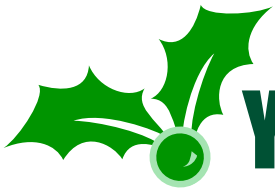


HARBOR LIGHT

Providing a
Beacon of Hope
Through Your
Support!

NOVEMBER 2005

VOL. 5 • ISSUE 4



You've Given Her Reason to Celebrate During the Holidays!

INSIDE:

*Many thanks to you
for supporting our
outreach to the poor
and homeless in our
community!*



TIME TO STOP & THINK

Dear Friend,

**“Silent night, Holy night,
all is calm, all is bright...”**

This is a very special Christmas hymn at the Muskegon Rescue Mission, because “calm” isn’t something most of our residents experienced before they came here.

What room is there for “calm” when every day is a struggle to find your next meal, your next fix, a safe place to spend the night? Homelessness, poverty, addiction and sin are chaotic. Many people come to us only when they hit “rock bottom,” that moment when all the problems and stress in their lives overwhelm them completely. Everything is a crisis, and every crisis is interrelated—there’s no food because there’s no money, there’s no money because there’s no job, there’s no job because of the addiction, the addiction is because of the pain of childhood abuse... It all becomes one big tangled mess, and it’s impossible for most of these individuals to decide what problem to try to solve first. There’s no time to stop and think.

Your support of the Muskegon Rescue Mission makes us a place where these men and women can finally stop and think. Their daily needs are cared for, their children are safe and loved. Caring staff and volunteers help unravel the tangled mess, giving each resident time to deal with their problems piece by piece with God’s guidance. At last, there is calm, and time to listen and learn.

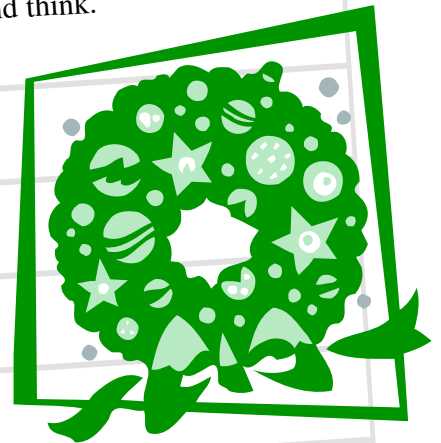
As you reflect on God’s goodness and blessings this Thanksgiving and Christmas, I hope you’ll remember that your generosity is giving our residents the time to reflect on their lives, too, and see how they can build a future of calm trust in God. Thank you for helping them find the “Son of God, love’s pure light!”

In His Name,

Carla



Carla Skoglund
Executive Director



She's Letting Christ's Light Shine, *WITH YOUR HELP!*

Denise was sure she didn't have a problem.

She went to work every day, and had a place to live. She only used alcohol and cocaine in the evenings. "I'm not hooked," she thought to herself. "I'm doing fine."

But as you know, she wasn't doing fine. Drugs were slowly taking over more and more of her life, and the people closest to her were worried. Finally, Denise's mother confronted her. "That was not the life she wanted for me in Christ," Denise says, and realizing that she was losing her mother's support made Denise take a hard look at her life. "I was so ashamed. I came to the end of myself. For a while I was thinking that the Lord didn't love me."

Denise went to her supervisor and explained her problems. With great compassion, Denise's supervisor told her to take a leave from her job—it would still be there when she graduated from the recovery program at the Muskegon Rescue Mission.

Gratefully, Denise enrolled in our program, and through your generosity she has had the time to focus on the problems and attitudes that led to her addiction. She's been able to slow down and explore

God's grace, as well as more positive ways to relax than using drugs. "I've had so many revolutionary truths since I've been here," she says, and she's especially grateful for the calm environment after so many chaotic years of addiction.

She has also been impressed that the staff are equipped to deal with so many different kinds of people, and different kinds of problems. "They cater to your need," she explains. "It's open to everyone from all walks of life. Anyone can come here to find the Lord."

Denise's family is thrilled to see her getting help. "My sons just want to see Mom get better," she says, and her mother visits her at the Mission. She's looking forward to her graduation and going back to work as a changed person, wanting to let Christ's light shine through her and show what Christ can do.



Thank you for letting Christ's light shine through your prayers and gifts, helping women like Denise find new life. Because you care, Denise's sons will get their mother back, and Denise's mother will receive her daughter, whole and healthy for the first time in years.

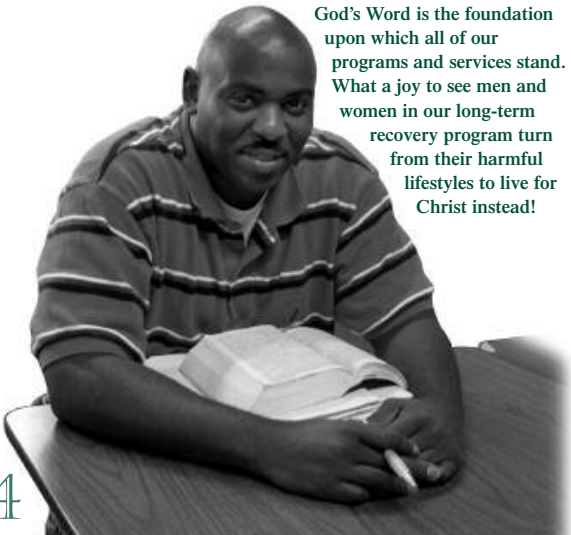
Your compassion truly makes a difference!

A SEASON OF GIVING HOPE & SHARING LOVE



The holidays are always very special at the Muskegon Rescue Mission. For so many of our guests and residents who may have had years full of heartache, your compassion reaches out and gives them hope as God's great love is revealed to them. It is our hope that when you see these pictures of ministry in action, they encourage your heart that God is using you to restore damaged and broken lives. Thank you for caring for the less fortunate among us this holiday season and throughout the year!

God's Word is the foundation upon which all of our programs and services stand. What a joy to see men and women in our long-term recovery program turn from their harmful lifestyles to live for Christ instead!



We want to thank everyone who donated to our 2005 School Clothing Give-Away. In four days, we were able to distribute over 2,000 articles of free clothing to needy families, so that their children could start school this year with confidence. Your gifts are helping children succeed in school!



Many of the children at the Mission have "celebrated" Christmas without gifts or the full attention of their parents. Thanks to your generosity, we can help families truly celebrate the holidays with joy.

Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly preparing and serving meals at the Mission. If you, your church or work group are interested in helping, please give Kay a call at (231) 727-6090!



Meals are often the first encounter that men and women have with the Muskegon Rescue Mission. Because you care, God uses this specific outreach to bring the hurting more comprehensive healing.

You're Never Too Young to Help

Janet Madendorp is 11 years old, but she's already making significant contributions to help the needy in our community. Two years ago, Janet completed a service project for Awana and made a donation to the Muskegon Rescue Mission. As a result, she began receiving our *Harbor Light* newsletter, and last May, she saw our needs list for the children we send to summer camp.

Thoughtfully, Janet circled a number of items, and then took \$112 of her own money to purchase Bibles, clothing and other items. After praying over her purchases, she brought them to the Mission. "I wanted them to have the best summer ever," she explains. "I want to give my love to everyone."

Janet is also looking forward to volunteering for our holiday food drives and serving meals at the Mission during the holiday season. Thank you for your wonderful heart for service, Janet!



CHRISTMAS GIFT NEEDS

We need your help to make Christmas bright for needy children and teens in our community. The toys you donate will be distributed at our annual Children's Party on December 17. If you, your church or office would like to participate, new, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Mission by December 16. Thank you for helping!

Gift Ideas:

- Basketballs, balls
- Playing cards & card games (Uno, etc.)
- Pretty journals & pens for girls
- Toy cash registers
- Play money
- Learning toys & puzzles for preschoolers (Leapfrog, etc.)
- Christian rap CDs
- Handheld video games
- CD & tape players
- Remote control cars
- Board games
- Legos
- Christian books for kids
- Toddler toys
- Hat & glove sets
- "In" clothes (children's size 12 through women's small)
- Gifts for older children (13 & up)

PRAYER & PRAISE

We are grateful for your prayers, which lift this ministry up and help us meet many needs!

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the Women's and Men's Discipleship Program
- For all of our guests staying with us at this time
- That our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations will bless the needy this year

PRAISE GOD:

- For the men, women and children finding God's love at the Mission
- For all the friends and partners whose gifts make this ministry possible

Our Prayer & Praise time is each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to join us!



RESCUED TREASURES: *Your Donations Give Christmas to the Needy!*

When you bring gently-used toys, clothing and other items to our two Rescued Treasures Bargain Centers, needy families can purchase them at low cost and have presents waiting for their children on Christmas morning. And your donation goes even further, because all proceeds go directly to help men, women and children at the Muskegon Rescue Mission.

Our stores are located in Muskegon at 2019 Apple at Quarterline, and in the Glenside shopping center at the corner of Sherman Ave. and Wickham Dr. in the Norton Shores area. Will you help make Christmas special for those in need?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **December 1, 12:30 p.m.**
Men's and Women's Auxiliary Luncheon, Men's Shelter
- **December 23, 1:00 p.m.**
Community Christmas Dinner, Men's Shelter
- **December 17, 3:00–5:30 p.m.**
Children's Christmas Party, Muskegon High School
- **December 20 & 21, 10:00 a.m. – Noon**
Toy Give-Away, Men's Shelter
- **December 19 & 22, 10:30 a.m.**
Christmas Food Basket Give-Away, Men's Shelter

TAX SAVINGS: *Did You Know?*

You already know that your gifts to the Muskegon Rescue Mission do a world of good for those in need. But did you know that you can also realize substantial tax savings if you itemize your gifts, especially if you are a Michigan resident?

The State of Michigan allows residents to take a tax credit for qualifying charitable donations (including those to the Muskegon Rescue Mission) on their state income tax form. This credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of tax, and can equal as much as 50% of the amount of your cash gift (up to a \$100 credit for an individual, or \$200 for a couple).

These tax credits, in conjunction with the federal deductions to which you are entitled, can create a significant tax benefit to you.

We know you don't give to support the Mission because of the tax benefit. But giving wisely also means taking advantage of opportunities for good stewardship of your own funds. With the end of the fiscal year approaching, be sure to ask your financial advisor or tax preparer how you can reduce your tax burden through these beneficial programs.

IN MEMORY

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of those remembered below. These gifts are a special legacy offering hope to those in need.

IN MEMORY OF:

(gifts received June 10 to August 16, 2005)

Karen M. Adams
Charles Evans
The Zbojnowicz Families

Mildred Andersen
Ruth Leafers

Mason Archer
Dave & Barb Klug
Connie Dornbos

Paul J. Betts, Sr.
Barbara Timmer
Jean Vandenberg
Robert & Jillayne Warners
Alan & Lorraine Anderson
Elva Chambers
DeWYS Manufacturing Co.
James & Ruth Fles
Eugene & Phyllis Haase
David & Colleen Klinger
Karey Andree, Spencer & Murray
Jeff & Staci Nieboer

Robert Bisson
Ailene Mosher

Bob Bolema
Jacob & Bertha Bolema
Larry R. Bolema
Patricia Bolema

Dorothy Bollenbacher
Ruth & Harold Workman

Clifford & Eleanor Bunnell
David & Clara Lovell

Jeannette Bush
Wally & Elaine Haglund

Larry Carroll
Brian & Patty Dodge

Ned Claytor
Darleen Claytor

Sadie Cotter
Ron & Louise Stong

Arthur G. Craymer
Carl & Ruth Moreen
William & Elaine Achterhof

Wesley DeLong
Minnie DeLong

Elfreda Dodge
Edna Dodge
Brian & Patty Dodge

Eleanor Donley
Al & Rayora Bjornstrom
Mary L. Wood

Ray & Lillian Remus
Fred & Jane Kruse
Ron Hunt
Don & Carol Lohman
Chris Donley

Connie Dornbos
Carol Augustin
Anne Pelon

Ed Emlaw
Mike & Sherry McKeown

Robert G. Erickson
Kathleen Townsend
Robert & Judy Johnson
Donald Erickson
Gerry & Susan Reeves
Jeff & Karen Stipes
Avis & Bill Boelkins
Loal & Helen Townsend
Ray & Judy Shinabarger
Mike & Berni Geohan
Henrietta Giuliani
Evelyn Thiel
Dick & Marge Elwell
Harold & Ruth Workman
Mary Lou Hanna
Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Cooper
Ron & Georgia Brandenburg
Leroy Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Voss
Norma Erickson

Jim & June Ernvall
Jack & Julie Timmer

Harry A. Erwin
Joyce Erwin

Lydia K. Fordham
Olive Fordham

Roy Foreman, Sr.
Ruth E. Simpson

William G. Galy
Chuck & Nilsa Galy
Joe & Sandy Galy

Albert Gobrogge
Irvin & Janet Holdgreve

Ruthann (Morrow) Gritzmaker
Ray & Corinne Morrow

Kenneth Gundy
Cathy Roat

Christian Gunn
Clavera Vanderwall

Bill & Marian Haglund
Garret & Evelyn Hazekamp
Wally & Elaine Haglund

Melvin Holtrop
Crystal Holtrop

Barbara Homan
Grace Nelson

C. Lee and Isabel Horsley
Marilyn DeFord

Robert W. Hosmer
Katherine Zagers

Susan E. Hulbert
Dorothy Vukits
John & Bonnie Sietsema
Aunt June Schrieber
Lin & Gary Santo
Bill & Janet Sabourin
Nancy Peterson
Barbara Pellerin
Mick & Jackie Meyers
Elsie Mattison
John & Cheryl Kralcy
Claudia Johnson
Julie Cvengros
Garry & Mary Bradfield

Marie King
J. Dexter King

Harold Kramer
Mary Jane Wiegink
Ruth Draft
Suzanne Tanis
Ann Singleton
Mary Nienhouse
Jane Mason
Dale & Elizabeth Jenkins
Ginger Grenell
Marcia Garrett
Steve & Becky Enberg
Mary & Michael Abbott

Joseph & Cora Lager
Joanne Bolema

Norm Lager
Joanne Bolema

Barbara Lamb
Joe & Sandy Galy

Marthalice Larabee
Stanley & Mary Houck

Thelma Lewis
Bill Reckley

Leah Majors
Winki Jepsen

Gary Medendorp
Minnie DeLong

Cora Mjovig
Jordis Hutchins

Alma L. Page
Ruth E. Simpson

John H. Page
Ruth E. Simpson

Henry Palsrok
Harvey & Lois Wierenga

Verna Panici
Jerry & Dee Meyers

Patricia Perri
Grace & Tom

Diane Prince
Clavera VanderWall

Tom Ritter
Carl & Sharlynn Fuller

William Saunders
Carolyn Bickmeyer

Clarence Schultz
Clavera VanderWall

Joseph Schurino
Dolores Millis
Jake & Barb Veltman
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Keller
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Gasaway
Al Galy
Chris Fortier

Joanne Scofield
Marilyn Krueger

Monica Shetterly
Edward Shetterly

S. Skelton
Marie Papanek

Anne Spoelman
Friends

Emil Stein
Mary Anne Brock

Larry Stone
Peggy Jensen
Gerald Nehra

Lincoln & Violet Stone
Robert Stone

Dora Straatsma
Susan Kolberg

Larry Strickler
Thomas Montambo

Barbara Sutherland
Marguerite Boyd

Dorothy Thompson
William & Charlene Thompson

Robert Traxler
Jim & Doris Goudzwaard

Harry Vledder
Gayle, John, Lindsay & Nick Jones

Milton Rex Vorgias
Janet Vorgias

Robert S. Waite
Cathy Roat

Charles Walker
Thomas Montambo

Olive Wierengo
Roger & Jeanne Knop

Velvie Williams
Ruth E. Simpson

Genevieve Wirtz
Mr. & Mrs. James Bozeman
Della Cramer

Samuel L. Woodard
Marlene Woodard

Dean Martin Workman
Ken & Kim Taylor

Bob Woycke
Pauline Woycke

Dwyane R. Young
Ruth E. Simpson

Mrs. Tryn Zonderman
Michael & Cathy Lash
Richard & Donna Stevens
Jennie Spoelman
Ruth Smith
Clyde (Mike) & Joyce Ketchum
Dave & Carol Anderson

Do you have a relative or friend you would like to honor? A gift to the Muskegon Rescue Mission is an ideal way to remember a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, or to acknowledge a loved one while at the same time helping those in need.

IN HONOR OF:

(gifts received June 10 to September 7, 2005)

Walter Nelson's 90th Birthday
Mary & William Bradford

Sterling & Greta Bushnell's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Angie Schuitema

Bill & Lynn Sohasky's Marriage
Paul & Penny Carlson

Jody Gubach's 80th Birthday
Al & Doris Cwiakala

Nancy Bouchard's Bridal Shower
Rose Sesselmann & Peg McCabe

NEW FACES!

Please join us in welcoming two new staff members!



Jim Hansen joins our staff with 13 years of accounting experience to help us make sure we keep the highest level of integrity in handling the funds entrusted to us. As a native of Muskegon, Jim says he counts it an honor to serve in a position where you know that what you do makes a difference to those in need. Welcome, Jim!



Jana Peterman joins us as Children's Ministry Manager, where she'll use her experience teaching 5th & 6th grade and her degree in elementary education to meet the needs of our residents' children. After years of praying for our residents, she has decided to make us her full-time ministry. Welcome, Jana!

When you send your memorial or in honor of gift to the Muskegon Rescue Mission, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt and a card will be mailed promptly to the bereaved family or the friend being honored, telling them of your gift. Please mail your memorial and in honor of gifts to:

Muskegon Rescue Mission
1691 Peck Street • Muskegon, MI 49441

Thank You for Not Giving Up on Ray!

At 13, Ray decided he was old enough to be in control of his own life, and ran away from home.

Unfortunately, as you can imagine, the kinds of choices a 13-year-old makes without any guidance led Ray into a lot of trouble. Over the next six years, he was in and out of jail several times, and heavily addicted to drugs.

Last year, things reached their lowest point. Ray's wife left him, and in despair he lost himself so

completely in drugs that he and his son became homeless. Ray was living in a drug house, and at last realized that he had to make a drastic change in his life.

Ray first came to the Muskegon Rescue Mission for a TB shot and a place to stay for a few days. But after spending some time with our staff and learning about our recovery program, he decided that this could be just the change he needed.

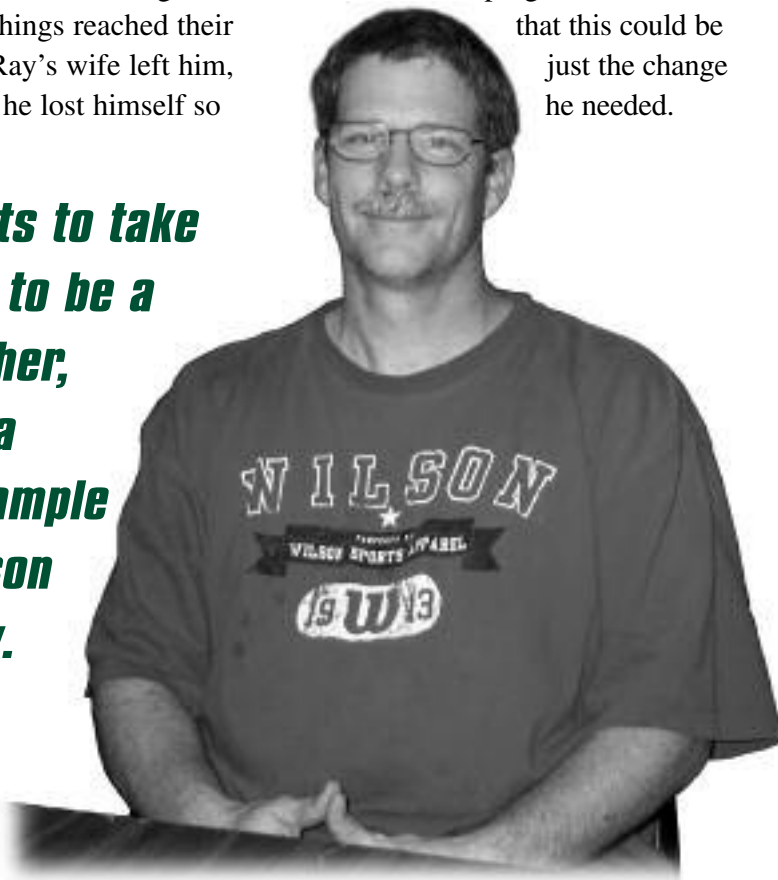
Ray's choice was influenced by the spiritual emphasis of our program, because he knew it would help give him new, positive habits to replace his destructive ones, and provide a structure for his life.

He was also impressed by the care we take to stay in touch with our graduates after they leave, because he'd tried other programs and knew how easy it can be to relapse without ongoing support.

Now, Ray sees that there are choices in life that lead to blessings and to curses, and he's looking forward to seeing what the blessings are about! For the first time, he's excited about working to support himself and his son, instead of just to support his drug habit. He wants to take the time to be a good father, and set a good example for his son to follow. He feels that he's finally getting "spiritually healthy."

"Thank you for not giving up," he says to you. "Places like this allow someone to regroup and learn there's another way." And thanks to the Lord's provision through you, dozens of men every year are finding another, better way to live at the Muskegon Rescue Mission!

Ray wants to take the time to be a good father, and set a good example for his son to follow.



Muskegon Rescue Mission

Redeem. Restore. Rebuild.

ASSOCIATION
OF GOSPEL
RESCUE
MISSIONS

1691 Peck Street
Muskegon, MI 49441

TEL (231) 727-6090
FAX (231) 722-7030

www.muskegonmission.org
rescue@muskegonmission.org

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A higher standard.
A higher purpose.