Paul's Ponderings



Paul Stasi
CEO

We live in a world where people are often measured by what they possess, what they accomplish, or the positions they hold. Yet Scripture reminds us of a deeper truth: every person has value, not because of what they have achieved, but because they were created in the image of God. That is the foundation of honor.

Romans 12:10 says, "Honor one another above yourselves." Honor is more than respect. Respect is often earned through accomplishments or actions. Honor recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of another human being, regardless of their circumstances, failures, or station in life.

Throughout my years of ministry, I have encountered people from nearly every walk of life. Some have achieved remarkable success. Others have experienced addiction, homelessness, broken relationships, and devastating loss. One lesson has remained constant: A person's circumstances may describe their situation, but they never define their worth.

Honor

Jesus demonstrated this beautifully. He welcomed the rejected, touched the untouchable, and restored dignity to those society had forgotten. He saw beyond people's failures to the possibilities of lives transformed by grace.

At City Rescue Mission, we strive to follow His example. Sometimes restoration begins with something as simple as being called by name, receiving a warm meal, or hearing someone say, "You matter, or you're loved." These seemingly small expressions of honor can awaken hope in a heart that has nearly given up.

And that is where you come in.

Through your generosity, compassion, and faithful partnership, you do far more than provide meals, shelter, and life-changing programs. You help restore dignity, renew hope, and remind people that their lives have immeasurable value.

Thank you for honoring those whom God has entrusted to our care. Your kindness reflects the heart of Christ and helps make restoration possible every day.



3 Ways to Give

Phone
(904)-421-5183

Mail
426 McDuff Ave. S
Jacksonville, FL 32254

Online



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 Lillie Hatsell (904) 421-5183 or lhatsell@crmjax.org- Visit crmjax.legacywill.org to create a will that honors your faith

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the follow-

- 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!

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

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

Contact CRM Thrift store at (904) 421-5171 all for truck pick up of donations.

Board of Directors

Craig Henderson, *Chair* Lee Nimnicht, *Vice-Chair*
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New Life News

November 2026

Mariah

A Ray of Light

With God's faithfulness and the encouragement of people like you, Mariah found hope and strength to keep moving forward. Inside, see how she's building a bright future for herself and her children!

MARIAH'S STORY & THE JOYFM PARTNERSHIP — *Page 2*

CEO'S RETIREMENT ANNOUNCMENT & UPCOMING EVENTS — *Page 3*

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

MARIAH'S STORY

A Ray of Light

After years of homelessness left her exhausted and out of options, Mariah found City Rescue Mission at a critical moment. What followed helped her rediscover her faith, regain her hope and take the next step forward with her daughters.



Long before she ever found her way to Jacksonville, Mariah was already carrying more than any kid should have to. Growing up in New Hampshire, she watched her mother battle mental illness with almost no support. "It wasn't her fault, but it definitely made childhood hard." Even with these challenges, Mariah always found ways to care for those around her. "I'm a giver. I'm not a taker. I hate taking help, but I love giving it." As an adult, Mariah faced more difficulties. During the pandemic, it became harder for her to make ends meet, and her landlord wouldn't adjust her rent. "It became a vicious cycle of trying to make rent and trying to pay back rent, and I just couldn't keep up." She lost her apartment while three months pregnant with her youngest daughter.

The years that followed were relentless: homelessness, a cancer diagnosis and a car breakdown that stranded her family in Jacksonville. Then, after two years staying with friends, Mariah says, "I think the absolute rock bottom was when we had to move out of our friend's house."Facing the real possibility of living in her car, she reached out to City Rescue Mission. She was thankful to the Mission and to God for providing an opening when she and her family needed it most. Walking through our doors brought a mix of relief and uncertainty. Mariah had to adjust to the structure of Mission life, but she quickly found people who welcomed her and her daughters with love.

In the Overcomers Program, Mariah began taking parenting classes. She resisted the lessons at first, but they soon became her favorites. "I realized being a good parent is admitting sometimes we don't know everything," she says. She also has become more optimistic, choosing to focus on the positive instead of dwelling on what has gone wrong, and that shift has carried into her faith. "I spent so long being angry at God and wondering, 'Why did He abandon me? Why isn't He answering my prayers?' I learned that I have to put the work in and communicate and put my prayers out there." Now she and her girls love attending church together every Sunday. Even while rebuilding her own life, Mariah continues to look out for others. She spends time learning about available resources and often helps others find services. "I've tried to give back as much as I can."Her hopes now reach beyond the Mission. Mariah wants to return to school, get back into healthcare and eventually buy herself and her daughters a home of their own.

Mariah knows how difficult it can be to find a way out of homelessness. But through God's grace and the care she's received here at the Mission, she has experienced life transformation. Looking ahead, she hopes to offer that same support to others; to be a **"ray of light in the darkness, someone that's always there to help."**

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



The Mission's *Shining Stars*

City Rescue Mission presents awards to the following employees:

Robert Broadhurst, Men's Counselor
with the *Straight to the Heart Award*. Given once a year, this is for outstanding dedication to rebuilding lives through Jesus Christ.

Dave Cerezo, Maintence Manager
with the *Service Award* for dedicating 15 years to City Rescue Mission.

Jen Mangaoang, Accounts Payable
with the *Service Award* for dedicating 5 years to City Rescue Mission.

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP



After eleven years of dedicated service, City Rescue Mission CEO Paul Stasi has announced his retirement, effective **July 30, 2027**. His leadership has strengthened our ministry, expanded services, and positioned the Mission for a promising future. Paul remains fully committed to finishing well, advancing our vision, and ensuring a strong leadership transition. As we celebrate 80 years of God's faithfulness, we are grateful for Paul's leadership and confident that the Mission's greatest days are still ahead.

A Message from Our Board Chair

"Paul has led with excellence. His heart, passion, compassion and genuine love for City Rescue Mission, the people we serve, our donors, partners and the Northeast Florida community, has equipped him to be a powerful catalyst for unwavering hope, healing and long-term transformation. He has been faithful in leading boldly with a clear vison, positioning us to make meaningful impact now and in the future. Paul deserves to enjoy time with his family, especially his grandchildren and on behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish him the very best and God's richest and continued blessings."

— Craig Henderson, Board Chair









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 - Dec. 11th
Drop off at City Rescue Mission
426 S. McDuff Jacksonville, FL 32254

Blanket Drive
Oct. 5th - Jan. 31st
Drop off at City Rescue Mission
426 S. McDuff Jacksonville, FL 32254

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

Thanksgiving Public Meal
Nov. 25th (10am-1pm)
City Rescue Mission-New Life Inn
234 W State St. Jacksonville, FL 32254

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

Heritage Singers Concert
Dec. 4th at 6pm
City Rescue Mission
426 S. McDuff Jacksonville, FL 32254

Mr. Rogers Sweater Drive
Dec. 9th - 10:30am
City Rescue Mission
426 S. McDuff Jacksonville, FL 32254

Community Shoeboxes of Love Giveway - Dec. 22nd (11am-1pm)
City Rescue Mission
426 S. McDuff Jacksonville, FL 32254

Christmas Public Meal
Dec. 23rd (10am-1pm)
City Rescue Mission-New Life Inn
234 W. State St. Jacksonville, FL 32254