is their favorite week in the summer where they can act like a kid instead of having responsibilities, and worries at home. When you send a child from the Mission to camp, they get to experience summer in a whole new way.



This June and July we will be sending 34 children to Grace Adventures.

For only \$275 you can change the life of a child, and provide a unique experience. Your gift provides more than one week of camp, transportation to and from Grace Adventures, a new Bible, and other essential camp supplies. Your gift also includes back to school supplies, a Fall Harvest Party, and a weekend Winter Camp/Retreat.

The importance of a yearlong investment in these children is truly priceless and will impact their lives forever. Your gift will help ensure a life-changing experience of camp this summer. Please consider this summer sponsoring a child to go to camp. For more information contact Tricia Groeneveld at tgroeneveld@muskegonmission.org or call 231.727.6090.



4TH ANNUAL FORESHORE RUN

On Saturday, May 19 runners will take on over 20 obstacles on a wet and sandy 5k course. Participants will be able to enter as teams or individuals and register for the competitive flight or fun run.



The 2018 ForeShore Adventure run will feature more climbing, tougher water obstacles, and tons of fun. By purchasing one ForeShore Adventure run ticket you provide 20 meals to Muskegon Rescue Mission Shelters and Food Pantry. Sign up today at foreshore.org.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Have you ever heard an adoption story and felt your heart swell? Maybe it was because adoption tugs at our human desire for belonging or to see families experience wholeness. Either way, building a family is powerful.

Did you know there's another form of "adoption" that can bring meaning and depth to your family? It's called "Child Named Charity" and it's literally inviting a ministry to become one of your heirs. Many people have found adding Muskegon Rescue Mission as another "child" in their Will has enriched their life with purpose, knowing their legacy will impact lives for generations to come.

James 1:27 states true, pure religion includes looking after orphans, so we know adoption (in any form) is close to the heart of God. As Max Lucado said, "If anybody understands God's ardor for His children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us..." Your legacy - and end-of- life plans - can ensure others will experience love, belonging and wholeness.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "How Your Family Can Impact the World" by contacting Dan Skoglund at (231)727-6090 or dskoglund@muskegonmission.org -or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/mrm

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