

HARBOR LIGHT

MUSKEGON RESCUE MISSION TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Thankful for you!



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Gratitude p. 3-4

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THANKSGIVING
2024



MUSKEGON
RESCUE MISSION

Harbor Light is a publication of Muskegon Rescue Mission and is produced tri-annually.

Mission Statement

We exist to demonstrate and proclaim God's love to the less fortunate and homeless people of West Michigan.

Muskegon Rescue Mission

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Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation

Filling Hearts for the Holiday

Thanksgiving is coming! It's a joyful time, kicking off the holiday season that brings our year to a close.

At Muskegon Rescue Mission, everyone receives a warm welcome and a place at the table. We go all out to make the holiday meal festive with plenty for all.

It's a great time. It's also a time to care for those carrying heavy burdens, too much to bear alone. They need friendship, care and someone who knows their name and can guide them to health, safety and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They need rest and hope.

Thankfully, we are not alone. God is with us, and you are with us, working together.



God takes the little we have and multiplies it. The love goes further. The energy goes further and the dollars go further.

Our Father always provides to get the job done with our limited resources. He answers every prayer, understands what every person needs and provides the means to lift them up.

Without God at work here, this would be a hopeless, miserable place. Our staff would be exhausted. The guests would be disappointed. We would be broke and the doors would close.

But instead, there is a modern-day miracle happening here. You give – and God fills the plates, provides heat and hot water and gets the bills paid. He brings people who teach, counsel and encourage. They do what they can and God makes it work. It's like the boy giving his few fish to Jesus and He feeds a multitude.

Thank you for your partnership in this heavenly work, filling plates with food and hearts with hope.

Serving Together,



Dan Skoglund
Executive Director

Give Online

Scan the code with your smartphone camera to get a direct link to our donation page.



"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8, ESV



WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

As Thanksgiving draws near, it's good to look at the blessings God gives. Here are some friends at Muskegon Rescue Mission who would like to share their blessings with you.



"I am so thankful for Muskegon Rescue Mission! Without them, I do not know where I would be right now. I used to be addicted to pills, but now I am eight years clean. The staff here is always positive and gives me encouraging words. Even when I feel broken inside, the staff helps me work through it all and get stable. God is awesome! I know He has big plans for me!"



"I am grateful for Muskegon Rescue Mission. Without this place, I would be living on the streets. When I first came here, I had nowhere to live or family to support me. Now, I have a good job, and I am able to save money for my own place. The structure here helps me stay on track and strengthens my faith in God. I am ready for a new life!"



"The Mission is helping me save my money while I wait to get my surgery. I am given a safe place to eat, sleep and pray until I can afford my own place. I am thankful for this opportunity, and I am thankful for the Father and everything He has done for me. I look forward to seeing what God has planned for my life!"

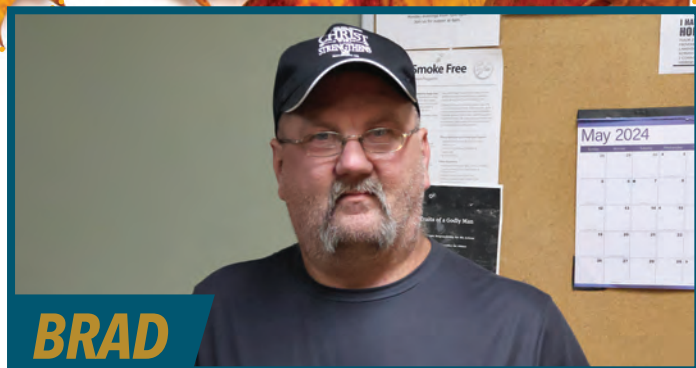


"I am thankful for being sober after a 20+ year run on heroin, cocaine and meth. Today, I am alive because of the grace of God and the people who took the time to help a person so lost in life. I am thankful for the Man of Integrity program, the directors and all those who took the time to help me see I am more than the drugs. I am so thankful to God, who has been there the whole time."



JEFF

"I am so very thankful for God's faithfulness. No matter where you are at, or what else is going on, God is always present and available. Praise God!" Your unfailing love, Oh Lord is as vast as the heavens.
— Psalm 35:5



BRAD

"I am thankful for the staff and teachers at Muskegon Rescue Mission. My eyes are opening up to new things, and I could not ask for better teachers. I am so thankful for the rest of the guys in the Man of Integrity program. They help me grow in my walk with Christ."



CHRISTOPHER

"I am thankful for my daughter and for the Man of Integrity program. I am given a place here to help me find God and get to know Him. I am also thankful to God for sticking by me even when I waver."



DON

"I am thankful for the people here and the positive influence they make in my life and walk with God. The men in leadership roles help me mold my life with Christ with their encouragement and life skills teaching. I am thankful to become a man of integrity!"



KEN

"I am thankful to spread the word of the Bible with my brothers."



BRIAN

"I struggle with memory loss daily. I recently found God and am most thankful for the men and women who run this program and assist us with their love and kindness daily. I thank you all. God bless."

***All of us at Muskegon Rescue Mission are thankful for you!
You demonstrate and proclaim God's love to those in need.***

FROM THE FOSTER SYSTEM TO THE FATHER'S HANDS

FEATURE STORY

You help a wide range of people build a new life at Muskegon Rescue Mission – maybe more than you realize.

Cordell, for instance, is a young, quiet 22-year-old who recently joined our Man of Integrity program. Was he struggling with addiction? No. Did he run away from home? No.

In fact, Cordell never had a place to call home since he was nine years old. At this tender age, he and his baby sister were placed into foster care due to abuse and neglect. His sister was soon adopted, but Cordell remained in the foster system until he turned eighteen.

When asked how many foster homes he was shuffled through, he sadly says, "I lost count after fifty." Cordell's childhood was a constant jumble of homes, families and schools. "Changing schools was tough," he admits. "I was always the new kid and never quite fit in."

While Cordell's future seemed bleak, God had bigger plans for him. Against major odds, Cordell graduated high school. Then, as he turned eighteen, he was emancipated from the foster system. With few options, he once again bounced from one housing program to the next. This spring, Cordell came to Muskegon Rescue Mission and entered the year-long residential Man of Integrity program.

Even though Cordell battles with depression and struggles to stay motivated, he is blossoming in his new environment. He found strength in his newfound faith and the daily structure of the program. "I didn't believe in anything before," he confesses. "But now, I believe in God."

Recently, Cordell decided to be baptized. "I feel like I am spiritually reborn," he says. "I am now opening up to hearing what God is telling me."



Cordell is learning to trust and lean on his heavenly Father. Knowing God loves him unconditionally gives him a sense of belonging, something he never had before. "I am happy knowing I have a loving, caring Father in my life," he says.

Today, Cordell is learning valuable life skills, attending church and reading the Bible as he decides the next steps in his life. This Thanksgiving season, he says he is grateful there are people in our community who care about helping young people like him.

Your faithful support helps save today's vulnerable youth from becoming tomorrow's homeless adults. Thank you!



A MEMORABLE THANKSGIVING FOR THE MUSKEGON COMMUNITY

With more and more guests looking to Muskegon Rescue Mission for a hot Thanksgiving meal, we need to begin preparing now.

Last year, your gifts provided a wonderful meal for men, women and children in need – thank you! We look forward to a holiday season filled with delicious, homemade food and joyful praise to our Lord and Savior.

We will feed the guests staying with us a meal and those in need of providing for their families a Thanksgiving Basket. However, our pantry is low after a busy

summer. With your help, together we can provide a full dinner of turkey, dressing, gravy and all the trimmings, followed by pumpkin pie and coffee to those in need.

The annual two-day Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway offers our neighbors a full Thanksgiving meal to make at home. This year, we hope to prepare 900 baskets to bless the community. If you would like to help, donations are needed and greatly appreciated. Please choose from the items below to help someone in need this Thanksgiving.

Each Thanksgiving basket includes:

- Frozen Turkey
- Boxed Stuffing
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Boxed Brownie or Cake Mix
- Mittens/Gloves
- Hats/Scarves

The baskets will be available for pickup on November 25 & 26 at the Community Resource Center. Please bring donations to 1747 7th Street.

Thank you!



Visit our website to volunteer
muskegonmission.org/volunteer/

