Paul's Ponderings

Paul Stasi
CEO

Impact is the influence we have on others through our actions, words, and faith. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect God's love and inspire positive change. Scripture shows that true impact begins with a transformed heart and flows outward into every area of life. It is how we live each day. James 1:22 reminds us to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only." Our faith is demonstrated through integrity, kindness, humility, and obedience. Before God calls us to influence others, He calls us to faithfulness in our daily choices.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16). We are not called to draw attention to ourselves but to reflect Christ's character. Through grace, compassion, and generosity, we shine His light into a world that desperately needs hope.

Impact

Lasting impact is rooted in God's truth. Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." As we trust the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6), meditate on His Word (Joshua 1:8), and allow Scripture to guide our decisions (2 Timothy 3:16-17), we become effective instruments of His purpose.

Jesus called His followers the "salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). We are to seek the welfare of our communities (Jeremiah 29:7), carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), and serve those in need (Matthew 25:35-40). Biblical impact goes beyond meeting immediate needs to transforming lives through the love of Christ.

At City Rescue Mission, we see these principles lived out every day. Lives are being restored, hope is being renewed, and communities are being strengthened.

None of this would be possible without your faithful partnership. Through your generosity, City Rescue Mission continues to make a lasting impact across Northeast Florida.

Thank you for helping change lives and sharing the hope of Christ.

3 Ways to Give

Phone (904)-421-5183

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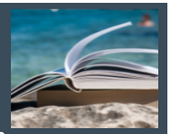
Some Gifts Are Meant to Be Shared



Allen Levi challenged himself to write a full-length novel. After accomplishing his goal, he put the manuscript in a drawer and moved on to the next thing.

At the suggestion of friends, Allen self-published the book, titled Theo of Golden, in 2023. Word spread about this story of generosity, faith, and connection. By early 2026, it reached #1 on the New York Times bestseller list. The pet project Allen once put aside has resonated with countless people.

If you've been saving money in a donor advised fund (DAF), consider this your invitation to pull it out of the metaphorical drawer and make a difference today. Here's how:

Remember your "why." You had a vision when you started your DAF. Refocus on those plans and priorities.

Give today. Discover what your favorite ministries are doing that align with your vision, then make a DAF gift to transform lives right now.

Create a plan. Your DAF giving can continue after your lifetime. List City Rescue Mission as a beneficiary of your DAF account and provide ongoing support for our work.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of ***"Some Gifts Are Meant to Be Shared?"*** by contacting Katie Barger at (904) 421-5183 or kbarger@crmjax.org - Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to create a will that honors your faith and family.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- Clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for the Thrift Store
- Men's body wash, deodorant, and soap
- Twin sized blankets (400)
- Twin sized white sheet sets (400)
- Bus Passes: Weekly - $20 each, Monthly - $65 each
- White towels (1,000) and white wash cloths (2,000)
- Bottled Water
- Spiral and Composition Notebooks
- Black and Blue Pens
- Help Us Build More Hope: Lives are being transformed every day at CityRescue Mission. Help us reach our $200,000 goal for property acquistion to expand the McDuff campus. Your generosity will support us to provide more hope and healing to people in need. Give today and help build hope for tomorrow!

Call for truck pick up of donations to the Thrift Store

Contact: Sherrie Mack | shmack@crmjax.org | (904) 387-4357 ext. 230

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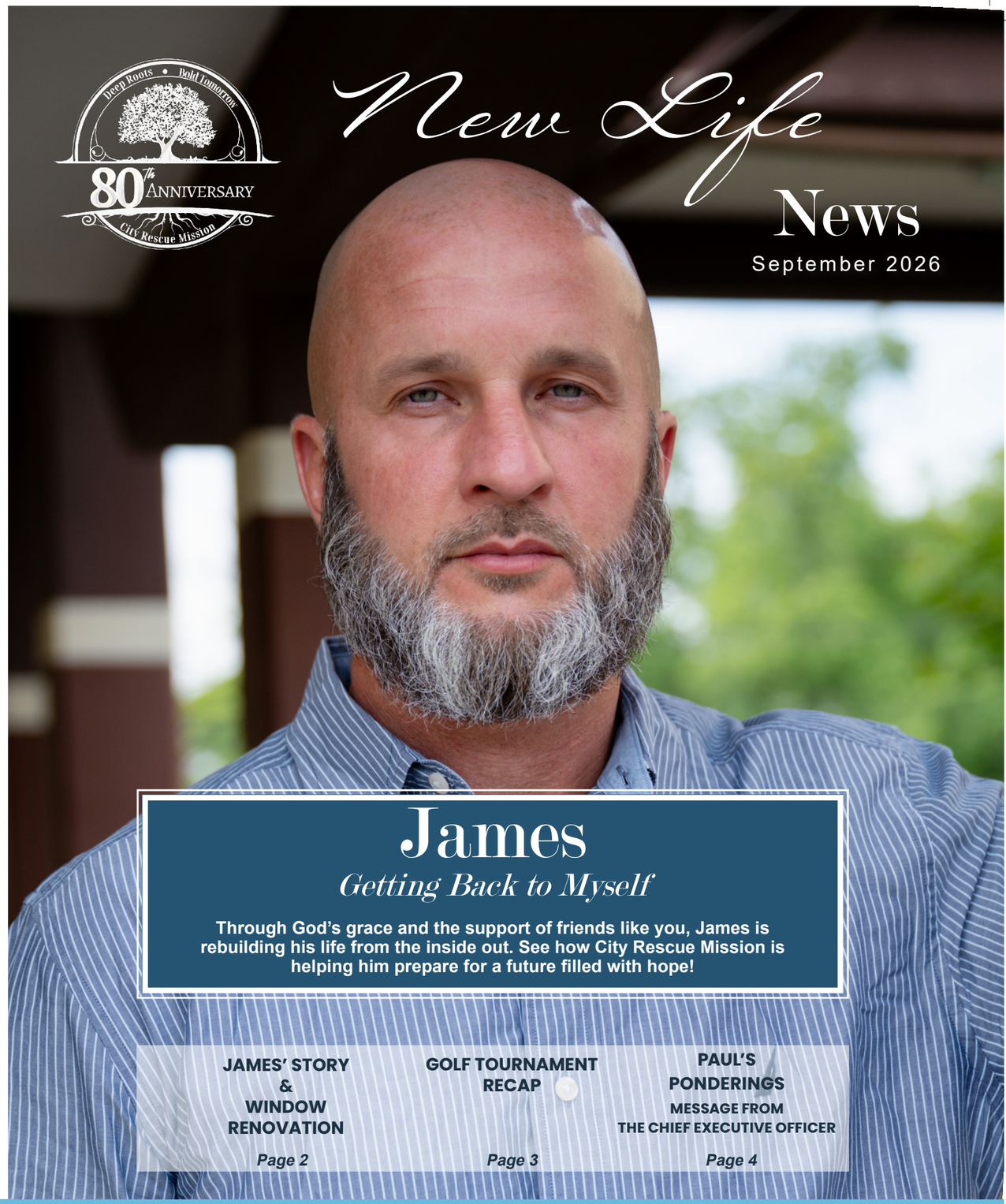


JAMES' STORY

Getting Back to Myself

Painful loss and unhealthy influences led James into addiction at an early age. After years of substance abuse, prison sentences and broken relationships, he arrived at City Rescue Mission ready to confront the struggles that had kept him trapped for so long.

James remembers happy moments from his childhood. He enjoyed fishing, boating and riding BMX bikes, and he credits his mother and a neighborhood pastor for providing encouragement and stability after his father died when James was young.

Even with some positive influences in his life, he was introduced to drugs and alcohol at an early age... which lead to an addiction that followed him into adulthood. Despite building a successful lawn maintenance business, James found himself repeatedly returning to the same unhealthy people and environments that fueled his addiction. He wanted a different life, but each fresh start seemed to end the same way. "I had a business, but the drugs always pulled me back into that same atmosphere of being around people who were just trying to use me."

His addiction eventually led to multiple prison sentences that created distance between him and the people he loved most. Missing precious years with his children became one of his deepest regrets. "It put a burden on my life with my family and my kids. I couldn't be there for my son, daughter or mother when I wasn't there for myself or respecting myself."

When James failed a drug test, he expected to return to prison. Instead, he was given the opportunity to enter the Crossroads Program at City Rescue Mission. Through the compassion of supporters like you, he found something he had never experienced before: a place where healing could truly begin.

The classes, counseling and daily encouragement helped James understand the roots of his addiction and gave him practical tools to build a different future."The classes taught me coping skills and how to handle triggers and cravings. I learned to step back and evaluate what's really going on. They opened new doors for me and helped me see there's more to life than substances."

Working through the Mission's recovery program also strengthened his relationship with God in ways he had not experienced since childhood. "I'm closer to Him now. I feel Him with me now and He's answering my prayers."

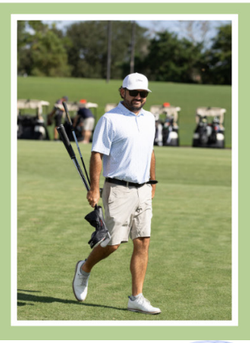
Today, James serves as a coordinator within the Mission's Crossroads Program, encouraging other men and helping newcomers adjust as they begin their own recovery journeys.

Looking ahead, he is eager to reunite with his family, continue walking faithfully with the Lord and build a life marked by healthy relationships, strong boundaries and lasting sobriety.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to better myself, to be a better person, a better man, a better father, a better son."

TO VIEW JAMES' STORY IN VIDEO, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

CRM CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT



Out with the Old
In with the New

CRM's McDuff Campus is getting it's windows renovated!

Follow us to stay up to date on all things around the mission.

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City Rescue Mission

To donate to the mission updates call (904) 387-4357 or go to crmjax.org

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