

Rescue  Mission
OF MIDDLE GEORGIA

THE

MISSION

Bell

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2021

"Where Healing Begins"

NO
LONGER
DEFINED
BY MY
SHAME

p. 4



HAPPY
New
Year
2021

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Charlie Cantrell *CHAIRMAN*

Stewart Vernon *VICE-CHAIR*

Beverly Olson *SECRETARY*

Susan Collins *TREASURER*

Blake Sullivan

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Dr. Bill Argo

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobby Cramer

Buddy Clawson

Mike Jenkins

Frank Malloy

Alfred Sams

Chris R. Sheridan

Jeff Thompson

Louis Frank Tompkins

Wimberly Treadwell

ADVISORY BOARD

Oliver Bateman III

Martha Blue

Senator Saxby Chambliss

Ashley Copelan

Carolyn Crayton

Sheriff David Davis

Ed Defore

Jimmy Fain

Michael Ketterbaugh

Tommy Mixon

Mayor Robert Reichert

PRESIDENT/CEO

Pat Chastain

THE MISSION Bell

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2021

- 03 FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**
Happy New Year
- 04 TESTIMONY FROM THE MISSION**
No Longer Defined By My Shame
- 05 NEEDS LIST**
Rainy Day Relief
- 06 MEN'S DIVISION HAPPENINGS**
Something New
- 07 UPCOMING EVENTS**
Host A Donation Drive
- 10 SCENES FROM AROUND THE MISSION**
2020 A Year In Review /
2021 Looking Ahead
- 13 WOMEN'S DIVISION HAPPENINGS**
More Services Offered
- 14 VOLUNTEER HUB**
All Things Volunteer
- 15 BARGAIN CENTER**
Start the New Year Out Right

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

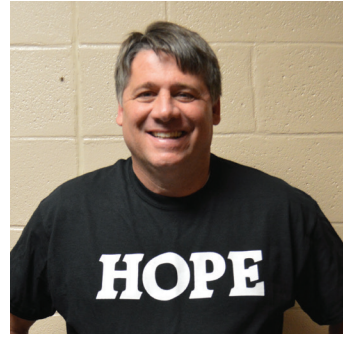


PANAPRINT A community service product of Panaprint.

FROM THE **President's Desk**

Happy NEW YEAR

It is a new year, and we are super-stoked about what God is getting ready to do! Our mindset will be fresh and positive, considering what 2020 has brought! We anticipate 2021 to be a year that men, women, and children continue to find hope and a new life by way of Jesus Christ! God is always at work, and we know he will continue to have his hand on this ministry. It is our prayer that disease, viruses, and pestilences have no place here and we remain safe and clean from all things that may hinder others from hearing the good news!



Our goal is to house at least 150 residents by the end of 2021, barring any unforeseen circumstances. So, we would ask that your prayers for the New Year include us accomplishing this goal. Here are just a few ways that you can help us reach our goal this year by partnering with us.

1. **PRAYER** – would you be intentional about praying for our ministry and leadership?
2. **DONATIONS** – would you consider donating your gently used furniture, clothing, or household items?
3. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** – would you consider supporting us financially?
4. **OUTREACH** – would you consider having a donation drive for us? *(details on page 5)*
5. **VOLUNTEER** – would you consider volunteering your time and talents? *(details on page 14)*

We are so very thankful for your faithful love and support, and we know that if we can just do these few things, this year will be our best year ever! We love and appreciate you more than you will ever know, and we pray God's hand of protection over you and your family! God Bless you!

Pat Chastain, *President/CEO*

Testimony FROM THE MISSION

No Longer Defined By MY SHAME

My name is Stephanie Walker. I was born in November of 1985 in Warner Robins, Georgia. My childhood was a good one, however, my rebellious teen years lead me down a rough road. I met a guy at 17, and we partied most of the time. At 19, I became pregnant. I knew my parents would not approve of my dating choice; so, I was living two different lifestyles, one with my parents and one with him. When we realized that I was pregnant, we decided to tell his mom first, and she suggested that I get an abortion. This was the farthest thought from my mind and left me shocked. (She later came to me and asked for forgiveness for even suggesting this.) The thought that anyone would want me to have an abortion scared me and caused me to go into hiding about my pregnancy. I knew my parents would be disappointed in me, and I was unable to face the shame and guilt. My boyfriend often tried to convince me to come clean with it to my parents, but I refused. I did eventually have to come clean about being pregnant for obvious reasons. At 7 months pregnant and standing in the middle of an aisle at Walmart, I blurted it out to my parents. I was so fearful of their reaction that I did not give them a chance to respond before running out of the store. After much discussion, everyone told us that we needed to get married, so we did. Once married, I realized that I barely knew the man that was now my husband. Up to that point, our relationship had been all about partying and sex. So, here we were newly married, paying



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD...



...especially when our men, women, and children are walking to class, the Dining Hall, church, and work therapy assignments on rainy days!

The Mission's campus is large and the buildings are spread-out. So we need to secure umbrellas and rain ponchos for our residents. Any donation you can give to help us purchase these items will be greatly appreciated. Simply return the form below along with your donation to ensure it is earmarked for Rainy Day Relief!

Or you can visit our **AMAZON SMILE** page to order umbrellas and ponchos to be shipped directly to the Rescue Mission

www.smile.amazon.co/charitylists - search "Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia"



RAINY DAY RELIEF! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ My check for \$ _____ is enclosed

Donate online now! rescuemissionga.com

RETURN TO:
Rescue Mission
6601 Zebulon Road
Macon GA 31220

STAFF

Pat Chastain
President/CEO

Tina Hicks
Vice President of Finance

Dawn Burns
Vice President of Operations

Steve Floyd
Logistics Coordinator

Greg Brooks
Food Service & Maintenance Supervisor

PROGRAMS

Jason Beck
Vice President of Programs

Linda Wessells
Women's Program Director

Emily Smallwood
Women's Assistant

Chako Holland
Women's Assistant

Vernice Chappell
Women's Evening Supervisor

Kiia Jackson
Case Manager

Anthony Wade
Men's Resident Supervisor

DEVELOPMENT

Karen Kinsler
Development Director

Perla Gething
Development Assistant

Jaime Kaplan
Special Events Coordinator

Something New

As we welcome in the new year, with much anticipation and open arms, I can't help but reflect on the words of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet recorded, in 43:19, "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." I believe, after the many challenges 2020 brought to all of us, we are all thirsting for something new. I know that is true for the many hurting individuals within our area, whether it is due to being held in the grip of addiction or the many other issues of life that we can oftentimes be held prisoner by. It is our hope and prayer, through your continued love and support, that we can share and spread grace and healing that is only found in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with every hurting person in the Middle Georgia region. But that is a lot of people you say, we know. But we believe God has opened the door through a very trying year, that will bring many hurting men into the loving arms of Jesus, through the ministry of the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia. Now, more than ever, our community needs the love of Christ flowing freely through the Body into the lives of those that have, for whatever reason, lost hope. There is hope, and His name is Jesus. We are going to run headfirst into the year 2021 intending to continue to provide a safe place for men to begin their journey in a Christ-centered recovery. We desire to do so, with the mindset of being diligent and focused on maintaining the safety of our community as we welcome new men that are hungry and wanting a new life. We truly are excited about where God is taking the Mission as He continues to bring men to grow our recovery community. The growth that is occurring will, indeed, open many new opportunities to share what a healthy, vibrant relationship with Christ and others looks like. I keep hearing about the desire of getting back to normal, but what does that even look like? In the verse that precedes the one mentioned above, we're encouraged " Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past"(Isaiah 43:18), so as we step forward into a new year, we hope that we are able to not only settle into but truly embrace our new normal.



Jason Beck
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 of 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

NEEDED DRIVES

Food

Paper Goods

Hygiene Products

Linens

Healthcare

Cleaning Supplies

Baby Items

Lawncare

Underclothes

Clothing

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

bills, a newborn son, and then my husband's grandma moved in with us. It was an extremely stressful time, and partying was a release for my husband. I found out that I was pregnant with our second child, a daughter, and even though we were surprised, we were happy. Now raising two small children, the stress and partying got heavier. Eventually, my husband attempted suicide, and we realized that he needed help. He went to a recovery program in Illinois. By this time, we had bought a house and multiple large items. Due to the loss of his income, I had to sell these things and foreclosed on our home. Our two toddlers and I moved in with my parents and I was angry, bitter, and resentful about everything. I was hurt by all of this and I wanted him to hurt too, so I had an affair while he was away. I see now that I was trying to feel loved and was searching for it anywhere. After his graduation from the rehab program, I told him what I had done. He did not take it well, and it led to depression and anger towards me. We went through marriage counseling and nothing really changed. Our marriage had a lot of struggles, and at this point my husband relapsed. When he relapsed, he would go on verbal tirades and shame me for what I had done to him. I started drinking heavily to numb the pain. I had a lot of negative beliefs about myself. I no longer cared what happened to our marriage or to myself. Eventually the verbal abuse led to control and manipulation which led to me walking out on our marriage. After my divorce, I was drinking every day, and jumped into an unhealthy relationship with another man. I ended up withdrawing from friends and family. Eventually, my drinking was so severe that it led to me losing the rights to my children. On a downward spiral, this was when I was introduced to meth for the first time. I became very addicted, and the man that was living with me went through a period of psychosis. He thought I was trying to kill him and set him up which led into physical abuse that left me with black and purple bruises all over. Then he would threaten me not to say anything. I was scared and did anything he asked, including having sex with men for drugs. His psychosis got increasingly worse and so did his behaviors. At this point, he would not let me out of his sight. He was so delusional that he blamed me for losing his drugs and called the police to report it. I was scared and desperate to get away from him. I was tired, had not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



SCENES FROM
AROUND THE MISSION



2020

A YEAR
IN REVIEW

MEALS SERVED

83,684

CRISIS CALLS



6,227

Nights of
Housing

22,475



HOURS OF:



Chapel 9,770

Recovery Classes 10,415

Mentoring 2,123

DISTRIBUTED:

Food Boxes 47,420

Hygiene Kits 2,226

Coats & Blankets 847

Volunteer
Hours



2,329

LOOKING AHEAD

2021

Serve Between

125 - 150

Men, Women & Children
in Our Life Recovery
Program on a Daily Basis

PROVIDE

126,000

MEALS

The *vision* of the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia is to **strengthen and expand** our programs to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of *all who are hurting* in our society. Through sharing the good news of the Gospel of **Jesus Christ** and being an example of God's love and compassion we will be a catalyst for *inconceivable life change*.



THANK YOU for being our partner in ministry in 2021!

PROVIDE

39,000



Nights of
Housing

Open Our New Upscale
Retail Establishment

The Barn
Center

On Our Macon Campus

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

slept for 9 days, I wanted a new life. I turned to God and cried out for help, I wanted out. The cops showed up. I had found the lost drugs, gave them to police, and took the blame for it all. I feared retaliation by him if I did not take the blame. They told me normally with that amount of drugs, I would go to jail but instead they recommended I seek long term help. The officers took me to detox. Those days in detox were the darkest moments of my life. Detox got me connected with the Rescue Mission, and this is where my new life began. God took the bad and turned it for the good in my life.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose."

When I arrived at the Rescue Mission, I was broken and wore many masks to hide who I was because of the hurt and pain I experienced in life. The people here loved me right where I was. I surrendered my life to Christ and my life began to change. I used to see myself as an unworthy, promiscuous woman... but now I know that I am a child of the Highest King who has been set free and I know God has a plan and purpose for my life. When I think of the Rescue Mission, I think of safety and healing by way of Jesus Christ. This has been quite a journey, and I still have a way to go. At times, I must remember to consistently humble myself before God and others and not allow pride to creep in. God has given me a place of safety and love to learn how to trust Him and others. He has placed me here where I am learning how to implement boundaries and guardrails so that I am able to make healthy relational choices as I move forward. God has renewed my passion for fitness and allowed me to help others on their journey back to health. The Rescue Mission will always have a special place in my heart. I never really experienced God's love until I came here. God is present in this place and has changed my life completely. He has beautifully restored my relationship with my family and my children. I am so very grateful to be here at the mission, and I look forward to what God is going to do through my journey.

Women's Division HAPPENINGS

MORE Services OFFERED



What a year 2020 was. I am sure that many feel the same way that I do when I say thank God it is over. The women's division staff is continuing to keep our focus on Jesus Christ as the reason for doing what we do daily with all those that call the Rescue Mission home. As we move into this new year, we are seeking to continue to grow and reach more women and children who are broken and hurting.

Many of you are familiar with the Women's Division and the assistance that we provide to women and children that have experienced domestic violence. Over the years we have noticed that more and more women entering our program because of domestic violence are also battling with substance abuse and addiction and that the two of them often go hand in hand. In an effort to ensure that we can meet the needs of more people seeking help, our program has been expanded to all women whether it be because of domestic violence, substance abuse, or anyone who is seeking life change.

We desire to develop partnerships and relationships with those in our community so that we can better serve women in need of life change. Perhaps that is you or you are part of an organization that you believe that our joining together would allow us to reach and serve a larger population of individuals that need recovery and hope for a new life. I can be reached at 478-743-5445 ext. 305, and I am available to discuss how we can partner together to provide a path of hope, redemption, and empowerment by way of Jesus Christ.

Linda Wessells

Linda Wessells,
Women's Program Director

"Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Volunteer Hub: All things VOLUNTEER



We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

We appreciate all the volunteers who served with us during the holidays! Hundreds of men, women, and children were blessed by your abundance of service and love that was poured out to our community, thank you!



Virtual Volunteer Orientation:

Virtual orientations are starting up again soon. In an orientation you will learn about the history, programs, and current volunteer opportunities at the mission. If you are interested in attending an orientation, email 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!**

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



@rescuemissionmiddlega



Rescue Mission of Middle Ga, Inc.

For more information, reach out to volunteer@rescuemissionga.com

Bargain CENTER

Start the **New Year** out right by shopping at our **Bargain Center** and supporting your local community



BARGAIN CENTER STAFF

Niger Brown
Vice President of Retail Operations

Shameka Davis
Production Manager

Toki Majors
Store Manager

Kyle Patat
Warehouse Coordinator

DRIVERS

Art Ellis
Curtis Roundtree
Daniel Baggett
Reginald Reeves

MAINTENANCE

Travis Wilson
Josh Taylor

Furniture, Holiday Decorations, Table Settings,
Kitchen Ware, Clothing & So Much More!

Great Prices & New Arrivals Everyday!



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



BARGAIN CENTER

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

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 232
Macon, GA



Proud "Certified Excellent" member of City Gate, accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and recognized as a "Four Star Charity" by Charity Navigator.