

**WHEELS  
TO WORK  
PROGRAM**

p.3

**BABY BOY  
ARRIVES  
SOON**

p.13



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# THE MISSION Bell

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**HOPE,** REDEMPTION,  
& **EMPOWERMENT**  
THROUGH  
*Jesus Christ*



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## FROM THE President's Desk

# Wheels TO Work

Did you know that gently used vehicles that are donated to the Rescue Mission are passed on to our graduates? Words cannot express the JOY and GRATITUDE these precious graduates feel when they receive transportation to get to and from work. When you support our Wheels to Work program, you are directly supporting a graduate of our programs!



*Calvin graduated in January of last year. He secured two jobs, and he worked so very hard to save money to get his driver's license after being without one for over 20 years. He walked to and from work without any complaints. He was SO very PROUD to be the recipient of this vehicle. We know God is faithful to those that seek Him, and He is a good, good father to us!*



*Kate Bower who graduated from the Rescue Mission Women's Life Recovery Program received a CAR! We are thrilled to pass on this generous donation to a very excited Kate. This gift means that Kate has reliable transportation to and from work, along with going about her daily life. Kate now has a fresh start and so much hope for the future!*



We are so thankful for the generous donors who have made this Wheels to Work so successful, but we have a long way to go. We have so many more up and coming graduates, but not enough cars.

If you have a gently used vehicle that you would like to donate, please contact Dawn Burns at 478-743-5445 ext. 301 or [dawn@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:dawn@rescuemissionga.com).

Thank you and may God's hand of peace rest over you and your family.

Pat Chastain, President/CEO





## Testimony FROM THE MISSION

### I'M AT Peace

Hello! My name is Sherrill, and I was born in LaGrange, Georgia in March of 1993. This is my story.

I grew up with my two brothers and a sister. Both of my parents drank alcohol regularly. This led to my parents fighting quite often. My dad was a mean drunk. He never physically abused us, but the verbal abuse was constant. My parents often ended up in physical fights which my siblings and I witnessed. I remember my mom even went to jail once due to their altercations.

After my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer and began chemotherapy, things calmed down some. We began staying with my aunt after school. Unfortunately, my older cousin would also be there, and he began molesting me when I was nine. This continued happening for two years, because I was afraid to tell anyone. I finally got up enough courage to tell my mom, and my parents called the police to report it. This caused a lot of family tension. Things continued to be strained between my parents. They eventually separated but continued living in the same house. One night, my dad came in and told us to always remember that he loved us and goodnight. This was very unusual for my dad, so I went and told my mom. She went to his room to check on him and found that he had taken all his prescription medication with alcohol in an attempt to commit suicide. My mom sent us next door to my aunt's house and called 911. My dad went to a hospital program for a short time. Eventually, my mom and dad divorced but remained living together.

My mom got a boyfriend, and we moved to a new house. Mom's boyfriend started beating her and the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) got involved. My mom refused to take a drug screen, and we were removed from her care when I was 13. We went to live with my dad at his friend's house,



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



# Donation Drives

## THAT CHANGE LIVES

Your generous donation of these much needed items help the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia to be good stewards of our resources while meeting the daily needs of the men, women and children we serve. THANK YOU for any help you can give in meeting these needs.

### MESH BOOKBAGS

### READING GLASSES (variety of strengths)

### BATH TOWELS

### WASH CLOTHS

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Liquid Bath Soap

Deodorant  
(Male & Female)

Trash Bags

Razors

Shave Gel

### Q-Tips

Undergarments  
(Male & Female)

Thin Feminine Pads

Tampons (Multiple Sizes)

Shower Shoes  
(Male & Female)

New Pillows

Eye Drops

Allergy Medicine  
(not Benadryl)

Children's Cold Medicine

Children's Tylenol

## Cleaning Products

Bleach

409 Cleaner

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Bathroom Cleanser

Fabuloso All Purpose  
Cleaner

Windex

Disinfectant Spray

## Donate much needed items RIGHT FROM YOUR COMPUTER!

Visit Our **Amazon Wish List** to Browse, Order & Ship items directly to the Rescue Mission with just a few quick, easy steps...

Items purchased locally can be brought to the Mission at 6601 Zebulon Road.

For more information contact Perla Gething at 478-743-5445 ext.403 or [perla@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:perla@rescuemissionga.com)

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## GARR Certified

We are so very excited to announce that we have become GARR certified. GARR is the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences and being a member of GARR will strengthen our community relationships in the services we currently offer. As we continue to grow as a ministry, we truly believe the relationships that God allows us to create and cultivate through our involvement with other organizations and ministries, in the fight for recovery will be pivotal. Our accreditation through GARR is another step in that direction. Below is a little about the GARR Network, but you can learn more about this highly reputable and relational organization at [www.thegarrnetwork.org](http://www.thegarrnetwork.org)



### GARR Network

The Georgia Association of Recovery Residences is a network of recovery residences which are committed to high quality standards and best practices. Our ongoing commitment is to provide our members with the framework to incorporate these services in all that they do. Furthermore, our pledge to the community is to stand as the model for integrity and competence in our state.

### GARR Legacy

GARR was organized in 1987 by seven residential recovery programs that were seeking to set themselves apart by establishing high quality standards, ethical operating principles, and third-party oversight. Today, GARR, an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences, continues to be the advocate and authority (or agent) for quality recovery residences in Georgia.

### GARR Philosophy

We believe in the highest quality of care for individuals needing recovery residence services. We believe that this is achieved through the creation and maintenance of standards as well as education designed for that purpose. We further believe that all people have the right to recover in an atmosphere conducive to their recovery and supports their basic need for safety, dignity, and respect.

### GARR Commitment

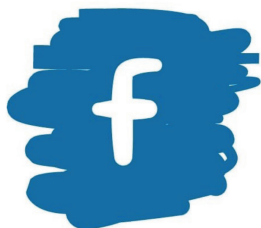
Our on-going commitment is to provide our members with the framework to incorporate these services in all that they do. This is accomplished through standards, advocacy, ethics, and education. Furthermore, our pledge to the community is to stand as the model for integrity and competence in our state.



  
Jason Beck,  
Vice President of Programs

# Stay Informed

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[instagram/@rescuemissionmiddlega](https://instagram/@rescuemissionmiddlega)



or sign up for email:  
[www.rescuemissionga.com](http://www.rescuemissionga.com)



## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and I got a job babysitting the neighbor's kids. My dad and his friend would go out drinking after work. If we kept our grades up and got home by our curfew, then we could go do whatever we wanted to do. I ended up getting arrested for underage drinking. My dad made me spend the night in jail, and I repaid him for the fine and fees he paid. Shortly after that, a friend spent the night, and we decided to sneak out. Her friend picked us up. They were smoking meth in the car, so I joined in with them. I was experimenting occasionally with drugs such as meth, weed, and pills until I met this guy at summer school. We began dating, and I moved in with his family. His parents cooked meth, so we used regularly together. Before I knew it, I was addicted. Eventually, we broke up, and I moved back in with my dad. This began a cycle of short toxic relationships until I met the man that would become my husband. He also used drugs daily. Our home was a revolving door of people using or selling drugs. In 2015, I found out that I was pregnant, and he told me to get an abortion. I refused, and we continued using drugs. Eventually, he told me that I needed to quit using since I was pregnant, but I continued. I stopped using one month before I delivered Junior, and we took home a healthy baby boy, or so I thought. The day we came home, I started using again. When Junior was 3 or 4 months old, someone reported us to DFCS, and he was removed from our home and placed with my sister-in-law. We all had to go for a hair follicle drug test, and I was shocked to learn that Junior's drug level was higher than mine and was almost at a deadly level because of his exposure to the drugs in our home. DFCS court-ordered both of us to go to drug rehab. We decided to get married so that we could go to rehab together, but we could not find one for couples. So, I went to rehab, and my husband stayed home. I ended up leaving there and going to another rehab but got kicked out for smoking weed. After leaving my second rehab center, I was arrested for contempt due to not following the mandated rehab order. My husband and I decided that it was in Junior's best interest to sign custody over to my sister-in-law. Eventually, my husband was arrested for selling narcotics and went to jail for a year. During this time, I connected with another drug dealer. He wanted to date but was still living with his ex, and it put me in some very dangerous situations. She did not want me around and

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## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

attempted to kill me on two separate occasions. Due to this, we often stayed at a motel together. We would fight regularly, and he started telling me that my smart mouth was going to get me in trouble. Shortly after that, he started physically beating me when he didn't like what I said. He ended up going to prison for possession. Unfortunately, I jumped into another toxic relationship. Before I knew it, I found myself pregnant again. I knew that something had to change, so I reached out for help and was connected with Coweta F.O.R.C.E (Friends of Recovery for Community Empowerment). They told me about a Women's Program in Macon that could help me. We called the Rescue Mission, and I came into the program the next day. I have been here for almost a year now. When I arrived, I thought this was going to be easy. I was coming down hard off drugs, 4 months pregnant, and I slept the first week that I was here. Soon I realized this journey was going to be far from easy. After a month of being here, I made a poor decision and I had to leave the program. Fortunately, they offer peer support for people who choose to leave. I came back for my peer support high, and my peers thought that I was not ready for recovery. They showed me grace though and gave me one month to decide if I wanted



to do this or not. One month later, I came for my follow-up peer support and was happy to tell them that I had been clean for two weeks. My peers allowed me back into the program and though this journey is not easy, I am thankful to be on it. The classes here will save my life if I choose to dig deep and allow healing. I am so thankful for the grace and peace that I have experienced here. I have never been more at peace with myself or my life than I am here at the mission. I have had to face

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# SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION



## *Tribute to Vernice Chappell*

On the occasion of her retirement, we all want to say thank you for your many years of service to the Rescue Mission. Many of us have additional personal reasons for our gratitude, for you have given special attention to our women and children here at the Mission. We thank you for all you have done and all you have taught us and send our very best wishes for a happy retirement. We love you and pray God continues to bless you for many, many more years!

## Q & A

### **1. Do you have any words of wisdom that you'd like to share?**

*This is an ongoing process of learning. Let God lead and guide you and the Mission with every decision you make. Never give up, continue to love one another, listen with purpose, and always respect one another.*

### **2. What was your happiest experience at the Rescue Mission?**

*My happiest memory was when the Mission moved to the new Zebulon Road campus. The residents now have space and room to grow with a new meaning of life through Jesus Christ. Seeing God answer this prayer has been amazing.*

### **3. Is there a colleague from work that has inspired you?**

*Yes, Dawn Burns. Dawn is just all around, helping as needed. She always has a hearing ear for anyone that needs encouragement.*

### **4. Can you describe your experience with the Mission in one word?**

*AMAZING! The Mission puts Christ first with prayer and they follow His guidance. This is shown in how we love each other. This love is only found in Him, and He flows through this place.*

### **5. What will you do with your time now that you are retired?**

*I enjoy baking and will begin volunteering at the Rescue Mission. This place is home and I still want to feel connected, so I will volunteer in the kitchen.*





## Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

challenges and acknowledge my negative self-beliefs and recognize that those beliefs are lies. I also had one of the greatest blessings while here, I delivered my second son and was clean and sober doing it. It has been so great getting to watch him grow and change. This journey brought me to God, I accepted Him, and I am His child. God is restoring my relationships with my family and my firstborn son. We have been able to experience forgiveness and our relationship has never been better. My advice to others is to reach out and ask for help if you need it. This place is so different from other programs. They don't give up on you. They accept you. They help you. They mentor you. They make me feel at peace here, and for me, that is something that I haven't felt in a very long time, if ever at all. We are family here.

*"Anyone with ears to hear  
should listen and understand."  
- Matthew 13:9*





## Women's Division HAPPENINGS

# It's A Boy!!!

We are so happy to announce that we are welcoming a beautiful baby boy into the Women's Division here at the Rescue Mission. Mom has been in our program for several months which by itself is challenging for any of our residents. Then add the anticipation of welcoming a baby into recovery. She has endured, and we are all excited to welcome her son into our Mission family.

We are asking if you can help in relieving some of her worries by assisting her with the much-needed items that come along with having a new baby. You may visit [smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/23I5Q5VRWTEIE/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/23I5Q5VRWTEIE/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl) or see her wish list below:



Diapers

Wipes

0-3 Months Clothes

Burp Cloths

Breast Milk

Storage Bags

Bottles



Bibs

Diaper Rash Cream

Baby Bathtub

Baby Shampoo

Baby Lotion

Baby Blankets

Crib Sheets

Any assistance that you can provide for this precious family as they continue their recovery journey is greatly appreciated. Please be in prayer for mom and baby for a safe delivery.

*Linda Wessells*

Linda Wessells,

Women's Program Director

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." - James 1:17*





**Your generosity and prayers transform hearts and lives. Thank you for bringing hope to people like Jimmie...**



Jimmie had been running from his problems – caused by poor choices – for 25 years. As a result, he lost nearly everything: his job... his home... his family. But after surviving a serious car accident, he realized he still had his life. And he came to the Mission to put it in God's hands. In our care, Jimmie asked God into his heart and is learning to give prayerful consideration to the choices he makes. He was selected to serve as our resident manager, helping others who make the choice to walk through the Mission's door.

*"The Mission is training me to take things day by day and to live each day to the fullest. It is preparing me in so many ways. I'm still a work in progress."*

– Jimmie

Please send your Easter gift  
by April 2nd.

May God bless you for caring.



APRIL 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



**I'LL HELP THOSE IN NEED NOW!**

***My Gift to Feed & Care for the Hurting & Hungry This Easter***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LIFE CHANGING GIFT!**

Donate online now! [rescuemissionga.com](http://rescuemissionga.com)

Reply Envelope on Page 5

Bargain CENTER

# 3 EASY WAYS TO Donate



1

**CALL** 478-743-5445 ext.314  
to Schedule a Pick-up

2

Go **ONLINE** to  
Schedule a Pick-up

3

**VISIT** One of Our  
27 Donation Bins

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Shameka Davis

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Toki Majors

*Store Manager*

Kyle Patat

*Warehouse Coordinator*

## DRIVERS

Art Ellis

Curtis Roundtree

Daniel Baggett

Reginald Reeves

## MAINTENANCE

Travis Wilson

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## **DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS**

**FURNITURE • KITCHEN ITEMS • CLOTHING • SO MUCH MORE!**

**Remember to call us when you are spring cleaning!**

3375 Napier Avenue, Macon  
Monday-Saturday / 10:00am - 6:00pm  
478-743-5445

When you shop the Bargain Center you not only save, you help fund programs for the men, women, and children we serve!



facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter



P.O. Box 749 | Macon, GA 31202

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### GIVE YEAR-ROUND

Consider becoming a monthly giver and have a lasting impact throughout the year! Find out how at [rescuemissionga.com](http://rescuemissionga.com)



### BARGAIN CENTER

Shop at 3375 Napier Avenue or donate items to a great cause. For large pickups call 743-5445.



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