Paul's Ponderings

A Different Kind of Confidence



Paul Stasi
CEO

We live in a world that tells us to believe in ourselves, trust our abilities, and be confident in who we are. While there is nothing wrong with recognizing the gifts God has given us, the Bible teaches us that true confidence comes from something much greater than ourselves. It comes from trusting God.

Hebrews 13:6 says, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Paul similarly writes, "Such confidence we have through Christ before God" (2 Corinthians 3:4). He then reminds us that our competence does not come from ourselves, but from God. That is an important distinction. Confidence based solely on our own abilities can disappear quickly when life falls apart. We fail, make poor decisions, people disappoint us, circumstances change, and sometimes we simply do not know what to do next. But our confidence in God can remain because He does not change.

Confidence

I see this truth lived out every day at City Rescue Mission. Many of the people who come through our doors have lost confidence in themselves and, often, hope for their future. Addiction, homelessness, broken relationships, unemployment, and years of difficult choices have taken their toll.

Then something begins to change. Through Christ, they discover that their past does not have to determine their future. They begin to understand that they don't have to face tomorrow in their own strength. As their faith grows, so does their confidence. This isn't simply in themselves, but in the God who loves them, forgives them, strengthens them, and gives them hope.
This is the transformation you help make possible through your prayers and generosity.

Maybe it's also a reminder for each of us. Whatever we face today, our greatest confidence is not that we can handle everything life brings. It is knowing that GOD IS ABLE, and that He will walk us through it.



3 Ways to Give

Phone	Mail	Online
(904)-421-5183	426 McDuff Ave. S Jacksonville, FL 32254	

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
- Help Us Build More Hope: Lives are being transformed every day at City Rescue 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!

Thank you to a generous donor, we recieved $40,000 to go towards our property acquistion campaign!

Call for truck pick up of donations to the Thrift Store (904) 421-5171
Contact: Sherrie Mack | shmack@crmjax.org | (904) 387-4357 ext. 230

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New Life News

October 2026

Carolyn

I'm Headed in a Better Direction

Carolyn is on a better path, thanks to the support of people like you. See how City Rescue Mission is giving her hope for her future!

CAROLYN'S STORY & MEET CRM'S DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT *Page 2*

RECOVERY MONTH & UPCOMING EVENTS *Page 3*

PAUL'S PONDERINGS MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *Page 4*

CAROLYN'S STORY

I'm Heading in a Better Direction

For years, Carolyn built a stable life in New York as a nursing assistant but she knew it wasn't the safest place to raise her son. She made the difficult decision to move her family to Jacksonville, hoping it would give her son every opportunity to thrive. But she never imagined that she would struggle to stand on her own two feet.



Carolyn grew up in New York alongside her six siblings and remembers a happy childhood. As an adult, she found her work in healthcare meaningful, finding joy and purpose in caring for others. She believed that she would stay in New York, but when her son was born, her priorities shifted. "I wanted to get him away from the violence," she says. "So, I came to Jacksonville for the safer community." She arrived with a job and an apartment secured. It felt like the beginning of a brighter future. She worked hard, determined to provide a stable life for her son and make the most of her new beginning.

But when Carolyn unexpectedly lost her job, she also lost her home. She and her son had nowhere to turn for help. "I became homeless. I had to sleep in my car... it was very scary," Carolyn says. What she expected to be a temporary setback stretched into two and a half years. Night after night, Carolyn relied on the only shelter she had, her car. Every day brought uncertainty. "Even though I was living in my car, I felt safe because it was familiar," she says.

But familiarity is not the same as stability. Eventually, she hit her breaking point. Without consistent meals and a safe place to lay her head, Carolyn realized that she could not keep living that way. She wanted more than survival; she wanted a future for her and her son.

Thankfully, Carolyn discovered City Rescue Mission. She came here looking for immediate help but found something greater. Carolyn received three nourishing meals a day and a safe bed. She met caring people who welcomed her with compassion and encouragement. As her physical needs were met, she was able to grow spiritually through chapel services, Bible study and meaningful fellowship with others. "I've always had God in my life, but I didn't know Him as well as I do now." With each passing day, hope began replacing fear. Instead of wondering how she would make it through another night, Carolyn began believing that God still had a purpose for her life.

Today, Carolyn has an employment opportunity lined up and is working toward financial independence and greater self-sufficiency. She feels hopeful in a way she could not before. "I'm setting goals for my future, and I believe they are within reach."

Because of the support of compassionate friends, neighbors like Carolyn find more than food and shelter at City Rescue Mission. They discover renewed hope, caring community and the opportunity to move forward in a better direction, one step at a time.

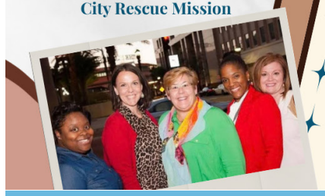
"Here at the Mission, they show love. They push us where we need to be."

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

WELCOME TO THE MISSION



Ywana Allen
Director of Development
City Rescue Mission

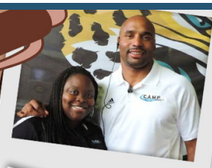


Get to know me

- Graduate of Terry Parker High School
- Former High School English Teacher and Assistant Principal
- Strategist for 40+ nonprofits, politicians and professional athletes
- B.A. in Mass Communications - Broadcast Journalism, Bethune-Cookman University
- Dual master's in public administration and educational leadership, UNF
- Certificates in Political Campaign Management, and Lobbying & Advocacy, University of Richmond
- Member of Leadership Jax - Class of 2020

Fun Facts

- Member of Wayman Temple A.M.E. Church
- Once performed at the world-famous Apollo Theater
- Former Teacher of the Year 2017
- Loves the Waffle House
- Enjoys time with friends and family, especially walks with her son, Cayden, and her favorite big cousin, former Sheriff Nat Glover!







Recovery Month

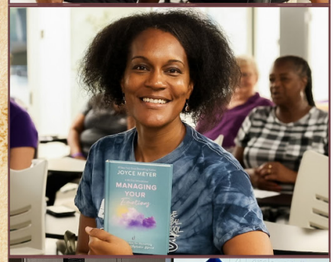
Recovery Month is a time to celebrate progress, honor transformation, and encourage those on the journey to lasting recovery.



Social Services Staff Retreat

A time for our team to connect, recharge, and grow together.





Program Participants Recovery Cookout/Games

Participants celebrated Recovery Month with games, fellowship, food, and fun.





LifeBuilders & Crossroads Fall Graduation

Celebrating 14 graduates and their incredible journeys of transformation and recovery.







Upcoming Holiday Events

Turkey & Ham Drive
Oct. 5th - Nov. 9th
Drop off anytime M-F, 9a-5p at either CRM Location

Shoeboxes of Love Drive
Oct. 5th - Nov. 9th
Drop off at WJCT at 100 Festival Park Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Blanket Drive
Oct. 5th - Jan. 31st

T-Shirts for Turkeys with The JoyFM
Nov 9th (5pm-7pm) at Sonny's on Atlantic Blvd

Thanksgiving Public Meal
Nov. 25th (10am-1pm)

For more Information contact Sherrie Mack, (904) 387-4357 ext. 230

Program Participants Christmas Party - Dec. 15th

Community Shoeboxes of Love Giveway - Dec. 22nd (11am-1pm)

Christmas Public Meal
Dec. 23rd (10am-1pm)