

Paul's Ponderings

To be "elect of God" means to be lovingly chosen by Him. The word "elect" reminds us that God, in His wisdom, calls us into a relationship of grace and mercy. Scripture affirms this truth (John 6:44; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-5). The mystery lies not in whether God chooses, but in how His love reaches us.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

In everyday terms, elections involve people choosing leaders. In the Bible, however, "elect" speaks of God Himself choosing His people. The Greek word *eklektos* (meaning chosen, or elect), used throughout the New Testament, points us to the heart of God, His desire to gather us into His family and give our lives purpose.

ELECT

Ephesians 1:5 tells us that God "predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will." Our place in His family is not earned but given, flowing from His eternal love (Malachi 3:6; Romans 8:29). Though God desires all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9), He honors the freedom of our response. Salvation is offered to all, and creation itself testifies of His presence (Romans 1:19-20).

The Bible holds both truths together: God's sovereignty and our responsibility. He foreknows, yet He also invites. As Creator, He holds these realities in perfect balance.

To be among God's elect is not about privilege but about purpose. Chosen people reflect His character, showing compassion, extending mercy, and declaring His goodness. God is impartial and unchanging. His love embraces all, although not all return that love.

The call of the elect is simple yet profound: love deeply, serve humbly, and live so others glimpse God's goodness. The question remains: how will we respond? I hope that we follow this lead as we reach out to those in need. At City Rescue Mission, the Bible-based curriculum and Christian culture help men and women discover the joy of being chosen by God. Your faithful support makes this life-changing journey possible.

Paul

Thank you.

3 WAYS TO GIVE

by phone

(904) 421-5183

by mail

City Rescue Mission
426 S. McDuff Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32254

online

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Women and Children Garden:
 - » Two-Bay Post Swing Set - \$5,500
 - » Pavillion - \$800
 - » (1) Pavilion table - \$1,250
 - » (12) Pavilion chairs - \$1,500
 - » (3) Pavilion side tables - \$750
 - » Fence - \$2,500
 - » Arbor - \$500
- Boys and girls socks
- Twin sized blankets (400)
- New white towels and wash cloths (1000)
- Bedding Bundle (200) - \$60 each
- Bus Passes: Weekly - \$20 each, Monthly - \$65 each
- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for the Thrift Store
- Volunteers in reading, math, and English to help our students

Follow Us on
Social Media



Contact: Sherrie Mack | shmack@crmjax.org | (904) 387-4357 ext. 224

	Craig Henderson, <i>Chair</i> Chad Perce, <i>Vice-Chair</i>		
	Kendall Spencer, <i>Finance</i> Doug Milne, <i>Secretary/Parliamentarian</i>		
	Shontrell Anderson	Alan Cottrill	David Eure
	Brian Andrew	Tina Daniels	Lee Nimnicht
Board of Directors	Carrie Chupp	Steve DeSorbo	Ed Perez

How You Can Give Bigger

Two men went fishing, carrying supplies to cook their meal. The first fisherman quickly caught a fish while the second waited for hours. Finally, he caught a huge one but threw it back.



Bewildered, his friend asked, "Why did you do that?" He replied, "I didn't bring a pan large enough to cook him!"

Many people like the second fisherman—so fixated on one outcome they miss another opportunity. For instance, it's common to think cash gifts are the best way to support a charity when retirement assets are actually a better way to give. They allow you to:

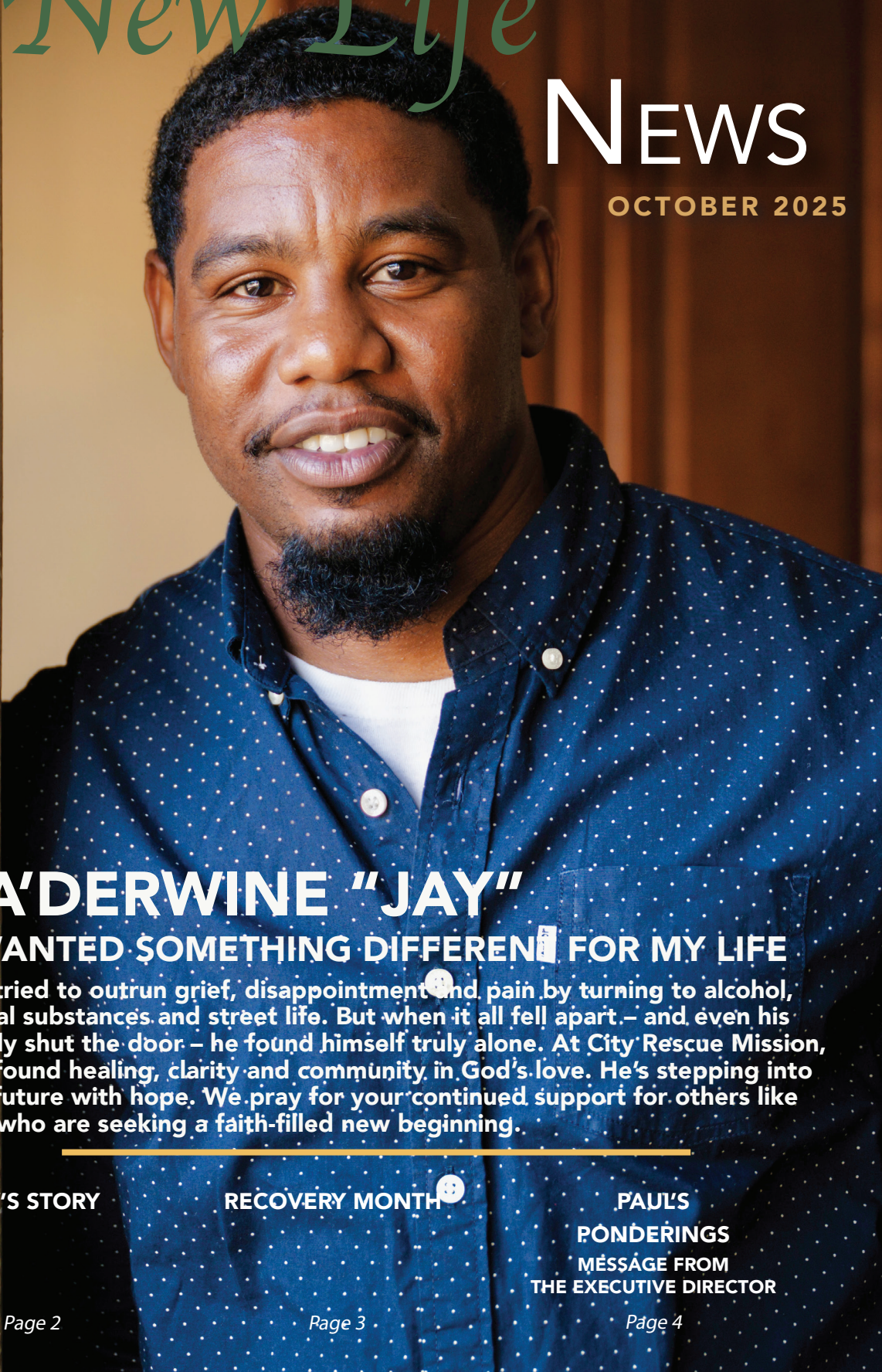
1. **Increase your impact.** Donating from retirement assets to a charity instead of giving cash means you can give from pre-tax assets and save your cash while your distribution does not count toward taxable income.
2. **Leave a legacy.** When you include a gift in your estate plan to a charitable organization you're passionate about, it sustains their work and makes a lasting difference in people's lives.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Gifts Your Family Will Always Treasure" by contacting Paul Stasi at (904) 421-5192 or pstasi@crmjax.org. Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to bless your family will an up-to-date will.



New Life
News

OCTOBER 2025



LA'DERWINE "JAY"
I WANTED SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR MY LIFE

Jay tried to outrun grief, disappointment and pain by turning to alcohol, illegal substances and street life. But when it all fell apart – and even his family shut the door – he found himself truly alone. At City Rescue Mission, Jay found healing, clarity and community in God's love. He's stepping into the future with hope. We pray for your continued support for others like him who are seeking a faith-filled new beginning.

JAY'S STORY

RECOVERY MONTH

PAUL'S
PONDERINGS
MESSAGE FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

JAY'S STORY

I WANTED SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR MY LIFE

Raised by his grandmother in a tight-knit neighborhood, Jay had plenty of love and attention. But without the presence of a father figure, he strayed into dangerous territory. As he reached his mid-twenties, he'd survived substance abuse, prison and even a shooting. But what truly shook him wasn't a jail cell or a bullet – it was losing the one place he thought he could always go: his family's home. That's when Jay hit rock bottom... and a new life brought him hope.

Jay grew up on Jacksonville's West Side. His father was incarcerated, and his young mother struggled with her responsibilities. His grandma stepped in to care for him. Now surrounded by an extended family of cousins, uncles and aunties, Jay became immersed in community traditions

"My son's watching everything I do now," Jay says. "And I want to be the kind of father I never had. I'm doing this for God, for my son... and for me."

like church, cookouts, and football. Despite the family environment, he had few boundaries. "There was a lot of love – but not a lot of supervision," he recalls. At age 15, without proper structure and guidance, he drifted into the wrong crowd.

When a cousin he looked up to was killed, Jay was devastated. He hardened his heart and numbed his pain however he could. "It started with parties," he says. Then he adopted the habits of those around him, including substance abuse and criminal activities.

While still a teenager, Jay found himself facing charges. Although he didn't serve time, he didn't heed the warning. He continued down a

dangerous path that finally led to prison. Released four years later, he was ready for a new beginning. But old patterns were hard to break. "The neighborhood, the habits, the friends – they pulled me back in."

Even when a bullet nearly ended his life, he still wasn't done. But his family was. In an act of tough love, they no longer welcomed him in their homes, hoping it would be the wake-up call he needed. Shunned by those who had always been there for him, he knew he had reached rock bottom.



Then his son was born, and that changed everything. "I realized it wasn't just about me anymore." Jay prayed for help to turn his life around and felt God guiding him to the Mission.

Jay was cautious at first. After all he had been through – violence, danger, survival – trust didn't come easily. "But they didn't give up on me. The Mission gave me a chance to sit down, detox and get my mind right."

In our Christ-centered LifeBuilders Program, Jay found structure, support and a new sense of purpose. Through Bible study, education, life-skills development and work readiness, we guide individuals like Jay to become self-sufficient and productive members of their communities. As he strengthened his walk with God, the anger and defensiveness he once used as protection gave way to patience, humility and faith. "They helped me learn to forgive, to take accountability, to grow."

When he leaves our care, Jay has plans to attend college and study computer technology. He also wants to develop a Christian-based YouTube channel to encourage others facing hard times, like he once did. And he hopes to return to the prison system – not as an inmate, but as a mentor, sharing his testimony with those preparing for life after incarceration. "I want to reach people – young people, homeless people, anyone struggling – and let them know: you can make it."

RECOVERY MONTH

Both staff and program participants came together to celebrate National Recovery Month—not only to showcase talents, but also to learn more about addiction, the challenges of the recovery journey, and the hope that comes with healing. This month offered space for reflection, connection, and encouragement as we continue walking this path together. We thank God for the opportunity to celebrate recovery and transformation!



WE'RE EXCITED TO WELCOME MONICA BAKER AS OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Monica brings over a decade of experience in fundraising, advancement, and community engagement across the nonprofit, education, and health & human services sectors. She has led efforts with organizations such as The Will King Foundation, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, First Baptist School, and Room at the Inn, a shelter for pregnant mothers and teens.

Beyond her professional roles, Monica has also served in worship leadership ministry. She is passionate about building meaningful connections, strengthening donor relationships, and helping organizations expand their impact for Christ. Welcome, Monica!

THANKSGIVING TURKEY + HAM DRIVE

STARTS
2
SEPT

ENDS
7
NOV

GET INVOLVED!
City Rescue Mission is asking for your help to collect turkey & ham to feed our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving!

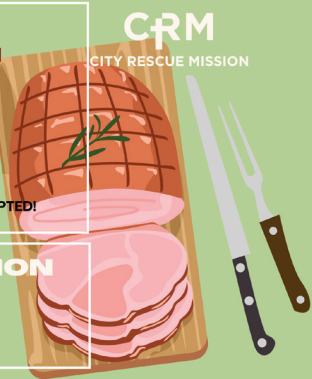
DROP OFF
MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 9AM - 5PM

New Life Inn
234 W. State Street or
McDuff Campus
426 S. McDuff Avenue

TURKEY & HAM GIFT CARD DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT SHERRIE MACK

SHMACK@CRMJAX.ORG
904-387-4357 ext. 224



SHOEBOXES OF LOVE

HELP CITY RESCUE MISSION SPREAD HOPE AND JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. CRM IS NOW COLLECTING SHOEBOXES FILLED WITH HYGIENE ITEMS TO DISTRIBUTE DURING OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

Drive Dates
OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 12

Simply fill a shoebox or like-sized box with items from the list below, wrap it in a blanket, and drop it off at the location listed below:

Soap/Washcloth	Lotion/Sunscreen	Razor/shaving cream
Shampoo/Conditioner	Wet Wipes	Chapstick
Toothbrush/Toothpaste	New Socks	Comb/Brush
(no mouthwash, please)	A Small Devotional	Nail Clippers
Dental Floss	Band-Aids	Deodorant

Please do not put money, gift cards or food in the box.
If you wish to make a donation for us to purchase items, send it to the address below.

Drop Off Location

City Rescue Mission McDuff Campus
426 McDuff Ave. S.
Jacksonville, FL 32254



CONTACT
SHERRIE MACK
(904) 387-4357 EXT. 224 OR
VOLUNTEERS@CRMJAX.ORG

MISSION WARM FEET

WARM TOES, WARM HEARTS
DONATE SOCKS TO THOSE IN NEED



MORE INFO?

DROP OFF

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-5PM
426 S. MCDUFF AVE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32254

CONTACT

volunteers@crmjax.org
(904) 387-4357 ext. 224
www.crmjax.org

SEPTEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 7

Save the Date

80TH Anniversary
Difference Maker's Gala
May 7, 2026

If you'd like to serve on the committee

CONTACT

Monica Baker
(904) 421-5147
crmdevelopment@crmjax.org