

RECEIVING THE ARMOR OF GOD

William was raised in a Christian home by loving parents. He grew up learning the Bible and the difference between right and wrong. However, during his young adulthood, life on the streets seemed more enticing than the life he was living. William met the love of his life and got married at a young age. Unfortunately, it was short lived and they eventually got divorced. During the separation, William had an affair, which resulted in a child.

"I was so excited to be a dad, I never thought I would have kids, so for me it was exciting news," said William.

At that point in William's life he was on and off the streets, buying and selling drugs. Together with his girlfriend, the mother of his son, they dove into a life of drug addiction and parties. William heard through friends that his son, also named William, was being left at other people's houses by his mother. For the first time, William knew he had to change and protect his son.

"I went to court for partial custody, but I walked out of the court room with full custody. His mom did not even show up. Now, I was fully responsible



for a 4 month old baby. I did not know how I would do this on my own. I knew other people had their doubts too. My son became my priority and my best friend. I made sure he always had what he needed. I remodeled our home,

enrolled him in school, karate and supported his love of football," said William.

Even though William was taking care of his son he was still involved with the wrong crowd. After years of buying and selling drugs it all caught up to him. One day someone broke into their home while his son was home. The altercations with that person sent William to prison.



"While in prison, I knew I had to change. I just didn't know where to start. I started reading my Bible again and something overwhelming happened to me. When I was released from prison I had two choices, go back home, start over with my son who was living with my ex-wife at the time, or go to the men's mission. I knew Muskegon Rescue Mission had programs to help people get back on their feet. I also knew I had to cut negative people out of my life as well," said William.

William immediately started thriving at the mission. He took financial classes, health classes and bible classes. He and his son became involved at a local church and joined the Men's Ministry where they are growing in their personal relationship with Christ. William now has a full time job to support his family and a place of his own. William also had the opportunity to share the love of Christ with some of guys on the streets. They noticed a true change in him. Through those conversations other hearts and lives have been saved by the power of Jesus Christ. The impact continues.

"I read Ephesians 6:10-20 every morning because every day that I wake up I have to put on the armor of God. I am standing strong on God's word and He is doing a beautiful work in my life right now. The mission was a tremendous step in my life. It helped me and my son create a new future," said William.

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— WILLIAM



For many in our community, including many 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 or mail your donation to 1715 Peck St. Muskegon, MI 49441.



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Your Donations Count
Muskegon Rescue Mission is a 501 (c)(3). **86% of all gifts are put back into life-changing programs.**



HARBOR LIGHT

Muskegon Rescue Mission

"I KNEW MRM HAD PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE GET BACK ON THEIR FEET."

— WILLIAM

a publication of



PREPARING FOR A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING



Dan Skoglund
Executive Director

The holiday season is here. Filled with family gatherings, dinners with friends, church events, community service opportunities, Christmas shopping, and running from place to place. At Muskegon Rescue Mission it is no different, we are preparing for our Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Thanksgiving Basket Give-away, Community Christmas Luncheon, and Toy Give-away. All the events, gatherings and shopping are good things, but amongst all the noise of the holidays we often forget to take the time to slow down.

Psalm 51:10-12 says, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

During our moments of rest we pray for the guests who are coming to us broken, alone and weary. We pray they may find the rest and which can only be found in Jesus Christ. We pray for our caring staff and devoted volunteers who need renewed strength and health during the busyness of the holidays. We also pray you, our generous and faithful donor. May you have a joyous holiday season with your loved ones.

Will you take the time to pray with us? Will you prayerfully consider a year-end gift to MRM, maybe even the largest year-end gift you have ever given? For 112 years, MRM has been the "last resort" for the hungry, hurting and homeless in our community. The needs are greater than ever and we must continue to be ready to serve each precious person who comes to our doors.

Year-end gifts are especially important and have year-round impact as we faithfully continue to serve the homeless. Much of our annual budget is received in the last few months of the year. Gifts are crucial and help us plan for the entire year. Please pray about what you can do and know that your gift will be received with joy and deep appreciation.

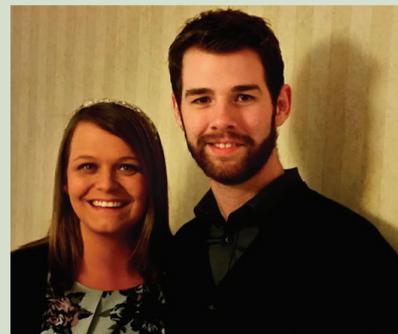
In His name,

Dan Skoglund

P.S. If you are interested in giving a year-end gift or donating to Muskegon Rescue Mission please visit muskegonmission.org or mail your donation to 1715 Peck St. Muskegon, MI 49441.

WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR

David Mann is the new Director of Store Operations. David has spent nearly ten years working for different non-profits around West Michigan. Most recently, he worked at Holland Rescue Mission as the Director of Retail Operations developing and building the Gateway Center. He will be managing the business operations for the mission, which creates a source of revenue directly supporting mission programs. David has a Ministry Degree and desires for the stores to be an extension of our mission of sharing God's word and love with the community.



David and Jennie Mann

300 ATTEND FALL DINNER, HEAR POWERFUL TESTIMONIES

With 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 Felicia Harmon a young woman who stayed at the Women's Shelter



when she was a young girl. She shared the memories she had while living in the shelter with her mom and how it inspired her to lead a different life. Felicia was able to focus all her energy into her faith and school. Now, she is

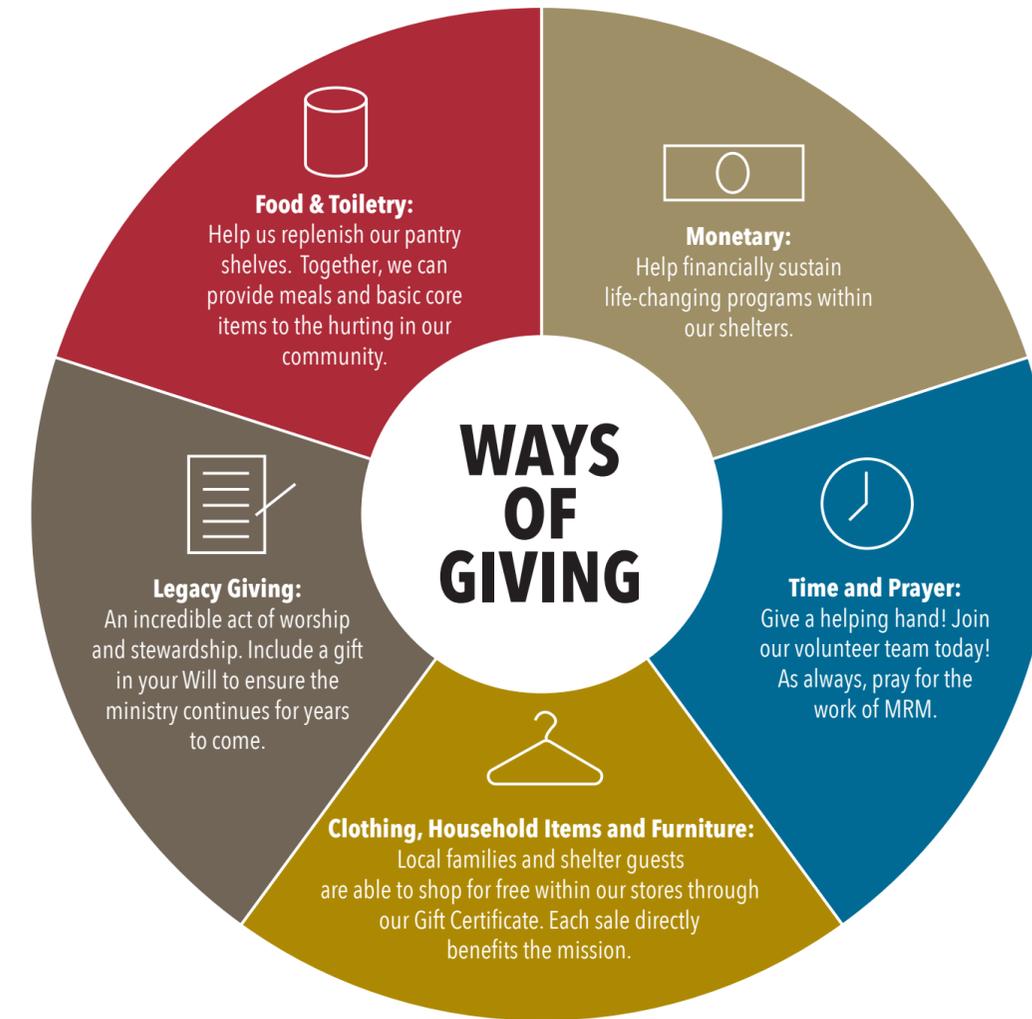
a Michigan State University graduate and is currently applying for medical school.

We also heard the story of William Clark who made a living on the streets by buying and selling drugs. After being incarcerated he knew he had to change his life. William understood true life-change required separation from toxic relationships. Together with his son they found hope at MRM.



While at the mission, William accepted Christ and joined a local church with his son. "My life is forever changed because of God's saving power. I do not need to go back to the streets, I can walk confidently in my identity in Christ," said William.

Thanks to faithful donors like you, Muskegon Rescue Mission can be a place of refuge for those looking for life change. Thank you for joining us for Fall Dinner and for continuing to support the work of Muskegon Rescue Mission.



PANTRY NEEDS

Would you consider donating to our food pantry to help feed men, women and children over the holidays? Below is a list of our top 10 needed items for pantry.

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| 1. Cereal (all sizes) | 6. Canned Fruit |
| 2. Jelly (all sizes) | 7. Canned Pasta |
| 3. Peanut Butter | 8. Box Dinners |
| 4. Spaghetti | 9. Soup |
| 5. Spaghetti Sauce | 10. Canned Meats |