

MAY 2017

The Vision

A PUBLICATION OF CITY RESCUE MINISTRIES OF SAGINAW



No Place like home

-A Mother's Story

When you hear the words, no place like home, it's easy to think of The Wizard of Oz where Dorothy clicks her heels three times and she's home. It's not that magical for someone living in emergency shelter, especially a mom with children. Such is the story of Cyrina.

Cyrina checked in to City Rescue Mission after exhausting other avenues. She lived with her sister, a brother, in a hotel and two days in her car. This wasn't the life she dreamed of. She was married with two beautiful children and was a stay at home mom. Life was good. The only real sadness she had at the time was when her husband was deployed to Afghanistan. That's when her life changed for the worse.

Sadly, Cyrina's husband no longer wanted to be married. She found herself needing to create a plan and create one quickly for herself and her children. It became obvious that divorce was inevitable. With no real employment background Cyrina realized she was unemployable. She couldn't even find a job at a fast food restaurant, she admits. "When I was young I had no problem getting a job!" Being out of the work force she realized times have changed and jobs aren't as easy to find as some may think.

When asked what it was like coming to the Mission? Cyrina says with a smile, "I was just happy to find a place that would take us." Cyrina had called every shelter up the I-75 North corridor and kept hearing the



words, "We're full." She googled so many shelters that she became discouraged that she and her children would succumb to places she didn't want to think about. It was when she called the Saginaw Rescue Mission that she heard, "Yes, we have a bed for you and your children." Those words took a load off her shoulders.

Cyrina appreciates the hot meals, safe environment and privacy she and her children receives. "My children and I were sleeping from couch to couch, so it's nice to have our own beds and room." Her next move is to enroll in the Jobs for Life classes offered by the Mission to make herself more employable. Cyrina says she's grateful for the Mission allowing her the opportunity to get back on her feet. Her desire is to find a place of her own. Like Dorothy, she too looks forward to saying those famous words...there's no place like home.



DIRECTOR'S DESK

People don't become homeless when they run out of money; they become homeless when they run out of relationships.

When you experience a problem, what do you do? You start thinking of someone that might be able to help you out. Maybe a family member, a friend, a neighbor..., but what happens when you run out of names?

Many of those experiencing homelessness in our community have run out of names. There are many reasons they ran out of names. Maybe their friends and family are also struggling in or near poverty and can't afford to assist. Around 60% of our community is receiving public assistance of some form.

Maybe they are struggling with mental illness or substance abuse and family or friends are worn down in trying to help. Around 30% of our guests have been diagnosed by a medical professional and are having to deal with mental illness. Another 20% have been diagnosed and struggle with substance abuse issues.

Some have lost jobs, experienced an eviction from a landlord, some are facing critical medical issues and extra resources are gone, and some have been terminated from receiving public assistance because they have reached their four year cap in the State of Michigan.

Can you imagine living in your car? Living in an abandoned house with no heat or light? Having to wash up in a public restroom before going to school? Many of our eventual guests are willing to live in one of those conditions for days or weeks because they don't want to risk having to hear another "No."

God has placed us on the front lines of need so that the homeless and hurting of our community can hear, "Yes!"

James 2:15-17 says, *"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."*

It really doesn't matter why or how they landed on our doorstep. What matters is that **WE** build a relationship that breaks the cycle of hopelessness and homelessness.

Dan Streeter
Chief Executive Officer



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT DEAL ON APPLIANCES?

Rescue Ministries Thrift Store now has rescued appliances. Our appliance department has electric stoves, washers, electric dryers, dishwashers, and over-the-stove microwaves. Stop in and save money! **Rescue Ministries Thrift Store is conveniently located in Green Acres Plaza by Kroger.**



10 STEPS to hosting a FOOD DRIVE



The Mission experiences an alarming drop in donations during summer months. To help keep our pantry stocked, consider these 10 easy steps in hosting a food drive. For a current list of our pantry needs go to www.rescuesaginaw.org/how-to-help.

1. Contact Marcia Reeves at 989-752-6051 x. 131 or marcia@r3monline.org.
2. Decide if your group will partner with any other groups or businesses.
3. Identify a person in the group who is in charge, as well as coordinators under this individual. Be sure coordinators have clearly defined tasks.
4. Clearly define necessary task and steps for success.
5. Pick a date and determine the duration of the drive. Drives can be as short as one day or as long as one month. Be sure and check community calendars for potential scheduling conflicts.
6. Decide if the drive will be held at one place or at several locations.
7. Secure a collection method. Medium sized boxes are ideal as they can be easily transported. Consider contacting a local grocery store and ask them to donate extra produce boxes.
8. Determine how the collected food will get from the collection site(s) to the Rescue Mission. Either volunteers can drive the food to the Mission or a Mission representative can pick up from the collection site(s).
9. Set a goal. This could be pounds of food collected or number of items collected.
10. Have fun!! The food drive will be a product of what you put into it.

HOOPS

FOR THE

HOMELESS!

WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!



Thank you Nouvel Central Catholic High School and All Saints Catholic High School for hosting another great and exciting fundraiser event! The two schools along with their faculty, parents and alumni raised \$7,877 with a grand total of \$79,198!



Our Mission

To glorify God by SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED, PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL,
AND ESTABLISHING DISCIPLES AMONG DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE.

In 2000 the Mission opened its new Women's Emergency Shelter. Since its opening the shelter

has provided emergency shelter services to over 8,000 homeless women and children. The shelter is in need of refurbishing. Plans are to replace the flooring, fresh paint, new window treatments and new plumbing fixtures. Plus the beds will be detailed. Volunteers and sponsors are needed to help complete this project. Room sponsorship is \$2500. **If you would like more information please contact Kimberly at 989-752-6051 x 123.**

PROJECT OF THE WEEK

PAINTING CONSTRUCTING PATCHING DECORATING
DRYWALLING SANDING SCRUBBING FINANCING
CLEANING PATCHING SWEEPING PAINTING



Tuesday, June 20, 2017
3:00 - 8:30pm

• COMMUNITY VILLAGE •
Strawberry Festival

Community Village
3200 Hospital Rd.

Games • Food • Prizes

Live Entertainment

Fresh Strawberries

*Delicious Strawberry
Shortcake ~ \$6.00*

Admission - FREE

For More Information
Call Community Village • 989-792-5442

The annual Al Christensen Memorial Golf Challenge takes place Friday, May 19 at beautiful Apple Mountain. The event was named in Al's memory because of Al's unwavering commitment to raise funds each year for the homeless at City Rescue Mission and the elderly at Community Village. Al golfed nearly every year since the inception of the event in 2000 until his health failed him. If you would like to send a memorial gift in Al's memory, return the insert along with your gift or pledge to City Rescue Mission of Saginaw, PO Box 548, Saginaw, MI 48606.



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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift Amount \$ _____

Gift Type: Check I will fulfill my gift online at www.rescuesaginaw.org

Please make checks payable to Rescue Mission

 **City
Rescue Mission
of Saginaw**

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