

Paul's Ponderings

A gift, by definition, is something given freely, without payment, without condition. Scripture reminds us that the greatest gift ever offered is salvation through Jesus Christ. As Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." This gift is not earned. It is received.



Paul Stasi
Executive Director

But a gift must be accepted. It must be opened. And tragically, many never do.

At City Rescue Mission, we see this truth lived out daily. Men and women walk through our doors burdened by brokenness, addiction, and despair, searching for relief, restoration, and hope. Through your partnership, we offer more than shelter, meals, and recovery. We offer the gift of healing. Our staff and volunteers, each uniquely equipped with spiritual gifts, serve not just with skill but with sacred calling. As Peter reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Whether it's a word of encouragement, a warm meal, or a prayer whispered in a moment of crisis, these gifts reflect the heart of God.

gift

And the distribution of these gifts are only possible because of you. Your generosity allows us to extend the gift of new life to those who need it most. You are part of this holy exchange where brokenness meets grace, and despair gives way to redemption. Together, we are not just meeting needs; we are offering the greatest gift of all: salvation, freedom, and new life in Christ.

Our prayer is that every man and woman who comes to us will not only receive help but will also open the gift of salvation, freedom, and sobriety. Thank you for making this possible.

Paul

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 a 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 - \$8,000
 - » (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)
- Twin sized sheet sets (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



Board
of
Directors

Craig Henderson, *Chair* Chad Perce, *Vice-Chair*
Kendall Spencer, *Finance* Doug Milne, *Secretary/Parliamentarian*

Shontrell Anderson
Brian Andrew
Carrie Chupp

Alan Cottrill
Tina Daniels
Steve DeSorbo

David Eure
Lee Nimnicht
Ed Perez

New Life

NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

TIKI

"FROM BROKEN TO BLESSED"

Tiki never imagined her childhood trauma could haunt her life into adulthood. Sadly, she lost her marriage, her family and her confidence as she struggled to cope. But through the City Rescue Mission's faith-based program, she's found her voice, her calling and her connection with God. Today, she's living with purpose – and she loves the woman she's become. Thank you for helping make her transformation possible.

TIKI'S STORY

Page 2

THANKSGIVING MEAL

Page 3

PAUL'S PONDERINGS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Page 4

TIKI'S STORY

BREAKING THE PATTERNS

Tiki came to City Rescue Mission after decades of substance abuse, broken relationships and deep loneliness. She had sought our help before – but this time was different. With God’s help and the support of people who truly listened, she began a new chapter filled with hope, purpose and love.

Raised on a farm by her great-aunt and uncle, Tiki remembers daily chores and close-knit family routines, surrounded by the rhythms of country life. Sadly, those fond memories are also clouded by abuse and unhealthy situations at home.

As a teen, she dreamed of serving in the military and even passed the entrance exam. But love changed her plans. She chose marriage instead.

For 17 years, she poured herself into raising the couple's three children. The family's life included frequent moves tied to her husband's Naval career. Tiki did her best to create a home wherever they landed. Yet while she embraced her role of wife and mother, cracks began to form in what she thought was a solid foundation.

"I pretended to be happy, but I was lost and broken."

As her children grew older and less dependent, Tiki found herself struggling with a growing emptiness and unprocessed trauma from her past. Seeking relief in an unfamiliar city, she was vulnerable to negative influences. Eventually, her poor choices – including substance abuse – destroyed everything she held dear.

Her marriage ended... her family fell apart... and she lost the home she and her husband had built together.

"I had nothing. I had no one. I was a wreck, and I was ashamed."

Tiki spiraled deeper into despair and substance abuse. Her destructive behaviors led to charges that could have sent her to prison. "But by the grace of God, I got mercy when I didn't deserve it," she says. That realization compelled her to come to City Rescue

Mission. But she left before graduating. "I cut myself short," she says.

Tiki reached rock bottom in 2024. All alone, she came face to face with her substance abuse. "I looked into the mirror and saw nothing but death," she says. "And I didn't want my children to have to identify me like that." She called the Mission and asked to come back. This time was different.

"I actually accomplished what I set out to do."

In our LifeBuilders program, Tiki truly committed to the work of recovery: Developing important life skills. Embracing education and workforce development. Most importantly, as she studies the Bible and becomes grounded in God's Word, she's healing from the pain of childhood abuse. With renewed self-confidence, she serves as a hall monitor and sings in the choir. She has also discovered a spiritual gift for praying for others. It gives her purpose and fills the void in her life.

"When I pray, I can feel the Holy Spirit guiding my words."

As Tiki prepares to graduate, she walks beside her sisters in recovery,

encouraging them with her story of God's healing and grace. And she treasures the Mission family and community that supported her every step of the way.



**"Here, I found love, confidence
and people who truly care."**

Save the
Date

80TH Anniversary
Gala Dinner
May 7, 2026

If you'd like to serve on the committee

CONTACT

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

12 Days of Christmas *Save*

DECEMBER 11	Books 15% off
DECEMBER 12	Jewelry 15% off
DECEMBER 13	Homegoods 15% off
DECEMBER 14	Closed
DECEMBER 15	Kid's clothes 15% off
DECEMBER 16	Handbags 15% off
DECEMBER 17	Toys 15% off
DECEMBER 18	Books 15% off
DECEMBER 19	Jewelry 15% off
DECEMBER 20	Homegoods 15% off
DECEMBER 21	Closed
DECEMBER 22	Kid's clothes 15% off
DECEMBER 23	Handbags 15% off
DECEMBER 24	Toys 15% off



CRM
CITY RESCUE MISSION
THRIFT STORE

Thanksgiving Public Meal

**THANK YOU TO EVERY SPONSOR, DONOR, AND VOLUNTEER
WHO HELPED MAKE OUR THANKSGIVING PUBLIC MEAL
A BLESSED AND UNFORGETTABLE DAY.**



Because of you, we have been able to feed and clothe the needy and homeless, giving them gifts of compassion. If you would like to find out about other ways that you can help CRM, contact **Sherrie Mack** at **(904) 387-4357 ext. 224**.

Christmas Public Meal

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP,
GIVEAWAYS AND A CHRISTMAS MEAL!**

DECEMBER
22



NEW LIFE INN
234 W. STATE STREET

10_{AM} - 1_{PM}