

Paul's Ponderings

In a culture that often rewards excess and self-promotion, Scripture calls us to temperance, self-control, moderation, and balance. Far from being outdated, temperance is central to the Christian life and a powerful witness to the world.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that self-control is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). Proverbs 25:28 warns that “a person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken down,” vulnerable to attack and ruin. Jesus Himself modeled temperance—choosing restraint over retaliation and peace over power (Matthew 26:53). True strength is not found in force, but in meekness under control.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

Temperance

Paul compared temperance to the discipline of an athlete: “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever” (1 Corinthians 9:25). For believers, self-control is not weakness; it’s Spirit-led strength. It enables us to say “no” when the flesh says “yes,” to respond with grace when anger rises, and to walk humbly when pride tempts us.

At City Rescue Mission, many who seek our help have lived lives marked by self-indulgence, addiction, broken relationships, and destructive patterns. Through your support, they encounter the transforming power of Jesus Christ and learn that temperance is not achieved by willpower alone, but through surrender to God. Lives once ruled by chaos begin to reflect peace, balance, and hope.

Your generosity makes this transformation possible. Because of you, men and women discover the freedom of Spirit-led self-control and the joy of walking in newness of life.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Together, we help restore broken walls, rebuild lives, and glorify God through lives transformed by temperance.

God bless you!

3 WAYS TO GIVE

by phone



by mail



online



Giving and Living a Legacy of Generosity

As she gathered items for a seasonal centerpiece, Anne came across few mementos of holidays past, and an idea was sparked. What if these small treasures became the table’s focal point?



This would be the first gathering since losing several family members, and these pieces showcased memories of their generosity. The centerpiece became a beautiful tribute to their legacy of love.

This season of thanksgiving and gift giving is an ideal time to honor the generosity of those who have gone before and live out the legacy they’ve left for you.

Get something growing. Planting a living reminder of a family member or friend allows you to share that beauty with others.

Foster new traditions. What activities would have made your loved one smile? Put them into practice in a way that encourages others.

Serve others. Volunteering with a cause that was important to your loved one honors what was meaningful to them and meets a need.

Give in their memory. A gift in your will to City Rescue Mission is a lasting tribute to their legacy of love.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “4 Ways to Pass on a Legacy of Love” by contacting Monica Baker at (904) 421-5192 or mbaker@crmjax.org - Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

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)
- 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
- White towels (1,000) and white wash cloths (2,000)
- Men & women’s deodorant

Follow Us on
Social Media



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



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New Life

NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

MARGARET "BREAKING THE PATTERNS"

Trapped in substance abuse and despair, Margaret’s life spiraled into homelessness and danger. At City Rescue Mission, she found safety, purpose and renewed faith in God. Today, she’s rebuilding relationships, embracing hope and living with joy. Your gifts and prayers helped make her transformation possible.

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MARGARET'S STORY

BREAKING THE PATTERNS

Margaret's childhood was defined by both love and loss. Moments with her father were happy, but her mother's substance abuse drew Margaret into drugs by age 12. Years of broken trust, poor choices and dangerous living followed – until she found herself sleeping under a bridge and crying to God for help. That desperate prayer led her to City Rescue Mission...and a new life.

For years, Margaret's path was shaped by substance abuse. She was forced to grow up too fast trying to take care of her mother who battled substance abuse. As she cared for others, Margaret's own needs, including her mental health, went unmet. Eventually, Margaret turned to substances to self-medicate.

"I never wanted to get sober. The only time I was clean was when I was in jail."

Prison time, abusive relationships, and drug-related crises fueled a years-long downward spiral. Even after a car accident left her with disabilities, she wasn't able to end her destructive habits.

Margaret drifted into homelessness, living in the woods and under bridges, and in constant fear for her life. But she had



"The Mission didn't just give me shelter. It gave me hope, healing and a reason to live."

nowhere else to go. She and her father were now estranged. Her mom had passed away. And her sister, who once had been a stabilizing force in Margaret's life, no longer trusted her.

"I felt like I had no one. I thought I'd die out there."

One morning, exhausted from another sleepless night, she looked up to the sky and cried out to God, "How did I get here?" And she prayed for His help. That's when she learned about City Rescue Mission.

Margaret arrived with only the clothes on her back and a heart filled with gratitude for the safety she found inside our doors. "I could finally sleep in peace – I knew no one was going to hurt me or steal from me."

Through the Mission's Christ-centered LifeBuilders program, Margaret has embraced Bible study, life-skills development and workforce development. She has also renewed her faith in the Lord. "I know He always has my back."

And she cherishes the community she's found at the Mission to support her sobriety – friendships from classes, Spirit-led mentors and other women walking the same journey.

She calls them anchors that keep her steady: "Even hard days feel different now, because I no longer face them alone."

Of all the blessings she's found at the Mission, the greatest is having her sister back. Their bond – once broken by years of substance abuse – has been restored, filling her life with love, trust and family again. "Now we talk several times a day, and I get to babysit my niece and nephew. I live for them now."

Looking ahead, Margaret hopes to move into safe housing through the Mission's Homes of Hope and continue building a faith-filled foundation for her future. With disability benefits secured and long-needed health care in reach, she finally has stability, and she's trusting God to guide the next steps.

CONVERSATIONS ON A BENCH

On October 9–10, a simple bench outside City Rescue Mission's New Life Inn became a sacred space for stories. For 24 straight hours, Executive Director Paul Stasi led the charge, sitting, listening, and livestreaming unfiltered conversations about homelessness, addiction, and hope.

Since 1984, New Life Inn at 234 West State Street has been our front line, a place where individuals at the end of their rope find a lifeline. It's where pain meets possibility and Jesus.

"Conversations on a Bench" wasn't just an event. It was part of a national movement to rehumanize those too often overlooked. Guests, staff, and city leaders joined Paul on that bench, shining a light on the very real lives behind the labels.

In that 24-hour stretch, the bench became a platform for dignity, courage, and transformation.

To everyone who showed up, tuned in, or shared their story... thank you. You reminded us that homelessness isn't a condition. It's a story still being written, and hope lives at the heart of it.



Thanksgiving MEAL

Wed.
November
26
At 10:00 AM

CITY RESCUE MISSION'S
NEW LIFE INN



**234 WEST STATE STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202**

SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:30AM COFFEE, SNACKS & FELLOWSHIP
10:30AM – 11:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:30AM – 1:00PM THANKSGIVING MEAL SERVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT SHERRIE MACK
SHMACK@CRMJAX.ORG
904-387-4357 ext. 224



SHOEBOXES OF LOVE

HELP US SPREAD HOPE AND JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

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
Shampoo/Conditioner
Toothbrush/Toothpaste
(no mouthwash, please)
Dental Floss

Lotion/Sunscreen
Wet Wipes
New Socks
A Small Devotional
Band-Aids

Razor/shaving cream
Chapstick
Comb/Brush
Nail Clippers
Deodorant

Please do not put money, gift cards or food in the box.

CRM

CITY RESCUE MISSION



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



Thank you to The JOYFM and Rekonekt Riverside for their generous donation of turkeys, which will feed hundreds of people during our holiday public meals.



Save the Date

**80TH Anniversary
Gala Dinner
May 7, 2026**

If you'd like to serve on the committee

CONTACT

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