



## THANK YOU

- Thanks to Mayo Clinic's Environmental and Laundry Services for donating 150 blankets to keep the homeless warm this winter.
- Thanks to all who donated men's suits so that our New Day workforce development students will look sharp for job interviews.

### *Gifts In Memory of*

In memory of **Evangeline "Van" Shuler** given by **Ms. Lynn S. Chalmers**  
 In memory of **Laura Desmond** given by **Ms. Susan B. McDonnell**  
 In memory of **Elizabeth Dodson** given by **Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Stein**  
 In memory of **Charlotte Lynch** given by **Ms. Jodi L. Cullen, Ms. Diane M. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Hargrove, Mr. Matthew R. Kipp, Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Krupp, San Jose Baptist Church Standard Bearers SS Class, Mr. Roni A. Strassman, Mr. Wayne Whalen, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin V. Sinclair, Jr.**

In memory of **my brother Charles** given by **Ms. Rosalie Villasis**  
 In memory of **Geraldine Sewell Southern** given by **Dr. and Mrs. Sidney R. Sewell**  
 In memory of **Bernard Smith** given by **ISF Group, Inc.**  
 In memory of **Pam Albane** given by **Kathy Frederick**

### *Gifts In Honor of*

In honor of **Sally Roberts** given by **Mrs. Nancy I. Whitaker**  
 In honor of **Bud and Carolyn Toole** given by **St. Johns Investment Management Company**

## PLANNED GIVING:

### *Gratitude Through Stewardship*

A young naval officer's first task was to safely steer a ship away from the wharf. He carefully went through the procedures, confident he hadn't forgotten a single thing. Just then a call came from the captain, congratulating the officer on his textbook disembarkation. "There is just one thing you've forgotten," the captain added. "Next time make sure I'm on board before you leave!"

It can be easy to feel like we're in charge, but Jesus said that apart from Him we can do nothing. All that we have, even our very breath, exists because a loving God provides it. So how can we bless Him in return? By exercising good stewardship. We can do this in a variety of ways: loving others, using wisdom in financial decisions, giving of our finances and talents, taking good care of our bodies and the environment, and planning for tomorrow. An up-to-date will or estate plan is not only good stewardship, but it can also provide for your family, reflect your love for the Lord and bless ministries you appreciate like City Rescue Mission for generations to come.

For more information about how to make a planned gift to CRM, contact Karen C. Erren at 904-421-5192 or [kerren@crmjax.org](mailto:kerren@crmjax.org).

## CRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## THANKFUL FOR THE JOURNEY

### LIFEBUILDERS STUDENT RIDES 380 MILES TO CRM

Two-Wheeled Trip to Miami Transformed by Stop at New Life Inn



## INSIDE:

**THANKSGIVING GRATITUDE**  
 "Christ Can Expunge the Worst Record"



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## “IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR A CHANGE, TRY GOD!”



**Leroy Alexander** likes to think of God as a banana split. He’s not a conventional theologian, but the long and winding road to LifeBuilders at CRM gave him plenty of time to reflect. “God has all the flavors right there in front of you,” Leroy says. “He just wants you to try them!”

Leroy’s journey began in Charlotte, North Carolina in the summer of 2013. Unable to find work after finishing a recovery program there, he asked God what to do. “Something just told me to go south,” he says. With no money for a bus ticket, he packed his bag and headed for the highway on his bike. “God provided for me all the way,” Leroy observes. One night a Pizza Hut waitress approached him outside the church where he was planning to bed down for the night, bearing pizzas that a diner had bought for him. “When I saw that I knew I was in God’s hands,” Leroy says.

A flat tire in Jacksonville turned into a night of shelter at the New Life Inn downtown. After fixing the tire the next morning, he headed toward Miami—but the tire went flat again. A stranger helped him, but the tire deflated a third time. “I said, ‘God, there is something you want me to do here,’” Leroy recalls. He went back inside and asked if CRM had a men’s program. When he heard the answer, he went right back out the front door. “I raised my arms and screamed,” Leroy remembers. “Me and God had already talked about that. I didn’t want to do another program.”

But Leroy enrolled in the LifeBuilders addiction recovery program that day. About a month later, he joined his fellow students in the audience at the LifeBuilders fall graduation ceremony. “When I saw that graduation, I literally cried,” Leroy says, tears welling in his eyes as he tells the story. His voice chokes as he continues: “I said, ‘that’s what I want!’”

*“This program has taught me how to be more responsible, how to read and write, how to be a man.”*

A high school graduate, 57-year-old Leroy says he still had trouble with reading comprehension when he came to CRM. Thanks to the education component of LifeBuilders, his skills have increased, and he’s learned how to use a computer. But the most important thing he’s learned in the program is patience. “I was looking for a change overnight,” he says, “but I learned that you have to be patient. God is going to give you what you need, but He gives it to you when He thinks you can handle it. He never leaves or forsakes you. That I can guarantee you. He’s a good God.”

*“I hope that this story will inspire somebody to make a change.”*

Leroy tried seven different programs before he found CRM, but none of them provided the supportive environment he enjoys in LifeBuilders. He says he would leave other programs jobless and end up back in the same environment he came from, “drinking and drugging again.” He’s confident that the education, life skills training and job search assistance at CRM will put him on the road to long-term success.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

*You can make a difference in the lives of others today!*

Make a gift. Visit our website at [www.crmjax.org](http://www.crmjax.org) or send a check to P.O. Box 60291, Jacksonville FL 32236-0291.

Shop at our thrift store. Find a bargain and change a life! Everything in the store will be 30% off on Black Friday!

Clean out your closet, garage or attic. Your trash could be someone else’s treasure! Drop off your goodies at 5343 Normandy Blvd. or call 904-421-5173 for a pickup.

Volunteer. Contact Sherry Warren at [swarren@crmjax.org](mailto:swarren@crmjax.org) or 904-421-5149.

Donate item(s) we need to help our students succeed:  
 3 5-shelf bookcases, 3-4 feet wide (dark wood or black)  
 deodorant  
 toothpaste and toothbrushes  
 razors  
 travel-sized soap  
 baby diapers  
 body wash  
 tissues  
 extension cords  
 irons  
 Please call for additional items.

For more information, contact Ruth Ann Hepler at [rhepler@crmjax.org](mailto:rhepler@crmjax.org) or 904-421-5141.

## SHOEBOXES OF LOVE

Will you fill a shoebox with hygiene items for a neighbor in need, then wrap it in a blanket to keep someone warm this winter? Your small gift will make a big difference in the life of someone who doesn’t have a place to call home. Drop off your box at 426 S. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville FL 32254. For more information, contact Sherry Warren at 904-421-5149 or [swarren@crmjax.org](mailto:swarren@crmjax.org). Suggested items for the box include:

soap/washcloth  
 shampoo/conditioner  
 toothbrush/toothpaste/  
 dental floss (no mouthwash please)  
 deodorant  
 lotion

lip balm  
 sunscreen  
 wet wipes  
 new socks  
 small devotional  
 bandages  
 comb/brush  
 nail clippers

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



#GivingTuesday is a global day dedicated to giving back. Will you give back to your neighbors in Jacksonville by donating to City Rescue Mission? Your gift will help transform lives all year long!  
[www.crmjax.org](http://www.crmjax.org)

## WHY I GIVE TO CRM

*“I choose to give because CRM addresses both the physical and spiritual needs of the less fortunate, abused and homeless members of society...God gifted man with free will and choice and everyone at birth has the ability to achieve the unique greatness which God intended for all.”*

Michael, CRM donor

*Upcoming Events*

**Thanksgiving meal for the hungry**

Wednesday, November 26  
 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 New Life Inn,  
 234 W. State Street

Contact [swarren@crmjax.org](mailto:swarren@crmjax.org) if you’d like to volunteer.