

"Where Healing Begins"



I HAVE
A NEW
START

p.4

Wishing you a
MERRY
CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

Michael Ketterbaugh

Tommy Mixon

Robert Reichert

PRESIDENT/CEO

Pat Chastain

THE MISSION Bell

VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2022

- 03 FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**
We Need To Help More Women & Children
- 04 TESTIMONY FROM THE MISSION**
I Have A New Start
- 06 CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND**
Help for Women & Children
- 07 WOMEN'S LIFE RECOVER PROGRAM**
Transitional Housing
- 10 DO MORE - SERVE MORE**
We Need You
- 12 TESTIMONIES**
From Our Women's Program
- 14 BARN CENTER**
Follow Us On Facebook
- 15 BARGAIN CENTER**
Furniture Needs

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



PANAPRINT A community service product of Panaprint.

FROM THE *President's Desk*

We Need to Help More Women & Children

What if you could personally help provide housing and recovery care for an additional 100 women with children at the Rescue Mission, would you?

There's good news. **YOU CAN.**

Every day we have the awesome privilege of watching God literally transform struggling women and children right before our eyes. It's amazing to see the healing that's taking place in their hearts begin to show on their countenance as they move toward a new life by way of Jesus Christ.

As exciting as this is, our hearts are heavy, because right now, we have a waiting list for our women's program that is growing daily. We simply don't have enough space to accommodate all the women and children that are turning to us for help. **Just this year our women and children's program has grown by 73%!**

We don't want to ever turn anyone away from the Mission. **We need a real solution, and we need it NOW!** That's why we have **committed to build more program housing, along with transitional housing and facilities** to expand our programs and services for women and children.

I could tell you countless stories of women and children who have found healing and freedom from the wounds and experiences of their past here at the Rescue Mission. But I think it's better if you hear it from one of them, so I hope you'll turn to page four to read Teresa and her son, Malachi's story. Learn how after years of addiction, homelessness, and running from the pain of her past, she has recommitted her life to Christ, found a new peace and strength through her relationship with Him and is now excited and hopeful about the future for her and her son.

It's faithful and generous **supporters like YOU that made Teresa's story** and hundreds and hundreds more like her's possible. Without your gifts to this ministry, we simply could not provide the hope and help these hurting women so desperately need. **Now we have a unique opportunity to help even more women and children than ever before with our Campaign to Expand Help for Women and Children, and we hope you'll join us with your best gift today!**

Please visit page six for more details about our building plans, and page ten for ways to GIVE.



Pat Chastain, *President/CEO*



I HAVE A New Start

My name is Teresa Simmons, I was born in Quitman, Georgia in 1981. The pain and struggles in my life started very early, because by the time I was six years old, I had been molested twice. To dull the pain I started experimenting with drugs in my teens which led me to be on a roller coaster ride of negative experiences and emotions for years.

After high school, I joined the Navy hoping it would lead to a better life. But things didn't work out in the military, and after I got out, I wound up on the streets where my life consisted of drugs, alcohol, and several trips to jail. I wound up in a women's probation center more than once. It was there I finally got tired of living in the streets and the downward spiral my life was taking.

I had a son, Malachi, and I knew for both our sakes I couldn't continue to live like that. A woman at one of the Centers told me about the Rescue Mission and helped me get in touch with them to see if they would accept me in their program for women with children. They did and that was when everything started to change for me, and for Malachi.

When I first got to the Rescue Mission, I felt relieved. I felt like I didn't have to run anymore. I felt like this was going to be the new start in life I'd been looking and hoping for.

Since I've been at the Rescue Mission, I've found God and dedicated my life to Him. I was baptized by Pat Chastain, the President of the Mission, and I plan on dedicating Malachi to Rock Springs Church where we both attend before I graduate from the life-recovery program in January.

The best part about being at the Rescue Mission in the women's program is I found out I was never really alone like I thought I was all those years. I found



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Testimony CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

out God was always with me even when I didn't know Him...He knew me and was with me. It's great to know I am not alone, and He will always be with me and Malachi no matter what we're going through. For someone that has felt alone all my life, this is everything.

I've met so many really good people here at the Rescue Mission that support me, and I have some mentors here also. Best of all, I'm saved now, and I've found Jesus Christ. This is helping me learn to love myself, and to find out who Teresa is. I'm learning to love others, to put God first and have faith in Him that everything is going to work out and be okay.

It means so much for me and Malachi to be here at the Rescue Mission. It saved us from me possibly being in prison and Malachi being placed in foster care. The Mission has given me a new family. I've even been able to start thinking about a career when I leave. I've received my forklift certification and I work in our processing center at the thrift store.

Malachi and I plan on staying in the Macon area after I graduate from the life-recovery program. First, we'll stay in the transitional program here while I go to school and get a job. Then we'll be able to get a place of our own. I feel good about the future for us since coming to the Rescue Mission. I don't struggle with the things that happened to me in my past the way I did before. I don't need to run and hide. I feel more ready to live life in a way that God would have me live. I have hope for what the future holds for us now.



Campaign to Expand Help for Women & Children

Our Women & Children's Program Has Grown by 73% Since January!!!

Almost every day, women call in with tears, frustration, desperation, and sometimes anger, sharing their fears about losing their kids if they don't get clean, of abusive partners who trap them in cycles of violence, of stories filled with trauma. The one thing they need is a place where they can find the healing and support to break the shackles of their past and hope for a better future for themselves and their children.

Unfortunately, in Middle Georgia there are very few resources for these women and children, especially ones that offer housing along with programs and support services.

Women and children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, with 85% of homeless families headed by single women. Add to that women who are struggling with addictions, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and poverty and the demand for programs like ours is staggering. Because of this, we have a waiting list that is growing daily as we simply don't have enough space to accommodate all the women and children that are reaching out to us for help.

We need a real solution - so we've decided to build more housing for women and children.

We've launched our Building Campaign and need your help to make the new facilities for women & children a reality! Our goal is to raise \$2.5 Million over the next 12 months to help expand our program with these critical beds and services.

**Want to find out
more?**

Pat Chastain
478-743-5445 ext. 303
pat@rescuemissionga.com

GIVE TODAY - Form & Information on Page 11



50
Additional
Program
Beds

We've made a financial commitment and are stepping out in faith because we believe God has laid it on the hearts of our community to support it. The building sites have been selected alongside our current women's houses, an engineer and architect have been hired to draft plans, and a presentation to Planning & Zoning has been scheduled.

30 New
Transition
Beds

We are thankful that our supporters, like you, believe in the work we do and are looking forward to the ways God will use this program to bless our community.

Expanded
Work
Therapy
Programs

If you have the means and desire to support our goal to build more housing for women and children, **we need your help**. As God commanded us to care for the widow, love the prostitute, and support the broken hearted, **you can make change possible for the women and children in our program**. When we love the outcast and care for the vulnerable, we gain a community where children don't go hungry and women who have made some undeniable mistakes have a second chance... if they're willing to put in the work. Where families are reunited and strengthened by recovery and the generational cycles of addiction and abuse are broken.

Additional
Classrooms

We're so excited for this opportunity. We're grateful to serve in a community of people who want to live for something bigger than themselves. We believe God is moving in the Middle Georgia area and has big plans to heal the sick and abandoned. **We hope you'll join us!**

Computer
Training
Workshop



Women's Life-Recovery Program

A safe place for women and children to gain stability and self-sufficiency

The heart of the Rescue Mission is our 12-month residential Life-Recovery Program. This free Bible-based program is for women struggling with addictions, domestic violence, sexual abuse, homelessness, and other life-defining challenges.

Through counseling, life-skills classes, Bible study, peer recovery activities, work therapy, and other support, women are able to identify the underlying causes of their choices and behaviors, receive healing, and learn coping tools, all of which empower them to rebuild relationships with loved ones, secure employment, find housing, and live productive, transformed lives.

Our primary focus is to share the love of Jesus Christ with every woman and child who comes to the Rescue Mission to recover from life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. When women complete the life-recovery program, they leave as strong, assertive, independent women of Christ.

Transitional Housing

After graduating from the life-recovery program, transitional housing is made available. This allows women to obtain employment, reintegrate into the community with our support and guidance, and save money toward obtaining their own place to live. This final component of restoration and hope is essential to long-term success.



The program consists of:

- Meals, housing, and daily essentials
- Learning to recognize & identify healthy vs unhealthy relationships
- Empowering women to become self-sufficient
- Rebuilding their self-worth and esteem
- Learning to identify what drives behaviors that lead to toxic relationships and drug and alcohol dependency
- Biblical studies and Christ-centered curriculum that addresses shame and destructive choice patterns
- Creating transparency through self-evaluations
- Life management skills
- Trust building through vulnerability
- Legal, financial & medical assessments
- Grace-based recovery that focuses on internal transformation, not behavior modification. It is an inside-out healing process vs. an outside-in "fix-it" mentality
- Chapel services
- Recovery ministry meetings to encourage relationship building outside the program community
- Transitional housing and employment assistance



**Want to find out
more?**

Jessica Coleman
478-743-5445 ext. 305
jessica@rescuemissionga.com
www.rescuemissionga.com

We've decided to DO MORE, and SERVE MORE...but we need YOU!!!



This year we've experienced a 73% increase in the number of women and children in our life recovery program. We have a waiting list that is growing daily, because we simply don't have enough space to accommodate all of the women and children that are reaching out for help.

We need a real solution...so we have decided to build more housing so we can help as many women & children as possible.

Our goal is to raise \$2.5 Million over the next 12 months to build additional program housing, transitional housing, and a multi-purpose building to expand our program.

We need your help to help make this expansion of our women's program a reality! We'd like to ask you to consider a gift to our women's program and our goal to build more housing. Your gift will share God's love and blessings with struggling women and children and offer them hope for a better future. **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!**

Learn more on page 6

Each month the Rescue Mission provides:

1,701
nights of safe
housing to women
and children

5,130
meals to women
and children

10,000
hours of life-
recovery services



GIVE BY CHECK WITH THE ATTACHED REPLY FORM

OR GIVE ONLINE AT

www.rescuemissionga.com/housing



My Gift to Help Build Housing for the Women & Children

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ My check for \$ _____ is enclosed

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT!

Donate online now! rescuemissionga.com/housing

Reply Envelope Provided on Page 5



Testimonies...



“Through my journey to recovery, I have learned that I like to “fix” things, especially if I think that I can fix myself. Being here has shown me that when I try to do things Paula’s way it doesn’t work out well, and I am learning to surrender daily to Christ and do things God’s way. Using God’s strength and will power to do things God’s way has been transformational for me and I have seen my relationship with my husband and children restored.”

Paula, Women’s Program Graduate

“The Mission had an amazing impact on me and my children’s lives. We’ve been able to create stability and structure. Living at the Mission taught me that trials only come to make us stronger. Now, I say it’s not what you go through; it’s how you grow through a situation that determines the difference. That difference is a life based in Christ.

Jessica, Women’s Program Graduate



“I 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. 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.”

Sherrill & Liam, Women’s Graduate

“I never thought my life was “fixable” until I came to the Mission. I was on a path of destruction, and I had no hope. The Mission has shown me what God’s grace is all about, and I’m a new creation and child of God!”

Cori, Women’s Program 2022



“The Mission saved my life. My health was on the decline before I came here. I believe the Lord lead me here. It is truly through God’s grace and mercy that I am here today.”

Vicki, Women’s Program 2022

“Scared, pregnant, and already trying to care for two kids on her own, Rebecca needed help. “When my mom made me come here I was angry and in defense mode...ready to fight people. Now I have a relationship with God, I’m healing from things that have happened to me in my past. I think God allowed me to go through all this for a reason...I feel like it’s to help other people and show them they’re not alone.”

*Rebecca & Family
Program Graduate*



Follow us on **Facebook** to learn
about our New Inventory &
Upcoming SALES at

THE BARN CENTER



6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA
Monday - Saturday / 10:00am - 6:00pm
478-743-5445 ext. 406

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



[facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MissionBargainCenter)

SHOP AT
THE BARGAIN CENTER



FOR ALL
YOUR
FURNITURE
NEEDS!

**BARGAIN
CENTER STAFF**

Niger Brown
*Vice President of Retail
Operations*

Roger Patton
Store Manager

**BARN CENTER
STAFF**

Kyle Patat
Operations Manager

Carol Adams
Store Manager

Stuart Fowler
Pricing Manager

Charlie Hegg
Processing Supervisor

DRIVERS

Art Ellis
Curtis Roundtree
John Baker

MAINTENANCE

Travis Wilson
Maintenance Manager
Josh Taylor

**Furniture, Appliances, Table Settings, Shoes,
Kitchenware, Clothing & So Much More!**

3375 Napier Avenue, Macon, GA
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](https://www.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.