

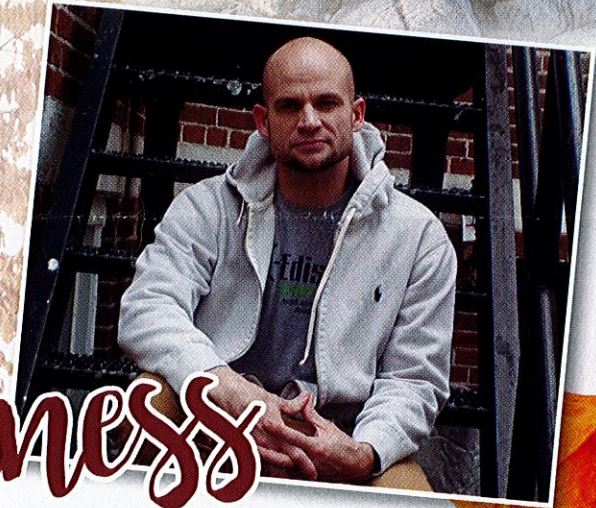
NOVEMBER 2023

# The Vision

A publication of City Rescue Ministries of Saginaw



## A PATH TO Healing & Happiness



Mike J. openly shares the ups and downs of his mental health. Mike grew up in and out of foster care and unfortunately, was abused from early childhood until he aged out. Determined to make something of his life, he joined the Marine Corps where he served in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, those early childhood years, military service and the loss of a sister who was murdered put an emotional and mental strain on his life. So much so, Mike developed anxiety and is overwhelmed in certain situations or in the company of too many people. Nevertheless, he is determined to move his life forward.

This is not Mike's first stay at City Rescue Mission. Four years ago, he needed emergency shelter and his cousin suggested that he go to City Rescue Mission. He had no concern about staying at a homeless shelter, but he admits his anxiety was an issue. One thing that brought a sense of calm was seeing two of his high school lunch ladies, Mrs. Jackson, and Miss Felicia, working in the Rescue Mission kitchen.

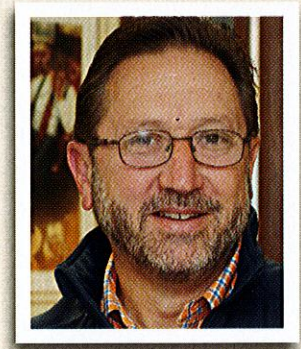
His current stay at the Mission is a result of a lay-off. This was difficult because Mike enjoys working and being able to take care of himself. Although he still struggles with his faith, he's learned that in times like these he can talk to God about his cares and anxiety. The Mission's weekly chapel services allows him to stay connected to God and be at peace in the moment. In addition, Mike's case manager, Pastor Doug Westbrook, and other shelter staff like Pastor Eric Winter, check on him regularly...something he's grown to appreciate. "I generally don't take to people. That's one of the many ways they (staff) have been helping me."

Mike proudly admits that with everything he's been through he has never considered drugs or alcohol to be the answer. He understands the importance of getting to a mentally healthy place. He realizes it will take patience, faith, and perseverance. His desire is to be able to live independently and function in society. "I want to address everything that will lead me to happiness."



# DIRECTOR'S DESK

Have you already put up your Christmas tree and started Christmas music in your house? It seems like every year the Christmas marketing moves earlier and earlier into the year. It feels like Thanksgiving becomes a second thought, but that's not surprising because modern day life is more about accomplishment and expectation and less about reflection and thankfulness for God's abundant blessings. People spend more time planning for what they don't have and so little time purposely contemplating and expressing gratefulness for God's provision.



On an average night at Rescue Ministries, 240 people walk through the doors with no place they can call "home". One of the more staggering statistics is that 30% of those struggling in homelessness have been diagnosed with a mental illness, something that they had no control over. Additionally, many of those that receive services from the Mission were born into a home that experienced deep poverty. Once again, an event in their lives that they couldn't influence.

God's Word helps bring perspective in Psalm 139:14 where it says, *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works..."*

I am always impressed by those individuals, that regardless of the difficulties of life or perceived handicaps, find a way to live for others and give God glory. One of the rewarding aspects of our rescue work is to see people experience life change. Our homeless guests came to the Mission out of destitution and despair, but then they find HOPE. They find they have a purpose, that there is meaning to their life, and that God has given them a reason to be thankful.

When thankfulness is attained, then demonstration follows. For our Mission guests, it immediately becomes verbal, which brought Psalm 30:12 to mind, *"To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever."*

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, I would challenge you to pause and reflect to remember God's presence and influence in your life and how He would have you demonstrate your appreciation for His great blessings.

Dan Streeter, CEO



# 2023 Samaritan Award Recipient

Each year, The Samaritan Award is presented to one whose charitable acts have somehow stood out among the hundreds of kindnesses. It is presented to volunteers who tirelessly and generously donate their time and talents to serve those in need. This year's recipient is Frank Marcello. Frank is an amazing volunteer with a true servant heart. Rescue Ministries proudly honored him at this year's Anniversary Dinner Gala held at Horizons Conference Center. Frank became a Rescue Mission volunteer in 2001 and continues serving to this day. Frank does not limit himself to one area of volunteerism. He serves as a chaple speaker, collects Mission coin banks from area businesses, delivers fresh produce from local farmers for Mission meals and so much more. His call to action is simple, "There's so many ways to volunteer. Ask God for guidance, He'll show you the way."

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission volunteers, Patrick and Betty Daily and their daughter Kelly Appold, were also honored this year.



## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

[WWW.RESCUEMIDMICHIGAN.ORG](http://WWW.RESCUEMIDMICHIGAN.ORG)



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This is the place to learn all about City Rescue Mission, Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Impact Designs, Samaritan Youth Services and more! Plus, [rescuemidmichigan.org](http://rescuemidmichigan.org) will help you connect with us by visiting, praying, volunteering, attending events, donating, and subscribing to our stories of changed lives.

## Hope And Care For Our Homeless Neighbors

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## Christmas Needs List

Consider donating an unwrapped gift for the Mission guests. Wrapping paper, tape and x-large gift bags are needed/ welcomes.

### Christmas Dinner Needs

Canned sweet potatoes  
French style green beans  
Cream of mushroom soup  
French's fried onions  
Stuffing  
Pecans  
Mixed Vegetables  
Ritz Crackers  
Hellman's Mayo (Real Mayo)  
Canned Corn  
Buffet Ham

### Youth (5-12)

Vanity Toys for Girls (hair, makeup sets)  
Girls Hair Products  
(fine toothed combs, barrettes, tiny rubber bands, etc.)  
Crayon/Colored Pencil Art Sets (No Paint)  
Building Blocks  
Small Lego Sets  
Type Specific Play Sets (Doctor's Kits, Kitchen Sets, etc.)

### Youth (13-18)

Body Care Gift Set  
Fast Food Gift Cards  
Men's & Women's  
size M & L T-Shirts &  
Hoodies  
Fidget Toys  
Headphones  
Chargers  
Travel Water Bottles  
Walmart Gift Cards  
Ear Buds

### Women

Gift Cards  
Body Care Gift Sets  
Winter Boots  
Winter coats-M-3x  
Slippers  
Gloves  
Manicure Kits  
Sweats  
1x and Larger Clothing

### Men

Gift Cards  
Aftershave  
Wallets  
Shampoo & Body Wash Sets  
Manicure Sets  
Men's Jeans  
Winter Coats  
Hoodies  
Boots  
Belts

Due by  
December  
14th

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