



# Changing Lives



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**NEW YEAR ISSUE 2016**

## I no longer live in fear . . .

### *because I know the Lord is always at my side*

**M**y name is Mike. One week before I came to Holland Rescue Mission, I tried to kill myself. I wanted to be creative, so I set up a pulley overhead and threaded it with a length of rope to which I tied a shotgun. I then drank half a gallon of drain cleaner and jumped off the chair, assuming that would end it all. Well, the gun went off, but it hit the rope and shattered it as I fell unceremoniously to the ground. As it turns out, the drain cleaner must have been old and flat, because it had no effect on me. So there I was lying on the floor not dead, but thinking to myself . . . *okay God, if I'm not gonna die I better go to the Mission.* My life was so messed up I couldn't even kill myself.

#### **My Christ-esteem is improving**

And I'm glad I didn't, because here at the Mission I'm discovering who I am in Christ. It's not my self-esteem that's improving; it's *my Christ-esteem*. For the first time in a long time, I no longer feel broken or angry. I once had a home-based business where I was earning a yearly income of six figures. I figured with all that money I didn't need the Lord. Well, that was crooked thinking. *That's when I needed Him most.* Now I'm back in the fold, reading my Bible, praying, and being grateful to God, the Mission and to you who give so much of yourself to make this place available to me.

**"My TV and I were best friends. In fact, *the television set was my only friend.*"**

In the past, I was so timid I'd stay in my cabin and have my groceries delivered. I didn't want to see or meet anyone. My TV and I were best friends. In fact, *the television set was my only friend.* Today I can talk to people, interact with them and live a much more normal life. Well, that's my story in a nutshell. Thank you for listening — and thank you for being a hope provider for me *today* and for the better days that lie ahead in the New Year.

*Mike*



*Thank you for giving me a place where God is putting my life back together*

## Annual Golf Event June 7

Mark your calendars for this year's Golf Event! Come out and enjoy a day full of golf and prizes, all while supporting Holland Rescue Mission. The event will be held on Tuesday, June 7. Please contact Robin Thompson at 616.928.3418 or robint@hollandrescue.org

## Women's Spring Garden Auction

Join us for this year's Garden Auction! You are not going to want to miss it! Come and support Holland Rescue Mission on Tuesday, March 9, at Baker Lofts. Enjoy a delicious catered lunch and bid on beautiful auction items. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information about the event, contact Sarah Swaney at 616.928.3450 or sarahs@hollandrescue.org

## Christ is Alive in the Hearts of the Homeless

The central fact of the Christian faith is the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without this reality, history would have regarded Jesus as no more than a good man. A whisper of Him might have come down through the centuries, certainly no more, and probably not even that.

But through a living Lord, lives are changed every day at Holland Rescue Mission. Because of the Savior, those who come through the Mission's doors have an opportunity to discover new life, new hope and new direction for their lives.

Thank you for helping so many at Holland Rescue Mission throw off their grave clothes of addictions, self-punishment and despair to rise to newness of life. Thank you for making the person of Jesus Christ a practical reality, in every area of their lives. We ask nothing for ourselves. Every gift you give is for those in need.

## A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

**Dear Friend of Holland Rescue Mission,**

I have good news . . . for every door that closes, *another door opens*. For every year that passes, another year arrives that's filled with hope and opportunities for you, for me and for those we serve 24/7 at Holland Rescue Mission. Because of your generosity, 2016 holds great promise for every person who comes through our doors. People will discover the love of Jesus for the first time. Others say farewell to their addictions and begin living lives as God intended them to be lived. Those who had planned to end it all — men like Mike — suddenly find life is worth living *after all*. We do not yet know the specifics, but we know *for certain* God is preparing to do another tremendous work in the hearts of men, women and children during the next 12 months.

**There is always a vacancy sign at Holland Rescue Mission**

We are able to do all this by the grace of a loving, living God and the ongoing support of a friend like you. Your generosity guarantees we will never turn anyone away. If there were a sign outside it would always flash **VACANCY**. Our New Year's resolution is a prayer that God helps us to extend a loving, compassionate hand and heart to even more friends and neighbors who come to us for help. Thank you for your gift that keeps on giving day after day. May God bless you and your family in what promises to be an exciting New Year.

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

Your servant,

Darryl Bartlett  
Executive Director



*"Thank you for your gift that keeps on giving day after day."*

**Sometimes the homeless are not who you think they might be.**



## Just saying thank you is not enough . . . *I will be forever grateful for your kindness*

**M**y name is Kelsi. I confess. I made myself and my son Keagan homeless. No one did it to us. I have been a shopaholic, spendthrift and addicted to acquiring things I never needed since I was 16 years of age. If I had \$100 in my pocket, it would be in the cash register at Wal-Mart within minutes. I had to have *this*, and I had to have *that*. I even used my rent money to buy stupid things. Again, I take full responsibility for my behavior.

**“It’s my prayer that my addiction to spending will be a thing of the past”**

That’s why I thank God for Holland Rescue Mission, where I’m in a program that’s helping me finally get my financial life together. But it’s more than that. I’m also rekindling my relationship with God. For too long I was on the fence when it came to Christianity. Today, I know there is a God, and I know His name is Jesus Christ. Yes, I still have a long way to go, but I know I’m moving in the right direction. I’m especially encouraged when the staff at the Mission tells me they are seeing me grow and change. Just to know someone sees these changes in my life puts me on top of the world.

**It’s not just drugs and alcohol — addictions take many forms**

You don’t have to be on drugs or alcohol to have your life messed up. Addictions take many forms. It’s my prayer that my addiction to spending is a thing of the past. I know, with God’s help, I will continue to make the right decisions for my son and me in the days ahead. God bless you for all you do to help someone like me — not only at the holiday season but every single day of the year.

*Kelsi*



*By God’s grace and mercy I am becoming a new person*

## January means new life and new opportunities for the people in need in our community

**D**uring the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, your giving helped us move mountains of pain for people who came through the Mission’s doors. Thank you for your prayers, your volunteer work and your continued generosity.

Now it’s a New Year and again, Holland Rescue Mission continues to do all it can to share the message of Christ’s love and compassion with our residents and guests. Everyone at the Mission thanks you for your continued support of this work of spiritual and physical restoration.

If you’ve paid us a visit, you may have been surprised to know who comes through our doors. Sometimes the homeless are not who you think they might be. It’s true that many are fighting to break free from an abuse of

alcohol and other drugs. Many have spent years on the streets struggling to survive.

### Arms of Love

But there are others — folks who’ve been evicted from apartments, lost good jobs, been hit by a faltering economy . . . *and those who’ve simply lost their way*. But whoever they are, the doors of Holland Rescue Mission remain wide open for all who need food, shelter and arms of love. To keep doing your vital part in touching lives during the New Year, please use our secure website at [www.hollandrescue.org](http://www.hollandrescue.org) to give your special donation. You may also call us at (616) 396-2200. God bless you for reaching out to so many in need at the beginning of 2016.

# Greatness Hidden in Plain Sight

When Victor Serebriakoff was 15, his teacher told him he would never finish school and should learn a trade instead. Victor took the advice, dropped out and spent the next 17 years working a variety of odd jobs. But at age 32, Victor experienced an amazing transformation. An evaluation revealed that he was actually a genius with an IQ of 161! Since that time, Victor has gone on to write books, secure a number of patents and become a successful businessman. Perhaps the most significant event for the former dropout was his election as chairman of the International Mensa Society.

Many people want to accomplish something "significant" with their lives, but feel that only big things count. However, Matthew 6:4 suggests God appreciates and openly rewards things that go unnoticed by others . . . especially in the area of generosity.

Did you know retirement plans provide a simple way to make a "significant" charitable gift? Here's what we mean:

Retirement assets willed to a loved one are subject to income and estate taxes, which typically end up leaving just 30 cents on the dollar! But designating these funds to a nonprofit like Holland Rescue Mission eliminates taxation and assures 100% of the gift goes toward furthering Kingdom work. This means you're able to leave a God-honoring legacy of "significance," while still blessing your loved ones with other assets that make greater financial sense.

Don't miss what's hidden in plain sight. Consider donating your retirement assets and leaving a significant impact for generations to come!

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "Making Choices That Make a Difference" by 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](http://www.christianwill.org/hrm)

## Thank You!

We are deeply encouraged by your love and support of our community here at Holland Rescue Mission! Your donations throughout this past holiday season gave hope to many men, women and families who are in need. Because of your prayers and support, we were able to serve those who were hungry a hot meal and share the hope only found in our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank YOU for your constant support and partnership in our ministry!



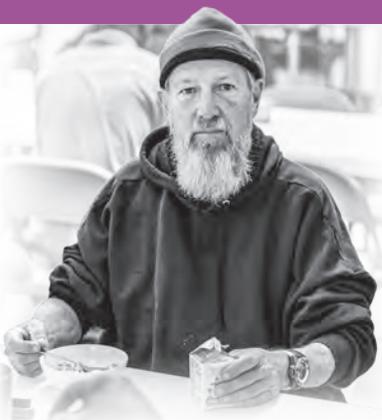
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## My New Year Gift

**YES, Darryl,** you can count on my support of Holland Rescue Mission this month and throughout the New Year. Here's my donation of:

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 "Making Choices That Make a Difference."



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 New Year gift, or donate online at [www.hollandrescue.org](http://www.hollandrescue.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.