

THE MISSION Bell

LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY

"Where Healing Begins"

Megan Jacobs

RESIDENT TESTIMONY



If you had asked me to describe my life eight months ago, I would have said something like, "My dad killed himself. My mother never recovered from her addictions. I was bounced between homes and lived most of my time in the midst of mental illness and troubled foster children. Everything in my mind is tainted with negativity and alcohol numbs it so I can keep going." I am so thankful that no one asked me to describe myself eight months ago, because that last sentence is such a lie.

This is the truth: my name is Megan. I have an amazing ten year old son named Ezekiel who loves science and all things time travel. I'm a former educator with degrees in International Studies and Modern Languages. I love to learn, and I especially love to help people gain understanding and reach their goals - so much so, that I became an Adult Education instructor with the intent of helping to bridge the gap for those who needed a hand up through education in literacy, GED, business ethics, computer skills, and college entrance preparation. My program was very successful and rose quickly to the top in my region. Before I knew it, I was on the Board of Directors for my local Chamber of Commerce, I worked with the Downtown Development Authority, I served on the board for our Family Connection, and I helped build a Stop the Cycle program to give people an opportunity at an education rather than a jail sentence. My heart was in the right place, and from the looks of it, I was rising to the top in my career. What I didn't take into account was the toll that kind of commitment takes on a person.

If you know anything about educators, you know that they don't do it for the money. There I was, a single mother, working a full time job four days a week and a second job during my "weekends". It was only a matter of time before something had to give, and it started in my relationship with Ezekiel. I left him in the care of my parents more and more. I didn't have the mental energy to solve other people's problems all day and then come home and invest in my child. I couldn't find joy in his presence because all I wanted

continued inside cover...

- 02 **RESIDENT TESTIMONY**
Megan Jacobs
- 02 **YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!**
Meet the Graduates
- 03 **MEET OUR MOM'S**
In May we honor our moms
- 04 **YOUR GIFT TODAY CAN PROVIDE**
2x the Life-Changing Care!



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was a break. Eventually, I found that break at the bottom of a bottle. What had begun as a nightcap after my son had gone to sleep developed into a full blown relationship with alcohol to the point that I would begin to drink before I walked in the door each night.

Eventually, my dependence on alcohol found its way into every other aspect of my life. In 2018, I got my first DUI. I became a participant in my own Stop the Cycle program. You would think the embarrassment would have been a wakeup call, but it wasn't, and I lost my job as an instructor at the end of that year because of my erratic behavior. Later, several stints in jail and a major car accident should have been enough for me to admit that I had a problem, but waking up on a ventilator with a shattered pelvis and broken ankle weren't even what it took to wake me up. I knew I needed to make a change in my life, but I thought I needed to handle it on my own since I had caused the problems. I was still in denial. That changed last August.

It began with being told, "No." I heard it from my family, my best friend, and my significant other. There was no more bailing me out. There were no more excuses for my behavior, and I knew I had backed myself into a corner. If I wanted my life to be different, I would have to admit that I needed help and accept it no matter what that looked like. As it turns out, that help looked like the Rescue Mission of

Middle Georgia, and it's nothing like I could've ever dreamed.

I call this place my 'God bubble', I know there's no such thing since God is everywhere, but you get the idea - I feel safe, safe enough to heal. Here, I've learned that my value is constant - that I don't have to perform for acceptance, what grace is, that the demonstration of true grace takes strength and is far from a sign of weakness, that the ability to receive grace builds a person's character and encourages a closeness with God that I could not understand in the haze of my addiction. My relationships with my family, best friend, and my significant other have all improved. I don't feel like I have to hide or numb my feelings anymore and they know that they can now be honest with me about the impact my addiction had on their lives so that we can all heal together. I am so thankful for the grace that has been extended to me through this program. It's exactly what I didn't know I needed.

Today, if you ask me to describe my life, I say, "My mother and father tried to fight their battles alone. Their absences allowed me to meet new people who shaped the course of my life and taught me compassion. When I tried to fight my own battles, God sat me down at the Rescue Mission and taught me that I don't have to do anything alone ever again."

Thank you for your love,
- Megan Jacobs



You've Done It Again!

"And do not forget to do good, to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." - Hebrews 13:16

YOUR support of the Mission's life-recovery program enabled another class of 18 men and women to graduate from our Life-Recovery Program on April 14th. Each of these precious individuals has completed 2,500 hours of classes, work therapy, Bible study and chapel, peer recovery activities, counseling, and other life-changing activities all of which empower them to rebuild relationships with loved ones, secure employment, find housing, and live productive, transformed lives.

We can't begin to thank you enough for investing in their recovery and futures with your generous gifts of support and your prayers.



Meet Our Graduates First Row: Rudy Acevedo, Anthony Glispy, Sarah Miller, Cheryl Koenig, Belinda Shaw, Jennifer Merriott, Fred Chapman, Shawn Walsh Row Two: David Booth, Kelly Woodford, Victoria Chavis, Taylor Knight, Catherine Davis, Tim Robinson, Newell Peters Row Three: Chris Cranford, James Williams, Michael Lanier

Meet Our Mom's

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." Proverbs 31:31



In May, as we pause to honor our moms on Mother's Day we thought it would be a good opportunity to introduce you to some of the amazing moms in our life-recovery program. These precious women are here with their children taking part in life-skills classes, counseling, work therapy, Bible study, and other recovery activities in order to build a brighter future for their families.



If you'd like to share a "love offering" for our moms simply print Mom's Love Offering in the notes portion of your check.

Your Gift Today Can Provide 2X the Life-Changing Care!



We know you're reading our Mission Bell and that you support us because you care about people who don't have a safe place to turn when fleeing domestic violence or healing from addiction. I'm excited to tell you about a tremendous opportunity to **double the impact** of your support to the Mission. And it's underway right now!

A generous partner has offered funding for a MATCHING CHALLENGE.

They've contributed a total of \$25,000 and challenged you and other Mission friends to donate an additional \$25,000 by May 31.

That means your gift will go twice as far to provide meals, safe housing, and care for individuals in our life-recovery program. A gift of \$25 will be doubled to \$50 to offer Christ-centered classes and work therapy to even more men and women who are ready to rebuild their lives.

Just imagine what your gift will mean for a frightened woman fleeing domestic violence when she realizes she is finally safe and cared for...or other neighbors seeking life-changing recovery.

With your generous support of our **MATCHING CHALLENGE**, we can welcome twice as many hurting neighbors through our doors. People like Alexandra.

Your gift has double the power to change lives! If together, you and other partners meet the \$25,000 challenge, the Mission will receive \$50,000 in financial resources to bring hope, healing, and restoration to struggling adults and children.

Double Your Impact With A Gift Today!

Pat Chastain
President/CEO



Alexandra wanted nothing more than to keep her and her kids together. She had been neglected as a child, and she wanted a better life for them. But without any support, all she could offer was a string of hotel rooms. When she ran out of options, they lived in her truck.

At rock bottom, Alexandra turned to a friend for help, who told her about the Mission. "Coming here was a step of faith," she says. "It was the greatest thing I ever did for me and my kids. They made me feel like I was at home. I never had the family growing up like I have now at the Mission. It's full of love, joy, and hope."

With her kids finally safe and cared for, Alexandra could focus on herself. She attends classes and work therapy, and she learned about God and His love for her. That changed everything.

"Coming to Christ was the most amazing thing I've ever done. There's just nothing better," she says. "Since coming to the Mission, I am a stronger mother, and a faithful believer in Jesus Christ."

Complete the enclosed reply card or donate online at rescuemissionga.com/newsletters

By the way, did you know that you could potentially

Double this Gift Again!

Many employers will match this gift, doubling your impact again! And it's so easy...to find out if your employer has a **MATCHING GIFTS** program visit rescuemissionga.com/matching



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