



ChangingLives



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God is teaching me something that is transforming my life

My name is Anthony. When I look at my past, I see nothing but utter chaos. I was doing drugs, fighting with my ex-wife, had a daughter who died in her crib, while all the time I just stayed addicted. I needed help and I needed it fast. When I first came to Holland Rescue Mission I was ashamed of this place. Now, I realize I was really ashamed of myself. I went to church until about the fourth grade, but that was about it. I remember how my mom would give my brother and me marijuana for Christmas. That's when we were in junior high. Not a great way to start a life. That was a long time ago, but what you do early in life has a ripple effect for a long time. And even though I needed help, I still didn't want to come to the Mission. But I'm glad I've stuck it out, because without this place of rescue I'd either be dead or in prison. I refused to live on the streets, so those were my only two options: *death or getting locked up.*

I now have hope for a new life

I have so many people to thank that I hardly know where to start. But I do know your donations are making a world of difference in my life. Some people say the homeless don't

want to change. That may be true for some, but not true for me. Every day, God is doing something to transform my life. When I go to chapel, I take in what I hear, and I do my best to put it into practice in my daily life. At this Easter season, I'm especially grateful that God is giving me a new life and hope for a better future.

Your friend,

Anthony



"I remember how my mom would give my brother and me marijuana for Christmas."

Thank you for donating to the Mission . . . and helping me get closer to God.



Garden Auction Extravaganza!

Women's Spring Garden Auction

— This year's Garden Auction was filled with beautiful home and garden items, a delectable lunch, and a wonderful time of fellowship. We are extremely thankful for each woman who was able to attend and for their incredible support! Because of their generous and giving hearts, women and children in our community will have a place to sleep, food to eat, and hope for the future. We will keep you posted on the date and details for next year's Garden Auction!



Come Celebrate with Us!

We are so excited to celebrate our graduates! Come join us May 19 for an evening of reflection and celebration as we recognize students who have completed the 48-week, faith-based recovery program through Restoration Academy. Let us rejoice in the work that the Lord has established for these graduates! The celebration will be held at Christ Memorial Church. To RSVP, please contact Faith Caldwell at faithc@hollandrescue.org or contact Scott Klingberg at 616-396-2200 for more information.



A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

Dear Friend of Holland Rescue Mission,

The month of May in Holland is one of the most spectacular times of the year for our community. From the *Blessing of the Bulbs* to "Join the Dance" to the Tulip Time Poster Competition, it's an event that has caught worldwide attention. Add to this the festivities of Mother's Day and it adds up to celebrations we will all long remember.

But in spite of these exciting events, all is not well for hundreds of men, women and children in our city. Many suffer from addictions. Vast numbers are homeless. And that's why Holland Rescue Mission exists — to touch the lives of those who need a Savior's love.

Planting the seeds of the gospel in the hearts of people in need

We celebrate the days surrounding Mother's Day at the Mission by doing our best to reunite families. One of our greatest joys is to see relationships — often estranged for as many as 20 years — come together. Then, just as the tulips in our community are planted and replanted each year, so we plant and replant the gospel in the hearts of men and women who come through our doors. And like real tulips, some bloom, some do not. But regardless of the immediate outcome, we continue to plant seeds of hope in the lives of those in need.

Thank you for giving us the privilege to do what God has called us to do. You are a wonderful friend, not only to the Mission, but also to the hundreds of men and women who now know someone cares.

Until the next time, God bless you and keep you always.

Your servant,

Darryl Bartlett
Executive Director



"... regardless of the immediate outcome, we continue to plant seeds of hope in the lives of those in need"

Thank you for the part you play in the physical and

When you make yourself a blessing to someone at the Mission today your caring may be just the touch a man or woman needs to start a new life. Your kind smile or pat on the back may be what pulls someone back from the edge. Caring often begins with a hot meal, a warm bed, and a safe environment. Compassionate attention assures our friends they really do matter. For the first time in a long time, many realize someone cares whether they live or die. The good news is the Mission gives those who come to our door a place where they are able to find the help they need.

Often a word of encouragement or a listening ear are unexpected gifts to those

I'm a runner, and I've been a runner all my life . . . *until now*

My name is Candy. All my life, I've been a runner. I've run when things have been good, and I've run when things were bad. I ran from my husband, who verbally and sexually abused me. I ran from my pain, and ran into the terrible arms of meth. For 10 years, I was addicted. I was so high I would clean everything in sight . . . and then I would

"All my life, I was told I had no value. *Rejection* seemed to be my middle name"

clean it again. As if that wasn't enough, I would go over and clean my neighbor's house. I remember the time I wrote a 46-page letter to someone who was in prison. I overdid everything, and was messed up big time. Then one day Jesus said, *Candy, slow down, and no more running*. I heard his voice and I came to Holland Rescue Mission. And even though I had been here many times before, I was still welcomed with open arms. I came here when I had no place else to go.

Thank you for keeping these doors open for me

All my life, I was told I had no value. *Rejection* seemed to be my middle name. But here at the Mission people remind me I have value. Every day I feel loved. Everything about Holland Rescue Mission is uplifting and positive. So for me, there's no more running . . .

*My heart is softer and my burdens are lighter . . .
thanks to God and to you who care so much*

except into the arms of Jesus who loves me and has forgiven me of my sins. I'm so grateful for my Christian counselors. I can go to them at any time with any question and they are there for me. And you are there for me also through your generous donations. I cannot thank you enough for keeping these doors open for me. I will never be able to pay you back for your kindness, except to live a life that brings honor to my risen Lord. But maybe that's the best payback of all.

Sincerely,

Candy



and spiritual healing of others

who have felt so little love when they lived in a state of homelessness. In the process, another gift is the one you give to yourself. As you get involved, you become closer to God as you help make this world a better place by helping someone in need. The other piece of good news is we are all healed when we participate in the physical and spiritual healing of others. To send your donation to help so many who are homeless and despairing of life itself, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.hollandrescue.org. God bless you as you reach out to others during these critical months and every day of the year.

**"Your kind smile
or pat on the back
may be what pulls
someone back from
the edge."**

Put Your Best Face Forward

Families come in all shapes and sizes, as one mother shared recently: "Dear Ann Landers: It happened again today. My two sons and I were in a shopping mall, and a total stranger felt the need to comment on the fact that my boys didn't look anything alike. Apparently, my 6-year-old decided it was time he explained the difference. 'I'm adopted,' he said. 'That's when you have the same family but not the same face.'"

Did you know you could change the "face" of your family by "adopting" a ministry you care about, like Holland Rescue Mission? It's true! This approach is often referred to as a "Child Named Charity." It simply means that an individual chooses to include a ministry in their will, gifting them an equal share to that received by each of their children. You're essentially including the ministry in your family.

Honoring Mike Boeve



Being an effective board member of a nonprofit ministry is challenging. However, being on the board of a growing and vital ministry like Holland Rescue Mission takes great skill, investment of time and biblical wisdom. Simply put, great board members help to make for great organizations.

Holland Rescue Mission has been blessed to have board members who take seriously their role as community advocates for homeless people and the less fortunate while being leaders of the ministry of rescue God has entrusted to them. One such member has worked in the trenches of

So why is it a good idea? A "Child Named Charity" allows families to make a clear statement of what they value most — advancing the Lord's work for generations to come. It also provides some great tax benefits.

2 Corinthians 9:7 says: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." A "Child Named Charity" can help you do that — it's a simple and smart way to live out your values and give confidently.

What does your financial "family" look like?

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "How to Change the 'Face' of Your Family" by simply contacting Rachael Neal from Holland Rescue Mission at (616) 396-2200 ext. 425 or rachaeln@hollandrescue.org — or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at www.christianwill.org/hrm

Holland Rescue Mission for over two decades and it is now time to honor him for a job well done. Mike Boeve has served as a board member for over 20 years, and for most of those years he has been the President of the Board of Directors. Mike has helped navigate Holland Rescue Mission through times of great change, as well as, tremendous growth. The light of the gospel of Christ has been proclaimed and demonstrated to hundreds of thousands of Holland's people in need. Mike has been a strong leader helping to ensure the spiritual focus and vitality of all that the Mission endeavors to accomplish.

Please join us in saying "Thank You" to one of Holland's choice servants of God — Mike Boeve!



My Springtime Gift

YES, Darryl . . .

it's a pleasure once again to support the Mission during these critical spring months.

Here's my gift of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and care as possible
- Please send me a FREE copy of "How to Change the 'Face' of Your Family"
- Please bill my credit card: VISA MC Discover

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ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Holland Rescue Mission

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Holland, MI 49423-3718

▶ Please mail this completed form with your generous springtime gift, or donate online at www.hollandrescue.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.