

## Paul's Ponderings

Back in 2015, we wanted to create a slogan to use for our 70th Anniversary that succinctly describes what we do. We were led to "Hope, Healing and Change." It is as much, if not more, relevant today than it was eight years ago.



Paul Stasi, Executive Director, CRM

So many people in the world have lost hope. This is due to the economy, politics, war, hostility, or personal situations. This was exacerbated with the advent of Covid. **Since Covid's onset, there has been a 23% increase in alcohol abuse and a 16% increase in drug addiction.** Psychological distress, anxiety and depression has also dramatically increased.

# HOPE

At City Rescue Mission, we are called to bring hope to the hopeless. As we share the God of

hope, our prayer is that those who come to us for help are filled with joy and peace as they trust in Him, (Romans 15:13.) Our desire is that they truly know that God has plans for them, **"plans to prosper them and not to harm them, plans to give them hope and a future,"** (Jeremiah 29:11). And, as they hope in the Lord, He will renew their strength, (Isaiah 40:31).

Hope gives us all purpose and a reason to keep going. It's a crucial part of the human experience. Offering this hope to the hopeless helps those who come to us for care to go from human suffering to human flourishing. This is only possible with your prayers and support. We are so grateful for you. May God bless you and bless CRM.

## YOUR INVESTMENT IMPACT

The average person spends about 90,000 hours at work during their lifetime. What went into your 90,000 hours? No matter what jobs you held, your retirement assets can be turned into a blessing for the ministries you care about. Some ideas include:



**Beneficiary Designation.** The simple effort it takes to add City Rescue Mission as a beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA), 401(k), or 403(b) can have a significant impact on the work we do and the people we serve.

**Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** A tax-free distribution from your IRA to a charity, a QCD enables you to make a lasting difference now.

**Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).** A CGA allows you to use your assets to give to a charity while also receiving income during your retirement years.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Your good work can continue in the good work of the ministries close to your heart.

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 \$42,000
- Chapel roof \$30,000
- Kitchen exit doors for New Life Inn \$10,000 and McDuff exit doors \$22,000
- **400 TWIN cotton thermal blankets or a gift of \$25.00 each.** ◀ Urgent Need
- Replacement of Dental Clinic flooring: Cost \$15,000

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New Life NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



# CLARENCE

After the death of his mother – his best friend – Clarence fell into a cycle of substance abuse, homelessness and despair that lasted more than three decades. Today, because friends like you support City Rescue Mission with your gifts and prayers, Clarence has a new life in Christ and embraces the opportunity to share his story.

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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# CLARENCE - Wait Upon the Lord

**“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”– Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)**

“I probably walked around this building for a whole week before I decided to come in. I lay out there on the sidewalk and finally let my pride go. And ever since that day, God has been blessing me.” – Clarence

Although Clarence was close to his father and siblings, his mother held a special place in his heart. She was his cheerleader. Champion. Confidant.

“We used to talk a lot,” he says. “She was my best friend.” When Clarence was 18, his mom passed away. Without her, his world fell apart. “I just didn’t care any more – I didn’t care about life.” So he struck out on his own – stealing, using drugs and doing things his mother would deplore. Ashamed of his actions, he pulled away from his loved ones, refused to let them help, and eventually became homeless.

Living on the streets, he struggled to find food. “I had nothing to eat and a guy told me to come to the Mission where they feed you every day at 5 o’clock.” For Clarence, this outreach became the only light in a dark, vicious cycle of substance abuse and self-neglect that continued for more than 30 years, until, physically and emotionally, the lifestyle became too much to bear.

“I had that ‘sick and tired of being sick and tired’ feeling. I was looking at those around me, people who were doing

drugs, and I could see myself in them. I knew I had to do something and I had to make a change. I couldn’t do it on my own. So God led me back to City Rescue Mission.”

This time he came for much more than a meal, but the decision to seek help was a tough one. When he finally surrendered and walked through our door, God wanted to make sure he was ready. After completing an application, he was asked to sit in the dining room and someone would be right with him.

“I waited for hours. I guess God wanted to see if I really wanted to help myself. He was telling me to stop running from Him. Just sit and wait. Suddenly I had patience because I knew what I needed and I would find it at City Rescue Mission.” Clarence’s wait was not in vain. He joined our LifeBuilders Program and flourished in our faith-based environment. With the guidance of compassionate staff and counselors, and through Bible study, skills development and work-readiness, he’s building a sober, self-sufficient life in Christ.

“The Mission supports my healing as a whole. I’m learning to take care of myself... focus on my life and not the streets... and do the things God wants me to do. They are helping me make plans for my future, and then it’s my responsibility to move forward and not backward.”

Now, when Clarence looks in the mirror, he’s grateful to see a different person – a godly man his mother would be proud of. Yet even once he graduates and finds a full-time job, he plans to remain connected with the Mission program, not only to help him stay accountable to the Lord, but also to share his life-transforming story.

“I’m going to come back as an alumni and tell other men and women to ‘have patience – sit and wait – it’ll work for you, too.’”



The City Rescue Mission’s **Overcomers Program** is a low barrier, residential homeless shelter for men, women, and children, who are currently experiencing homelessness.

**Overcomers Program**– While in the shelter, participants have the option to receive longer term shelter services and work with a case worker to find suitable, sustainable housing that fits their individual needs. This service also includes debt and employment counseling, retrieval of identification and other legal documents for employment and housing, elder care resources, and other related services specifically dealing with transitioning out of homelessness.

For more information contact Kari McCall Manager of Emergency Shelter Service  
Address: 234 West State Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
Phone: 904-421-5167  
Email: Kmccall@crmjax.org

## -PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT- OVERCOMERS



## RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR THE 2024 GOLF CHALLENGE

**AUGUST 26, 2024**  
**SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:**

- Title Sponsor \$25,000
- Eagle Sponsor \$15,000
- Birdie Sponsor \$10,000
- Par Sponsor \$6,000
- Awards Dinner Sponsor \$5,000
- Beverage Cart Sponsor \$3,500
- Team registration \$3,950
- Media Sponsor \$2,000
- Individual Registration \$975
- Hole Sponsor \$750

**CONTACT:** Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or [crmdevelopment@crmjax.org](mailto:crmdevelopment@crmjax.org) for additional information or questions about sponsorship opportunities.

### TURKEY AND HAM

CRM is asking for your help to collect turkeys and hams to feed our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving.

Donations can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday- Friday at either: New Life Inn, 234 W. State Street or CRM’s McDuff Campus 426 S. McDuff Avenue.

Contact Angela Washington for more information. [Volunteers@crmjax.org](mailto:Volunteers@crmjax.org) or (904) 421-5147.

**DROP OFF OCTOBER 2 - NOVEMBER 17, 2023**



MISSION

## WARM FEET



DROP OFF BY  
**NOVEMBER 18**

**DROP OFF LOCATION**  
426 S. McDuff Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32254

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CONTACT: [Volunteers@crmjax.org](mailto:Volunteers@crmjax.org)  
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