

Paul's Ponderings

This summer I have felt drawn back to a book that is now a decade old, "Toxic Charity," by Robert Lupton. We have begun re-reading it as a management team and discussing the salient points which in many ways are even more relevant today. He describes how disempowering charity can become when it creates dependency and disempowers people. We are called as Christians to benevolence and almsgiving, but are there times when our charity can cause damage?



This is why City Rescue Mission believes that true change is a hand up, not a handout which can only

CHANGE

occur through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. If we look at Maslow's Hierarchy of needs the lowest level of need is physiological, air, water, food, shelter, sleep, and clothing. The Mission meets these needs first. Once these basic needs are met, individuals can move up Maslow's levels. The next need is safety which includes personal security, employment, resources, and health. As CRM helps with life skills and workforce development, our students obtain jobs where fulfillment may occur which leads to self-sufficiency. As we help our students get connected with positive people, they develop wholesome friendships. As we help them understand their true royal identity in Christ, their self-esteem increases, and they attain freedom from their life-controlling issues and become the person God intended them to become.

So, homelessness is not just about a lack of a dwelling, and addiction is not just about saying, "no." It's much more. Our hope is that when someone leaves our care, they are successful, sustainable, productive members of society that are connected with other believers and God so they may stay the course.

It is only through your generous giving to the Mission so we can continue our ministry that God can make people whole though us. That's true change.

IS IT TIME FOR A LEGACY CHECK-UP?

Think creatively about giving - big things can happen. You can donate time, energy, unwanted food, clothing, blood, and of course, money.



1. Don't cash out. Many people think cash is the best way to give but donating appreciated stocks to an organization like CRM instead of liquidating them eliminates capital gains for you and the charity when they're ready to sell.

2. Bunch it. You can maximize tax benefits by "bunching" charitable gifts on the first one and take a standard on the second.

3. Inspire generational giving. Appreciated stocks are easily passed on within a family, so they're a great tool for instilling a heritage of generosity for generations to come.



For more information, please contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Upgraded flooring in classrooms and offices at McDuff Campus - \$20,000
- Spray foam insulation for chapel - \$10,000
- White twin sheet sets and pillows
- White towels and washcloths
- Queen sheet sets
- Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/ 7 day passes - \$20
- Storage bins - 16 qt/4 gallon
- White, large drawstring laundry bags for student use (120)
- Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books, and more for the CRM Thrift Store



CRMjax.org



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New Life NEWS

AUGUST 2022



THE TIME TO CHANGE

After physical challenges led to addiction, Summer lost all sense of herself and most tragically her relationship with God. Today, she's grateful for your support of City Rescue Mission, where she learned she was worthy of love and rebuilt a new life in Christ.

THE TIME TO CHANGE: SUMMER'S STORY

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SUMMER'S STORY: THE TIME TO CHANGE

Summer recovered quickly from the back surgery she required as a teenager. But when the procedure was repeated in her late 20s, the experience was much more challenging. She was older. She was a mother. And she held a full-time job. "I had to keep going," she says.

Once in CRM care – broken and weary – she slept... she listened... and she tried to comprehend what was going on around her. "I was surprised by everybody's love," she says, "because I'd never experienced that before." In our faith-based environment, through Bible study and Christian fellowship, her heart was also reopened to God's love.

"Until I was 18, I did everything in church," she says. "But then I got so lost in the maze I called my life that I really didn't understand who God was. I didn't understand it was Him alone I needed. But when I did, I cried."

Through our LifeBuilders Program, grounded in her new-found faith, she's preparing for her future through life-skills development, education and work readiness. In her role as the Mission receptionist, she enjoys greeting guests, making them feel comfortable and directing them to the appropriate staff. We're also ensuring she receives the medical care she needs to grow stronger physically as well as spiritually "The Mission has set me up to succeed. They've truly guided me. They've helped me overcome so much."

She hopes to return to school to earn a teaching degree in history, because she loves to help others learn. "I don't know why... I don't know how... but God has a plan for me!"

Through your heartfelt prayers and support, Summer is healing from the inside out and, most importantly, discovering her identity as a child of God. "The Mission helped me see myself as a bright person and a beloved person. I'm so thankful because they helped me find me."



Summer began to abuse the medication she'd been prescribed to ease her pain. "I would take two instead of one when my back was really killing me." But instead of helping her maintain control, the misguided practice only led to addiction – and a heart-wrenching cycle of abusive relationships, unhealthy behaviors, incarceration and self-loathing.

"I WAS LOST – EMOTIONALLY... SPIRITUALLY... PHYSICALLY." Her self-destructive lifestyle continued for several years. Then she hit rock bottom. She suffered a stroke, blood clots and a staph infection that left her in a coma and near death. "When I woke up, I literally couldn't remember the last three years of my life!" The traumatic experience finally led her to seek help. "I needed to be where I could find myself again. And that's what City Rescue Mission did for me."

UPCOMING EVENTS

GRADUATION: Friday, September 30th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel, McDuff Campus, 426 S. McDuff. All are invited to celebrate the men and women graduating CRM'S LifeBuilders Residential Recovery Program. Join us in celebrating lives transformed and hope renewed!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION - Tuesday, August 16th 6:00 - 7:00 pm on McDuff Campus
If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at City Rescue Mission join us for a brief volunteer orientation to learn all you need to know to be a great addition to the CRM team! If you have any questions about orientation or available volunteer opportunities, contact Kimberly Crockett at 904 421-5149 or Kcrockett@crmjax.org.
Future orientations: September 20th, October 18th.

SERVE DAY

We thank Celebration Church and Elevate Life Church for bringing volunteers to CRM for their church serve projects. Some volunteered at our CRM State Street location, helping organize our food storage cooler. Others went to the CRM Thrift Store, and others helped with our garden projects. We had a complete transformation in a garden that serves our guests as a resting space. We can't thank you enough for your contribution to CRM!!! Thank you to Celebration Church for providing the beautiful plants and trees!

If your church or organization would like to schedule a serve project, or if you would like to be a regular volunteer on our CRM GARDEN CLUB, helping improve the grounds or help with a vegetable garden, please contact Kimberly Crockett at (904) 421-5149.



CRM THRIFT STORE

7200 Normandy Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32205
Store Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10 am - 5 pm

All proceeds go directly to help fund our mission to transform the lives of the homeless, needy, and addicted here in Jax.

WHITE SALE

15% OFF
Bedding, Curtains, Pillows

SEPTEMBER 11-15

CHARIS CAFE
NOW SERVING FRESH
ARTISIAN SANDWICHES
VEGETABLE HUMMUS TURKEY

CHARIS CAFE
Please come visit our Charis Cafe at the CRM Thrift Store. It is a great space to meet up with friends and small groups, while supporting City Rescue Mission!
Get your morning coffee and bagel or pastry for \$5!
Cafe Hours 7 am - 4 pm
7200 Normandy

