



ChangingLives



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SUMMER ISSUE 2015

Through all my trials and tribulations *I have finally found joy in Jesus Christ*

My name is Paul. I've blown to and fro for many years, with the exception of pausing once in a while to put my life in order. My addiction to alcohol took me places I didn't want to go. I was messed up for way too long. When I heard about the Mission, I came here planning to spend only a couple days. I thought I would just give it a try. But it didn't take long for Jesus to take hold of my heart. He altered my thinking about me and life itself. No longer do I consider leaving the Mission. This is the right place for me at this time of my life. I used to live only to use drugs. Today, God is my life and my only focus is on the person of Jesus Christ. Whenever I think about walking out these doors I'm reminded by the staff not to leave *before the miracle happens*. Well, that miracle has happened and it happens every day I'm here at Holland Rescue Mission.

Thank you for giving me back my self-worth

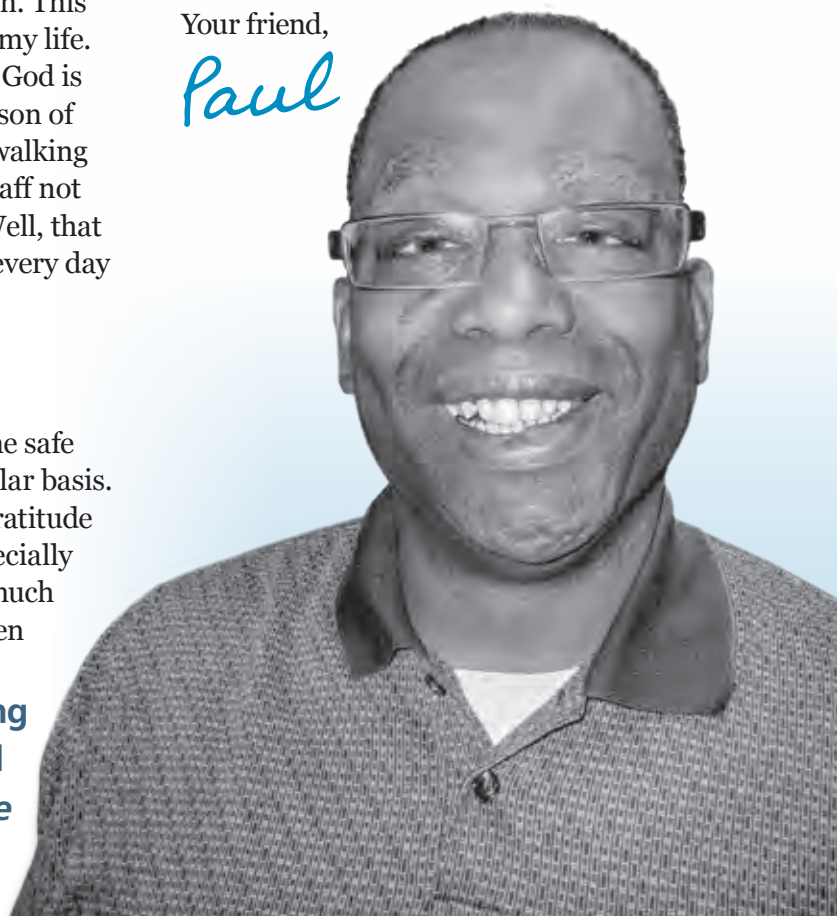
I am so grateful for the good food, the safe shelter and clothing I receive on a regular basis. I don't have the words to express my gratitude to so many who're helping me. I'm especially thankful for you and how you give so much of yourself to help keep these doors open

"Whenever I think about walking out these doors I am reminded by the staff not to leave *before the miracle happens*."

for someone like me. You are helping me regain my self-esteem and my sense of worth. Now, it's my desire to give back to others so they don't make the same mistakes I've made in my life. It's also great working at the Mission's thrift store, where I'm able to meet so many caring people. It's always a privilege to give people a kind word. Perhaps I will meet you one day in the store as well. God bless you and your family during these summer months.

Your friend,

Paul



Thank you for reaching out to me when I needed help the most



Fun on the Green!

To those who were able to participate in or donate to this year's Annual Golf Outing, thank you for your support! The day was filled with fun, fellowship and some friendly competition. Your generosity and giving hearts will help change lives of men and women at Holland Rescue Mission.

We are thankful for each and every participant and financial contribution. Be on the lookout for information on next year's event. We hope to see you on the green!

NALC Food Drive

This year's National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Food Drive was a great success! All donated food that was collected on May 16 will be distributed to an estimated 1,300 families in the Holland area.

We are incredibly grateful for those who donated and those who volunteered their time and labor to help fold bags, count information cards, and collect the bags of donated food. Because of you, men, women and children in our community will not go hungry. Thank you for your support!



A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

Dear Friend of Holland Rescue Mission,

It's summertime, and the living's not easy for the men, women and children in Holland who often suffer more in the summer than in the winter.

Although the needs of the poor seem more dramatic during the freezing temperatures of winter months, *summer has its own pain*. There is a great deal of illness among homeless people during this time of year. The heat of summer also takes its toll on those who sleep outdoors. It's tough to get a good night's rest when you're fearful of your life because of your sleeping arrangements. This is why our staff is here to welcome any and all during this time of year . . .

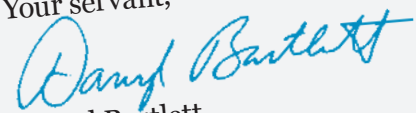
. . . a staff that works with little pay and yet remains in the trenches day after day, counseling, feeding, clothing and loving those who come through our doors. I always tell people that working at Holland Rescue Mission is tiring and arduous, but the retirement benefits are out of this world . . . you literally have to die to get them. The members of our staff do not work for money. Their privilege is to respond to the spiritual and physical needs of people in pain.

God bless you for being part of the restoration of people in need

Here are some verses from Isaiah 58 in *The Message* that give us our marching orders . . . *If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness . . . You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.*

Until next time, God bless you and keep you always . . . and thank you for your ongoing support of Holland Rescue Mission.

Your servant,



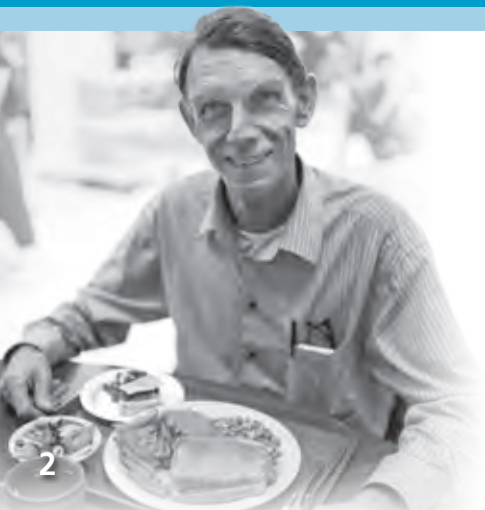
Darryl Bartlett
Executive Director



"If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness . . ."
words from the prophet Isaiah

Thank you for your generosity in the past . . . and

A guest from India was walking along with his friend in New York City, when he suddenly said, "I hear a cricket." His friend asked, "How could you possibly hear a cricket with all these people bustling around, horns honking and taxis squealing?" Quietly, the Indian gentleman crossed the street and began digging beneath some shrubs in a large planter until he found the cricket. He then said to his amazed friend, "My ears are no different from yours. It simply depends on what you are listening to." And like the preacher said, *there has to be a message in that story.*



From a life of being abused . . . to being loved by people who care

My name is Amanda. I'm at Holland Rescue Mission because my three kids and I had nowhere else to go. I was in a terrible relationship for many years, and the constant abuse finally got to the point right where I couldn't take it anymore. It seems like being abused has been the center point of my life, starting with my dad who was a coke addict. He was a hippie, and he pretty much ignored me — except to abuse me physically and verbally. There were pot plants all over our house. One day, I even saw some deer eating his pot. That was quite a sight. When my father wasn't looking, I would go to his ashtray and smoke whatever pot was left. In a nutshell, that was my life. My mom died when I was 18, and I don't know why, but I blamed her death on God. I was angry at Him for a long time. But I'm happy to say all my former anger is now in the past, because today I love the God I once hated. I have my smile back. I'm more talkative. I'm finally discovering who I am and what God wants for my life.

Thank you for giving my kids and me shelter and food

My goal now is to return to school and continue my studies in criminal justice. I've already done a year and a half of coursework and I look forward to completing my degree. One thing's for sure: I would not have this motivation to succeed in life if it were not for the Mission and all the people here *who are on my side*. I also consider you as one of those people, because

your donations are giving my kids and me a roof over our heads and food in our bellies. But more than that,

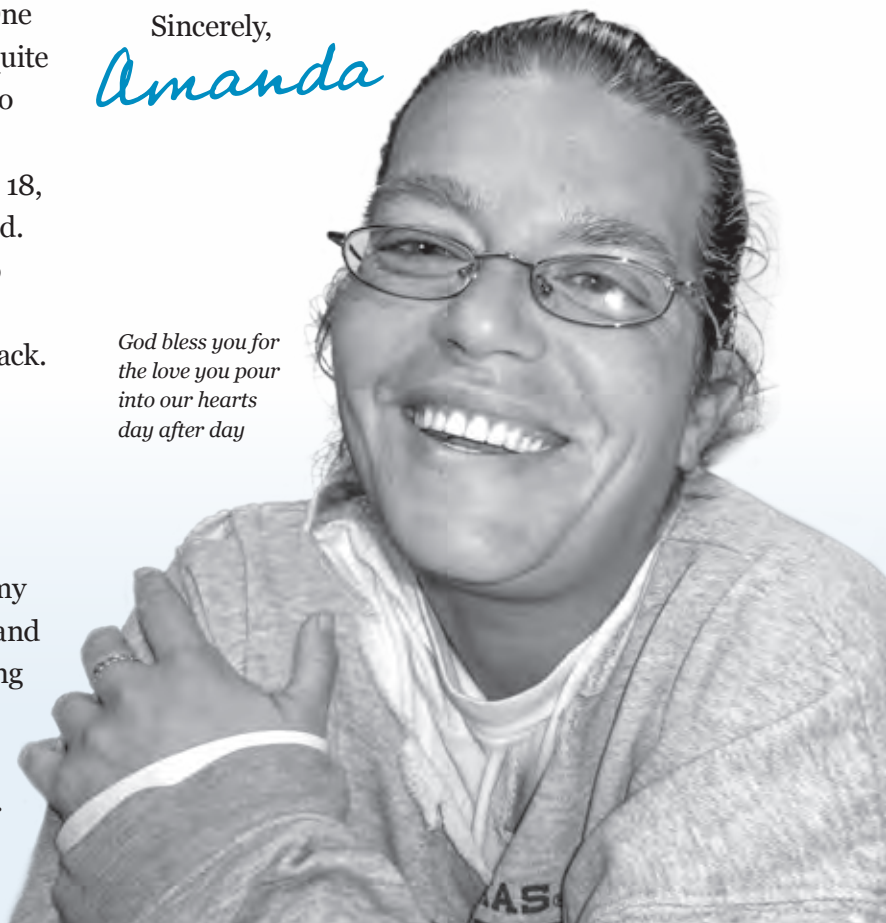
“. . . all my former anger is now in the past, because today I love the God I once hated.”

you are helping my family discover how much Jesus loves us. I've never been happier and my relationship with God is growing closer each day.

Sincerely,

Amanda

*God bless you for
the love you pour
into our hearts
day after day*



thank you in advance for your continued support

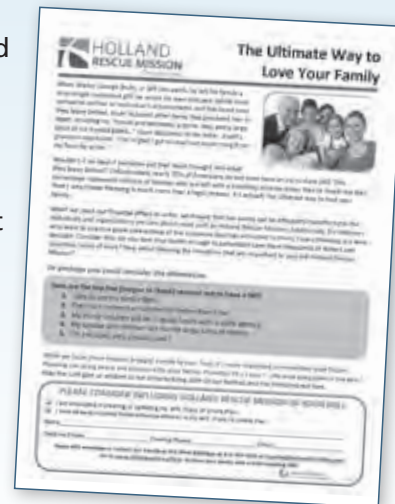
Well, we at the Mission believe our message is this: in the midst of the noise and pain of life we listen to *and respond with God's love* to those in physical and spiritual need. But we cannot carry out this ministry of compassion alone. That's why we continue to seek your generous support during these critical summer months. To send your donation today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.hollandrescue.org. You may also call us at (616) 396-2200. God bless you for caring . . . *and for helping us listen*.

**“. . . in the midst of
the noise and pain
of life we listen
and respond to
those in physical
and spiritual need.”**

Top 5 Reasons Not to Have a Will

Everyone knows it's good to have an up-to-date will, right? You may be surprised to learn that a whopping 70% of Americans don't have one. That number represents millions of families who will discover an unfortunate surprise at the end of their loved one's life. Proverbs 29:11 says, "... the wise bring calm in the end." Wouldn't you rather leave your family and the ministries you care about like Holland Rescue Mission with

peace, blessing and "calm in the end"? Having an up-to-date estate plan is the ultimate way of expressing love to your family. When we get our financial affairs in order, we ensure that our assets can be efficiently transferred to the individuals and organizations we care about most. Additionally, for believers who want to practice good stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to them, estate planning is a wise decision . . . Or you could consider the alternative.



Here are the top 5 (tongue-in-cheek) reasons not to have a will:

1. I like to see my family fight.
2. My elected officials can handle this better than I can.
3. My minor children will be in good hands with a state agency.
4. My spouse and children can handle large sums of money.
5. I'm not alive, why should I care?

Will your estate plan leave "calm in the end"?

For the full version of this article, ask for a **FREE** copy of "The Ultimate Way to Love 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

Become a Monthly Donor

Our **Compassionate Champions** team is providing homeless people at Holland Rescue Mission with hope for a brighter tomorrow. Their monthly donations go directly to the ministry of helping men, women and children who walk through our doors. Becoming a Compassionate

Champion is simple and easy! You can safely and securely give a gift online or have a monthly gift deducted from your bank account. You will still receive our quarterly newsletters, updating you on the inspiring things happening at Holland Rescue Mission. For more information, please contact Robin Thompson at **(616) 928-3418**. We would love for you to join our team!



My Summertime Gift

YES, Darryl, please use my gift to help reach out to people in need during the summer months.

Here's my donation 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
- \$_____** provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card: VISA MC Discover
- Please send me a **FREE** copy of "The Ultimate Way to Love Your Family"

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ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Holland Rescue Mission

Mr. Darryl Bartlett

356 Fairbanks Ave.

Holland, MI 49423-3718

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