

## Paul's Ponderings

The theme this month is, "Believe." There are so many ways in which to go with this thought. I can believe in myself, I can believe in our country, I can believe in God, I can believe in another god.



Paul Stasi, Executive Director, CRM

Believe comes from an old German word meaning to have trust. In the Bible, both the Hebrew and Greek words used for "believe" have the same meaning. So, belief doesn't require proof, just accepting a word as evidence.

Acts 16:31 says, "**BELIEVE** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." The result of this belief is everlasting life with Him.

My wife, Laurie and I were recently watching a movie called, "I Believe." It is about a little boy raised in an atheist family who read the Bible and simply believed the words in it as truth. As he prayed for people he began to see miracles. Many people questioned and doubted, but in the end, many believed. What would happen if we helped more people to have simple belief in Jesus? What would happen if we fully believed things like Jesus is the same, yesterday today and forever, and He can still do miracles?

**My prayer is that as we help those who come to us from desperate situations, they would miraculously and completely be set free from poverty and life-controlling problems.** Wouldn't that be a story? People who come to us for help have been struggling for so long. I believe they can be set free.

Your support empowers us to be the hands and feet of Christ here in Northeast Florida. The movie I mentioned ended with a challenge to text, "I believe" to their friends. So, would you do that? And, while you're at it, text us at 904-635-3515.

Thank you for caring,

## 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](mailto:awashington@crmjax.org).**

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Loading dock ramp - \$15,000
- White twin sheet sets and pillows
- White towels and washcloths
- Travel size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/7 day passes - \$20
- White, large draw string laundry bags for student use (120)
- Men's boxer's (M, L, XL), Women's undies (M, L, XL) ◀ **Urgent Need**
- Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books and more for the CRM Thrift Store
- Replacement of Dental Clinic flooring:  
Cost \$15,000, or 1 gift of \$15,000, 2 gifts of \$7,500, or 3 gifts of \$3,000
- Replacement of 4th floor flooring in offices and classrooms:



CITY RESCUE MISSION

[CRMjax.org](http://CRMjax.org)



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# New Life NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

## MARGARET

### THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE WAS LOVING MYSELF

Living up to her parents expectations – as well as her own – Margaret found herself dealing with unfounded guilt and shame, which led to substance abuse, unraveled her life and jeopardized her health. Because of your support and prayers, she opened her heart to God's love and learned to love herself. Now she's grateful for the opportunity to share her journey with others.

LEARNING TO  
LOVE MYSELF  
MARGARET'S  
STORY  
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THANK YOU  
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PROVIDING HOPE, HEALING AND CHANGE SINCE 1946

426 McDuff Ave. S., Jacksonville, FL 32254 Phone (904) 387-HELP (4357) [www.CRMJAX.org](http://www.CRMJAX.org)

CRM exists to transform the lives of those experiencing homelessness, hardships and addiction through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

# MARGARET- Learning to Loving Myself



Born in Poland and an only child, Margaret came with her family to the United States when she was 11 years old. Although she didn't know the language, expectations for the little girl were high.

"My parents drove me to become a very performance based person," she says. "I needed to learn it, pick it up and figure it out. Because they didn't know English either, I had to do it on my own. It was very overwhelming." By all outward appearances, that pressure to succeed had a positive outcome, as she built what most would consider a productive life. But along with it came an unfounded sense of responsibility, and it finally took a devastating toll.

When her family was struck by a tragedy – too painful to put into words – Margaret shouldered the blame, although there was nothing she could have done to prevent what occurred. Wracked with guilt, she began drinking to numb her heartbreak, and her life quickly unraveled.

"I went from being a mom and career person to someone I really didn't know," she says. "And before I knew it, I was experiencing homelessness." She moved in with a friend, but it soon became apparent her substance abuse was eroding her health. Unable to care for her, the woman asked Margaret to leave. With nowhere to go, she came to City Rescue Mission and completed our Life Builders Program. But after leaving our faith-based environment, she rekindled her self-destructive habits, and suffered a heart attack.

"I realized then I had to make some serious decisions," she says. "I knew if I didn't learn to love myself and take better care of myself, I wasn't gonna make it." She returned to our Christ-centered program, harboring a sense of failure and apprehensive about how she'd be received. But when we

welcomed her with open arms, she knew it was all in God's plan for her journey toward wholeness and healing.

***"The love I was given by the staff showed me what grace and mercy is truly about. And if I am worth it to them and to God, I need to be worth it for myself."***

With that new understanding, she let go of the shame of past transgressions that were out of her control. With our staff's encouragement, she began to eat healthy foods and get the exercise she needed to regain her physical strength. She enjoys her work in our Learning Center, helping other students with their academic needs, while sharing the truth from her own experience.

"It's not about falling, but about how you get back up," she says. "So I try to let the ladies know I understand what they're going through. It's so easy to make bad decisions, but it doesn't mean those decisions define who we are." Margaret feels God calling to continue helping other women learn to love themselves as He loves them and to overcome life's challenges. Currently she is working toward becoming a state-certified peer recovery specialist.

"I want to give women hope, because there is hope. I'm proof of that," she says today. ***"There have been bumps along the way I didn't think I would overcome. But with perseverance and God's help – and the right support – it is possible."***



## THANKSGIVING TURKEY & HAM DRIVE

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**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR US**

- ✦ Please pray for our staff and their families
- ✦ Pray for the individuals in our programs
- ✦ Pray for resources and finances      Thank You!!!

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**  
7 p.m.

Reception immediately following the ceremony.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Join us for our  
Graduation  
Ceremony

CLASS OF FALL  
2023

CRM MCDUFF CAMPUS, WAYNE M DENSCH CHAPEL  
426 MCDUFF AVE. S., JACKSONVILLE

MISSION

## WARM FEET

**DROP OFF BY  
NOVEMBER 18**

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

WWW.CRMJAX.ORG  
CONTACT: [Volunteers@crmjax.org](mailto:Volunteers@crmjax.org)  
**DONATE SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED**

**THANK YOU**

**Elevate Life Church. We appreciate all you did for our thrift store during your serve day! You are a blessing!**

## A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR 2023 GOLF SPONSORS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 15th Annual Champion's Challenge Golf Tournament. This event provides additional finances for City Rescue Mission!