

MARCH 2017

# The Vision

A PUBLICATION OF CITY RESCUE MINISTRIES OF SAGINAW



## Give the Gift of **HOPE**



“The Mission gives you  
**HOPE FOR A FUTURE.**”

When Todd Claxton was asked about what brought him to City Rescue Mission he said, “We live in an ever changing world. I found myself one day without a job and unable to pay my bills.” His job loss resulted in him losing his place with nowhere to go but the streets. One day, while sitting on the Saginaw rail trail, a stranger rode by and stopped to encourage him. The stranger was having his own life challenges and he confessed to Todd that he secretly drank beer so that he could “escape from his stress.” The man’s pity party was quickly interrupted when Todd mentioned that he was homeless and had nowhere to go. The stranger began to cry, realizing his stress could not compare to Todd’s misfortune. In spite of what Todd was up against, he prayed for the gentleman. When the prayer was over, the stranger told Todd about City Rescue Mission and that he could find shelter there.

For a while, Todd rejected the idea of going to a homeless shelter, but with nowhere else to go; he finally gave in and admits it was the best thing for him to do. Having grown up in church as a young boy and attending Christian schools, Todd knew that God would lead him back to stability.

When he arrived at the Mission he was like most individuals who check in to emergency shelter. He

was lonely, depressed and really didn’t care about life anymore. “First, I had to humble myself and accept what I had to do to get back on my feet.”

Todd was grateful that the Mission had everything he needed; food, clothing, chapel services and classes. “The Mission gives you HOPE for a future.” Todd shared that the classes the Mission offers; like basic computer skills, the Life Skills and the Job Skills combined, give you the foundation for a new start in life that gives you the confidence to start feeling better about yourself. Todd feels his new lease on life gives him purpose.

It’s a blessing to share that Todd is employed full time as a property manager and in addition has started his own small business. He credits God, the stranger and City Rescue Mission for offering him the gift of HOPE.



# DIRECTOR'S DESK



One of the great hymn writers of our faith was Fanny Crosby. Not only did she write numerous hymns that we still sing today, like “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It,” “To God Be the Glory” and “Blessed Assurance,” but she also lived her hymns and she was a great friend of Rescue Missions in the mid-1800’s.

In August 1869, Fanny was in the trenches doing God’s work by ministering and singing at the Bowery Mission in New York City. After the service, a young man came forward because he knew that in his current condition and because of his past mistakes he would never have the chance to amount to anything. Fanny lovingly shared how Jesus died and provided a way for even him. Before he left her presence that night he accepted Christ as Savior.

Fanny was so moved from this experience that she immediately went home and penned the words to one of the greatest Mission hymns of all time, “Rescue the Perishing.” Please take a moment to meditate on the message in these verses:

*Rescue the perishing care for the dying  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave  
Weep o’er the erring one, lift up the fallen  
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save*

*Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness  
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more*

*Rescue the perishing, duty demands it  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide  
Back to the narrow way, Patiently win them  
Tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died*

As was the case almost 150 years ago, still today people are wandering needing hope and direction.

Thirty-four years after Fanny penned that hymn; she was speaking to a group at the YMCA in Lynn, Massachusetts and gave her recount of why she wrote “Rescue the Perishing.” After her speech, a man came forth and shared with Fanny that he was the young man she led to the Lord in 1869. He continued to praise God and thank her for serving on that hot August day.

We will rarely know the full impact of our service for God until someday in eternity, but what we do know is that there are plenty today staying at the mission that need to see and hear that message of God’s love. Follow the example of Fanny, and find someone to share God’s love with today.

Dan Streeter  
Chief Executive Officer







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LEFT: Kim Whalen

# Shining a Light ON Jobs for Life

Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan would like to thank Bavarian Inn Lodge of Frankenmuth for being a Jobs for Life Employment Partner. Bavarian Inn's Kim Whalen, Front Desk, Guest Relations and Revenue Manager, has played an integral part in hosting mock interviews and offering basic skills for employment readiness. Thank you, Kim and Judy Zehnder-Keller, for your support in helping Mission guests move forward like former guest Freddie Harris a Bavarian Inn Lodge Maintenance worker, pictured with Bob Woodward, Chief Engineer/ Facility Operations Manager.



ABOVE: Freddie Harris (Right) with Bob Woodward (Left).

## Operation Hope and Care



*A little bag makes a big difference!*

**Help Provide Hope and Care to the Homeless**

Fill a hope and care tote with items:

- Women's Body Wash & Scrubbie
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Men's and Women's Shaving Cream
- Men and Women's Razors
- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Body Lotion
- Large Combs and Brushes
- Nail Clippers
- Tissues
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Haircare products (gel etc.)

Be sure to get your Operation Hope & Care hygiene bags! Operation Hope & Care is a vital part of the everyday life of Rescue Ministries' guests. Each family or individual checking in for emergency shelter receives a Hope & Care Tote filled with brand new hygiene products. Help us meet the basic needs of those dealing with homelessness.

*Thank you  
in advance!*





## Our Mission

To glorify God by SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED, proclaiming the Gospel,  
AND ESTABLISHING DISCIPLES AMONG DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE.



# JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL HOOPS FOR THE HOMELESS!

## Friday, April 7

Students, Alumni & Faculty compete  
in a friendly game of basketball!

All Saints Catholic  
High School

# VS

Nouvel Catholic  
Central High School

DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM – GAME 6:00 PM

DELTA COLLEGE PIONEER GYM

### \$5 Admission/Donation

Prizes, School Band & Pompoms • Music provided by Oakes Hollister Music



## THE ANNUAL Al Christiansen Memorial

# Golf Challenge

## Friday, May 19, 2017

at beautiful Apple Mountain Golf Resort

Attend a kick-off breakfast or lunch and receive  
an entry fee discount.



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for team or individual  
opportunities.

