

"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS, AND SO FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST." GALATIANS 6:2

John Lawson

RESIDENT TESTIMONY

I grew up in a religious household with a good environment free from any direct contact with addiction. As I got older and into my college years, drinking became a regular part of my life, but I was always able to control it. I eventually got married and was able to stay completely sober during the eight years we were together. It wasn't until the divorce that I dove headfirst into drinking. Drinking helped me deal with my failed marriage.

In the beginning, my drinking was just a weekend thing, then eventually progressed to weeknights after work. I continued to drink this way through the beginning of my second and current marriage. Masking the pain of my failed marriage with alcohol worked until my father passed away. At this point, my alcohol consumption increased to an unmanageable level.

I tried to stop drinking on my own and even succeeded for about a year and a half, but every day I didn't drink was a battle. Before my father passed, my wife noticed my drinking was increasing. She warned me that she could see the signs of alcoholism creeping in. She was able to notice the downward spiral so quickly because she had seen similar behaviors in her own family's history of alcohol abuse. She could see that I was using alcohol to mask the pain I felt from my past. My father's passing caused more pain than I could bear. From that point, until coming to the Rescue Mission, I fought to get my alcoholism under control. During this time, I realized I needed help and couldn't do it alone.

For the sake of my marriage, my health, and my well-being, I decided to seek recovery. This decision brought me to the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, where God allowed me the chance to heal physically and spiritually. He has used this time to begin the restoration process needed in my marriage. While I'm not 100% healed or recovered, I can say for sure that compared to day one at the Mission, I have more focus, I feel better, and I have a much better relationship with my wife. God is still working on me, but the progress I see so far gives me the confidence to continue allowing Him to work. I realize that I still have a long road

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ahead, but with His guidance, I know I can maintain my sobriety. I am genuinely thankful to my wife for standing by my side during this journey. I could not have made it this far without her love and support.

When I graduate, my plans are to move away from the high-stress, high-pressure corporate world I've been immersed in for the past 20 years and pursue something in which God's hand is working. Until God opens the right door, I will be getting back to work on my house and property, praying for clarity and wisdom for my next steps. I will stay connected with the Mission; the place God used to change my life. I desire to stay connected to this fantastic community of people who not only know where I've been and what I've gone through but also the leadership to bring about true-life change through Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the Rescue Mission for accepting me into their program. God is working through the staff here to reach broken men and women battling addiction, just like me.

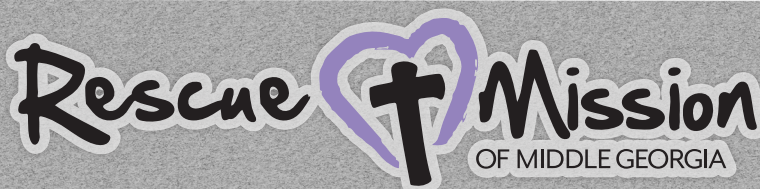
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

This is my favorite verse; it summarizes what we could be, what we should be, and what we should aspire to be.

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For more information, contact Patti Stevenson.
Phone: 478-743-5445, Ext. 403 • Email: patti@rescuemissionga.com



2024 April Graduate Spotlights



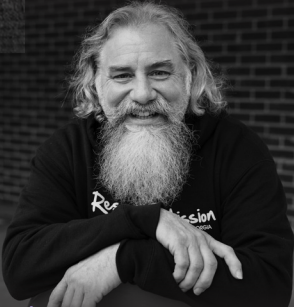
*"Love the staff; the members have continuously poured love into me and loved me right where I was at."
- Madison Manns*



*"A place where you can get to know God better and begin to heal."
- Michael Buford*



*"I always want to love others like I was at the Mission. I never want to forget where I came from. I have a testimony that I can now share with others. God's grace is real, and I want to share the love he's shown me and others."
- Michelle Tilley*



*"This is God's place, a place for recovery with Christ," which is the only true recovery."
- Matthew Rogers*



*"Being at the Mission has transformed me. I have joy, and I'm renewed in my spirit. I'm at peace, I'm safe, and I'm becoming the man God created me to be."
- Kevin Council.*



*"The Mission and everything I have learned here will travel with me and be a part of my everyday life forever. The lessons are unforgettable. Know that who I am in Christ has never been stronger."
- Tylor Roach*



Meet Jason!

Jason Beck is the Vice President of Programs at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia and has worked at the Mission for over ten years.

Jason's son, Braden, practically grew up at the Mission during the past ten years and made friends with so many of the men. His daughter, Adalee, loves "the guys." Bonus daughter Haley and bonus sons Harrison and Maxx love the Mission and even hosted a lemonade stand, giving the proceeds right back to the Mission.

"The best part about my job", says Jason, "Is getting to love on people that are hurting. There was a time when I was hopeless, things looked pointless, and I felt like a lost cause. Then along came Jesus, and everything changed! I know what it looks like when men and women wrestle with their personal journeys. I love getting to walk and "do life" with them."

When asked what the Mission needed, Jason acknowledged that we need more copies of our curriculum. "A big dream is for every person who comes to the Mission to get their own personal copy of *The Cure*," says Jason. The Cure is an amazing book that teaches about Grace and discusses how God thinks of us.

Jason's family is all about the Rescue Mission! His wife, Brooke, loves the Mission; she loves spending time and loving on the men, women, and children.

Anyone who comes to the Mission can see the difference Jason Beck makes. When talking about his role, Jason explains, "I'm ok with being in the mess- loving people where they are and meeting

them there. It's messy, but that is the beauty of Grace. I don't mind showing people the chinks in my armor. It's ok to fail. Your failure doesn't define who you are; your Creator does!"

For friends or family members of someone who could benefit from the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, Jason says to "call me! Or come see me". Jason says he wants to "encourage them. I love to talk with the individual, if they are ready to talk with someone or just offer support for the family."



The Rescue Mission is thrilled that Jason Beck is part of our family. You can reach Jason at Jason@rescuemissionga.com or call 478-743-5445 ext.304. If you would like to purchase a copy of *The Cure* for yourself or send a copy to the Mission to be used by one of our men or women, you can buy it from the True Face website, trueface.org, or off Amazon.

You've made a difference in lives like Stephanie's

Stephanie's grandfather abused her when she was young, leaving her with deep emotional wounds. "I told my mom, but she didn't believe me, so I didn't get help," Stephanie says.



When she was 14, she began drinking to numb her pain, and over the years, her addiction weakened her faith and damaged her relationships. "I was miserable. I knew I wasn't living the life Jesus wanted for me."

Then Stephanie came to the Mission, where she recommitted her life to Christ and found healing for her childhood wounds. "I've made Jesus the Lord of my life and my heart and I've learned to love myself."

Now, she plans to spend her days helping other broken women find healing and hope in the Lord. "I'm a renewed child of God and I want His love to flow through me to others."

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and even more lives!

May Match

If, together, you and other partners meet the **\$17,000 Challenge**, the Mission will secure a total of **\$34,000** to offer counseling, recovery, and care for more hurting people in need. That's why I trust you'll rise to the challenge today, when you have the power to make your gift go twice as far!

Please select the enclosed Matching Challenge checks that represent the impact you want to make. Then mail your gift – with one check or both! – before **May 31**.

Or give right now at rescuemissionga.com/donate. This special opportunity won't last long. Thank you for acting quickly to double your impact in hurting lives.

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