

# HARBOR LIGHT

Muskegon Rescue Mission



NOVEMBER 2018

"I KNEW I WAS  
SEARCHING FOR  
SOMETHING, BUT  
COULD NOT FIGURE  
OUT WHAT IT WAS."

— JAMMIE >>

a publication of



**MRM**

Muskegon Rescue Mission



# MANY REASONS TO BE THANKFUL



*Dan Skoglund  
Executive Director*

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:16-17

The holidays are an exciting time of year. There are wonderful gatherings, special meals, times of worship and thanksgiving for all God has done for us. As I prepare for the busy holidays, I am personally thankful for my family, our health and my children seeking God

first in all they do. I am also thankful for YOU, the donors who give generously throughout the year.

At Muskegon Rescue Mission, we have a lot to praise God for: faithful volunteers like Joel who was always willing to serve (you can read his story on page 4), generous donors who continuously give, and the support of chapel speakers and mentors from local churches who help us share the Gospel message.

We are also thankful to celebrate new life with guests who stayed with us. Guests like Stephanie, who stayed with us a year ago and recently bought her own house (Stephanie’s full story is on page 6). We are also celebrating with Jammie, who entered the New Life Program as an addict and is now clean, firm in his faith and getting ready to graduate the program.

As we reflect on the blessings in our lives and the lives at the mission, we want to thank you for supporting our ministry. We could not provide meals and programs for our guests without you. As you begin to think about year-end giving, please include Muskegon Rescue Mission for a year-end gift. Year-end gifts are especially important and have year-round impact as we serve every person who comes to our doors. We give life-sustaining shelter, food, clothing and care, but most importantly, we share the life-changing truth of the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider what you can give.

Many blessings this holiday season,



## SOCIAL MEDIA

We are now on Instagram! Follow us **@muskegon\_rescue\_mission** and share your photos with us using **#muskegonrescuemission**

Please follow **Muskegon Rescue Mission** on Facebook. Please like, comment or share any of our posts.



# HL

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

### Muskegon Rescue Mission

1715 Peck Street  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
(231) 727-6090  
FAX (231) 722-7030  
[www.muskegonmission.org](http://www.muskegonmission.org)



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Enhancing Trust



# DYING AND FINDING NEW LIFE

Jammie seemed to have everything: a good job, a healthy beautiful daughter and a home. While working for an asphalt company, he tore his left rotator cuff and that is when his life started to spiral. Due to his injury, Jammie lost his job, his health insurance, and his prescription for pain medication. In desperation to end the pain, he started buying Vicodin off the streets.

“Here I am 34 years old, my daughter’s mom and I broke up, I had no job, no health insurance and to make matters worse, my mom, grandpa and my uncle all passed away within the year. I never felt more alone,” said Jammie.

Feeling alone, lost, and hopeless a “friend” introduced him to heroin. With his world falling apart, Jammie felt there was no other option. Jammie knew he was addicted to heroin the first time he tried it. “I felt no pain for over 9 hours and I did not want it to catch up to me,” said Jammie.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

Jammie knew that Muskegon Rescue Mission was a shelter and a safe place to rest. For the next 6 years, Jammie came to the mission for a hot meal, a shower, someone to talk to and a

place to sleep for a short while. “I knew I was searching for something, but could not figure out what it was,” said Jammie.

After overdosing on heroin three times in one month and a near death experience, Jammie was ready to change his life, not just for himself, but for his daughter as well. “Even though I had been coming to Muskegon Rescue Mission for 6 years, this time I knew it was different. I was ready for change.” said Jammie. He talked to Kenny, one of the New Life Managers, and decided to join the New Life Program.



Seven months later, Jammie is clean and working towards getting a place of his own. He is currently active in a local church and is able to have supervised visits with his daughter. “I still have a ways to go, but I am thankful for Muskegon Rescue Mission. This place has been a big blessing in my life,” said Jammie.

Thanks to donors like you, Muskegon Rescue Mission is able to provide constant and steady support for any person in our community who needs urgent care or is ready to start a new life.

# IN MEMORY

**OF JOEL JEROME NELSON, 1951-2018**

In 2006, Joel Nelson lost his job and his marriage of 28 years. With the stress of finances and the weight of a broken relationship, Joel turned to alcohol. After carrying life's burdens for over a year, Joel decided to come to Muskegon Rescue Mission for help.

While staying at MRM, Joel received help to address his struggles with alcoholism and



to determine his next step towards a new life. He assumed many responsibilities around the shelter like washing and folding laundry, repairing bicycles and supporting other residents. He spent a lot of time encouraging other

guests during their difficult times. While helping other people, Joel discovered his true passion: ministering to people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In April of 2008, Joel graduated from the New Life program. Joel said he left the program with, "security in myself and the ability to separate myself from the world, yet be a part of it." Joel's seven children and many grandchildren are proud he made the decision to get help and to use his life to serve others through ministry. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

After graduating, Joel continued to share his gifts with MRM as a volunteer. He served in the food pantry, kitchen, and at the front desk of the men's shelter. He was always willing to fill in when needed and he was a wonderful addition to the MRM team.

Kurt Van Noord, Director of Men's Ministries, said, "I loved Joel's smile, laughter and servant attitude. He loved the mission and was such a blessing to have at the front desk. He always had your back." Joel served a total of 1,773 hours at MRM!

Joel Nelson, 67, made his transition into the loving arms of our Heavenly Father on October 20, 2018. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.



## FALL DINNER RECAP

**W**ith over 300 people in attendance, Fall Dinner was a success. Not only was there delicious food, delectable desserts and great company, but powerful testimonies were shared.

This year we heard from John Jones, who is in the New Life Program; Darrin Longmire, who stayed at the mission over 15 years ago; and Kay Thompson, who has been at the Women's and Family Shelter for the past month. John shared how he came to the mission about a year ago, facing depression after a death in the family, loss of his job and everything he owned. John is currently active in a local church, working on money management and is preparing for his upcoming graduation from the New Life Program. After graduation, John has plans to find a place of his own and a possible vehicle for transportation.

Kay Thompson shared that many of her family members and closest friends passed away in a short amount of time and is why she came to the Women's and Family Shelter. Trying to recover from the physical and emotional loss, Kay had to leave her job and soon after, she lost her house. Kay started staying with friends, but knew it was a toxic lifestyle, so she decided to come to Muskegon Rescue Mission for help. Kay is currently taking money management classes, Bible classes and working in our thrift stores.

The last testimony of the night was shared by Darrin Longmire. He came to the mission over 15 years ago, struggling with drug addiction. He talked about the loving staff and the chapel messages that challenged him in his faith. Darrin said, "Muskegon Rescue Mission was a beacon of light in my darkest times." Darrin is now a pastor at Forest Park Covenant Church, works for Teen Challenge, volunteers for prison ministry and is currently starting a marriage ministry with his wife.

Because of faithful donors like you, Muskegon Rescue can be a beacon of light in our guests' toughest times. Thank you for joining us for Fall Dinner and continuing to support Muskegon Rescue Mission.



# FINDING NEW HOPE

**"I WAS VERY LOST AND BROKEN. SATAN'S LIES HAD RESTED IN MY HEAD AND I COULD NOT GET THEM OUT."**

**K**atrina is an Illinois native. From a young age, she developed a strong personality and determination. She was not intimidated by her work duties or a good challenge. She had a federal contract stating she was the head of security for a building protecting 200 employees and 6 federal judges.

Katrina's faith was truly tested when Lebron, her son, was born pre-mature and had to live in the Children's Hospital for a few months. "My life started spiraling. I was living in the hospital with my son, trying to work full time, take care of my other three children and I was not getting along with their father," said Katrina. With the stress of everything going on, Katrina had a crippling mental breakdown that led to the loss of her job and her home. After losing everything she turned to her church for help.



"I was lost mentally and spiritually. I was truly lost," said Katrina, "I was so depressed I could not talk and I could not think."

Katrina stayed at Restoration Foundation in Chicago with her young son Lebron. During her stay, she was able to find mental rest, physical tranquility, and the peace that only God can give. After regaining her strength, she knew she needed a change that would be good for her, Lebron, and her oldest son. Her other two adult children decided to stay in Chicago.

While visiting a church in Muskegon, she came across Muskegon Rescue Mission and knew she had found a safe place to stay. Since Katrina decided to stay at MRM, she has taken Bible classes, parenting classes, and money management classes. She also has had the opportunity to work in our thrift stores to build her resumé. Currently, Katrina and her son Lebron are staying at MRM as she works on finding a job and her own place. "I am so thankful to be in Michigan and to start over. This place is beautiful and I can't wait to see where God is going to lead me," said Katrina.



Katrina is thankful for the lessons she has learned at the mission, and for the support of faithful supporters like you who made her time here possible. Thank you for your continued generosity.



## 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 order 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 contracting Dan Skoglund at (231) 727-6090 or [mboughner@muskegonmission.org](mailto:mboughner@muskegonmission.org) – or bless your family today with a God honoring Will at [www.christianWill.org/mrm](http://www.christianWill.org/mrm)



## A LIFE CHANGED

Stephanie walked into Muskegon Rescue Mission broken, discouraged and hopeless from trying to find a safe place for her and her four year old son, JJ, to sleep. She knew she had to change her destructive lifestyle for herself and her son.



Stephanie followed the advice provided by our caring case manager. She applied for multiple jobs daily, attended life management classes and engaged in spiritual growth. While Stephanie focused on working towards a new life, her son would visit the Light House room. JJ was able to do things such as paint and color, play outside on the playset, learn new bible stories and go on field trips to John Ball Park Zoo and Ryke's Bakery.

We are excited to share with you that Stephanie and JJ are doing great. Stephanie got married this past spring and the new family was able to move into their own house. "I never would have thought that JJ would be able to have his own room," said Stephanie.

Stephanie and her husband are both working full time and JJ is in kindergarten this year. The young family is active at a local church in town that is helping them grown in their faith and create lasting friendships. Thanks to donors like you, MRM is able to help women like Stephanie get the care they need to change their family's lives. "Muskegon Rescue Mission was there for me at my lowest point, but God's grace saved me and I am a new person," said Stephanie, "I cannot wait to see what our future looks like."

## COLD WEATHER AHEAD

For many in our community, including some of the guests in our shelter, winter brings on stress: the stress of surviving dark, cold, lonely nights, the stress of finding a warm place to sleep and providing a hot meal for their children, the stress of being able to afford a winter coat, boots, hat and gloves. Winter can even bring the constant stress of wondering "will I be able to survive this year?"

With harsh winter months coming, Muskegon Rescue Mission needs your help. Please consider donating one or more of the items listed below. With your help, we can care for everyone who knocks on the shelter door. Together, we can help those in need in a season of cold uncertainty.

### Please Consider Donating:

- Winter Coats - Large Sizes 1x, 2x
- Winter Boots - Large Adult Sizes
- Children's Coats
- Pajamas

If you would like to give a financial gift please visit [www.muskegonmission.org](http://www.muskegonmission.org)

