

I HAD  
NO LIFE  
UNTIL  
GOD  
SAVED  
ME!

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DATING  
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MONTH p.13



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# THE **MISSION** Bell

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PROVIDING *a Path of*  
**HOPE,** REDEMPTION,  
& **EMPOWERMENT**  
THROUGH  
*Jesus Christ*



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FROM THE **President's Desk**

## NEW **Barn Center**

Exciting times are happening here at the Rescue Mission as preparations are underway for our new **Barn Center** which will be located at our Zebulon Road campus. This new shopping experience will feature refinished furniture, jewelry, home décor, and unique finds.

We are currently in the process of renovating the horse barn that was on the property when we purchased it. We are thrilled to be able to keep the nostalgia of a “barn environment” by keeping the stalls and overall rustic feel. Our anticipated opening will be sometime in the Spring. We will be promoting the Grand Opening on social media and our website. Be on the lookout so you can come and see this wonderful opportunity God has given us.

Our residents will be heavily involved as they will complete part of their work therapy there. We look forward to men refinishing older pieces of furniture and our ladies learning more of the retail side. This will allow them to learn a valuable trade that could lead to long-term employment. We have some very talented people that enter this program, and we want this **Barn Center** to be an additional training center for their development.

Your support is needed to furnish our new **Barn Center**. Donations can be dropped off at our Zebulon Road location, or you may call our office to schedule a pick-up from your home or business. We are truly grateful for our faithful donors, and we know God will work through each of you to make this new venture a success!

As we continue to grow in the number of people we can help, so does the need for additional funding. God has given us this great opportunity so that we can continue to expand and offer life recovery for so many of our neighbors in need. Thank you for partnering with us in 2021 as we begin this new and exciting journey.

**See page 5 for pictures of our progress!**



Pat Chastain, *President/CEO*





## Testimony FROM THE MISSION

# I HAD NO LIFE UNTIL God Saved Me

My name is Frankie Powell, and I wanted to share my testimony with you. I grew up on the Eastside in Athens, Georgia. I remember growing up in a gambling house with my grandparents. Their house was around the corner from where I lived with my mother, and as a child, I would go between the two. My neighborhood was abundantly full of drugs, violence, and crime. I have a vivid memory of seeing the barrel of a shotgun at the age of six. My granddaddy ran a gambling operation with an iron fist, and I learned quickly to manipulate and deceive people at a very early age. To others, my environment may appear tragic or unthinkable, but to me it was normal. This was all that was around me, day in and day out. Crime became too familiar to me; a normal way of life.

I began selling for others and setting up crimes for them when I was 12 years old. I even stole from my grandparents when I was 13 years old. They put me out of their house, and it was years before I was allowed back into their home. My mom packed up and moved us to the Westside of Athens. I remember feeling scared and alone for the first time. My heart became hard and any chance of taking a different path for me was gone. I no longer resisted the life around me, no longer had dreams of something different, no longer had hope.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8





# Barn Center

## WORK IN PROGRESS



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Jaime Kaplan  
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# Spiritual Wellness AWARENESS MONTH



I am sure that many of you know that, February is Spiritual Wellness Awareness Month. In a world that loves to come up with its own idea of what it means to be spiritually well, the question definitely needs to be asked, what is spiritual wellness? According to some of the clinical definitions floating around, it is the ability to establish peace and harmony in our lives and to be fulfilled by what we do by aligning our values with our actions. Other definitions describe spiritual wellness as being connected to something greater than yourself as you search for life's meaning and purpose. Don't get me wrong, that sounds wonderful, however, we must be very careful in where we begin to search for these things. Especially since we live in a world that is so easily swayed by popular opinion and demand and always searching for the next new fad.

In reality, our search should begin and end with Christ Jesus. It's in Christ that we receive salvation and new life, and find peace despite the chaos that surrounds us. Jesus is the only One greater than ourselves that we should allow ourselves to be connected to. It's through our identity and connection in Christ that we find our meaning and our purpose. Unlike the world around us, Jesus never changes due to the happenings of our fickle culture. He is constant, and He promises to never leave us. I do believe there are many of us out there experiencing spiritual unrest because our actions are not lining up with our beliefs and our values. I believe the only remedy for this is for us, as Christians, to begin to realign our view of ourselves with the way God sees us and to live within that reality. So in a sense, our spiritual wellness is affected by having a faulty view of our identity. Our identity, as Christians, is in Christ. When we see ourselves through a fogged lens, we see everyone and everything around us through that same distortion. In Colossians chapter 3, Paul lays out some spectacular declarative truths about our identity in Christ, it's when we trust these truths about us that we can then experience the very realness of spiritual wellness.

That is the absolute beauty of being around the men and women at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, they are in the beginning stages of learning and trusting what God says about them. This "Amazing Grace" changes everything, and whether we realize it or not, it's what we are all so desperately searching for.

  
Jason Beck, Vice President of Programs

# make a difference **HOST A DONATION DRIVE**

Is your school, church, company, or civic group interested in hosting a food or everyday essentials drive to support the Rescue Mission in 2021?

***If so, we'd love to talk to you!***

When we receive these donated items we can then spend more of our financial resources on recovery care services for the men, women, and children we serve.

## Five Simple Steps to Host a Drive

1. Contact us to determine the type drive and set a date (we'll supply a needs list and idea guide).
2. Organize, promote, and hold your drive event! Need printable materials to get the word out? We can provide customizable flyers and social media materials.
3. Coordinate a drop-off or pick-up time with us.
4. With your permission, have your groups picture taken so we can thank you on our social media sites.
5. Thank your supporters (and we will post our thanks as well).



**A DONATION DRIVE** is a fun, fast and rewarding way to help the Rescue Mission and the men, women, and children we serve...we'd love to hear from you today!

**CONTACT**

Karen Kinsler

478-743-5445 ext. 404

[karen@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:karen@rescuemissionga.com)

## NEEDED DRIVES

Food

Paper Goods

Hygiene Products

Linens

Healthcare

Cleaning Supplies

Baby Items

Lawncare

Underclothes

Clothing



## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

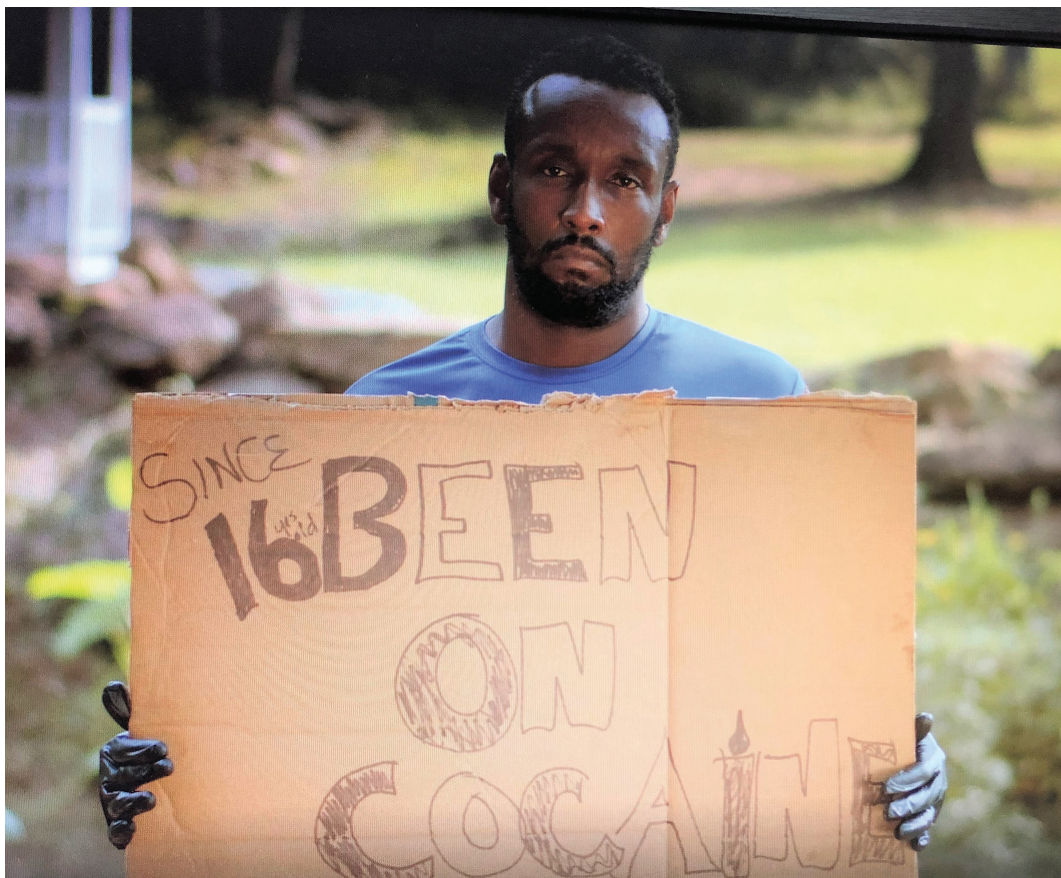
Here I am, now 16 years old, using cocaine, selling it to anyone around me, stealing and hustling. This was my life and would be for the next twenty-plus years. I saw no other way. I remained in and out of jail with my first arrest at 15 years old. I earned a name for myself on the Westside of Athens; people knew who I was and what I could do for them. The Eastside was known as the Iron Triangle, and I was known as the main hustler. There were different churches all around our neighborhood. Every 2-3 blocks there was a different church, and believe it or not, I went to church as a kid with my grandparents. God's word was spoken into my heart early on, and I truly believe that He has saved my life more than once.

The only other positive influence I had in my life was a Coach from the Westside. I was pretty good at baseball and football, and I remember that Coach Billy Henderson tried and tried to get me to play ball for him. He tried to save me from the life I knew, but I resisted and would never give this "other life" a chance. He never stopped pursuing me. There are times that I wonder how my life would have been different if I had listened to Coach Henderson and just given it a chance. I was so wrapped up in "the life" I knew that I could not see any other way.

My twenties and thirties were the same as my teen years. Living a life of crime, selling, and using drugs, hustling, and being arrested time and time again. I have had 4 attempts on my life. Three of my very close family members have died because of gun violence. I associated with the worst of the worst, and some may have considered me the worst of all.

The day I realized that I needed help, was when I saw the kids that grew up in my neighborhood following in my footsteps. They were doing the same things as me. I taught them to live a life such as mine. They looked up to me, the known drug dealer and hustler of the area. Man, this sure hit me hard! God used this moment to change my heart. I knew that I was the one that was ultimately to blame. I had been influencing them, teaching them this life and they idolized me. The truth is there was nothing in me to idolize. I knew, at this

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moment, that I had to change my life. What would their futures be if I led them in a different direction? This was so heavy on my heart that I began looking for a rehab program. I was originally headed to Atlanta to a program there, but God had a different plan. He brought me to the Rescue Mission on June 3, 2020. Since being here, I have found peace with God. He is restoring my life, and I have hope for the future. I am passionate about cooking, arranging music, and poetry. I journal and try to write down my thoughts and prayers every day. I can now look back and see God's hand of protection and how he has never left my side. He waited patiently for me to surrender to Him, and I am in awe of His love and faithfulness. At my lowest, He was there. He has always been there and always will be. I feel His love and will heed to his guidance in my life.

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# SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION



We had a great night celebrating the wonderful transformation in these graduates' lives. We love each of you and are so very proud of you! Congrats to all our graduates!

Thank you for praying for these precious men and women as they begin their new life. Your love and support matters and we are truly thankful for YOU!







## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

I have so many regrets, but I know God has a plan for me. I pray He will allow me to go back to the Eastside of Athens and speak truth into the lives of those that I destroyed. I desire to be a light for Him in that dark place.

I can only remember being sober for 3 months consecutively. I used when I was locked up and when I was in prison. I have now been sober for 8 months, and I am 40 years old. I thank God for saving me! It is by His hand alone that I am still alive and breathing. Please pray for me as I continue my recovery here at the Mission!

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*“I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.”*  
- Ecclesiastes 9:11

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## Women's Division HAPPENINGS

# Teen Dating Violence AWARENESS MONTH



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Approximately 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the U.S. admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with.

Sadly, only 1/3 of the teens who were involved in an abusive relationship confided in someone about the violence. They hesitate to seek help because they do not want to expose themselves and are unfortunately consumed by shame.

1 in 3 young people will be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship mainly because of their negative beliefs of self and their need for acceptance and love. God created us with those needs and if they are not fulfilled in healthy family relationships and through the right relationship with Jesus, then we start to seek to fulfill those needs in other ways.

What we believe drives our thoughts, which control our emotions/feelings, leads to our behavior patterns. If a teen is suffering from negative core self-beliefs, they start to think that something is wrong with them. They start to experience feelings of depression, anxiety, and hopelessness. This then leads the teen down a path of destructive behavior patterns including unhealthy relationships.

Let us be a community that begins the breaking of this cycle at home. Especially in these times of uncertainty, we must make an effort to spend quality time together with our children. Have intentional conversations with them that will build and strengthen your relationship with them. Communicate to your child in positive ways. Listen with undivided attention when they speak and make it safe to talk about feelings, including difficult ones. Lift them up, praise them, encourage them, show them appreciation, love, and encouragement through words and affection.

Be the example for your teen of what healthy relationships look like. Guide them and lead them to be strong, honest, and confident in their relationships.

*Linda Wessells*

Linda Wessells,  
Women's Program Director

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6



# Volunteer Hub: All things VOLUNTEER



## Join our Community Ambassadors Team

We are forming a Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia Community Ambassador Team. Community Ambassadors represent the Rescue Mission in the community. They connect the community with the needs of the mission, such as organizing donation drives and other events. We ask for a one-year commitment and to attend regular meetings (zoom/in-person). For more information about this opportunity reach out to [volunteer@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:volunteer@rescuemissionga.com).



## A couple of friendly reminders:

1. **Masks are now required on campus**
2. **Make sure to Sign-In & Sign-Out, because your time is valuable!**  
All volunteers please sign-in at the admin building or respected area of service.
3. **Wear your Name Badge!** Please wear your name badge when serving on campus. Lost your name badge or in need of one? Contact the volunteer team at the info below to receive one.
4. **Stay Home IF:** you are feeling unwell, anyone in your household is sick, anyone you have encountered in the last 2 weeks is sick.
5. **Wash your hands often!**

**Get Social with Us:** Find us on Facebook & Instagram to enjoy our picture reel, resident transformation stories, and other campus happenings.



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Rescue Mission of Middle Ga, Inc.

For more information, reach out to [volunteer@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:volunteer@rescuemissionga.com)

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### GIVE YEAR-ROUND

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