

FEBRUARY 2024

# The Vision

A publication of City RESCUE MINISTRIES of SAGINAW

## Rise, Renew Rejoice!

## IT'S A NEW SEASON

With every new season we can rest assured that change is coming. Such is the case for Valdez. Having been incarcerated for many years, this young man is grateful his life has been renewed.

Raised by his grandparents after his mother was unable to care for him and his father struggled as a single father, Valdez says he appreciates his grandparents stepping in to raise him. "They were the ones who introduced me to Christ." Their unconditional love and taking him to church gave Valdez the stability he needed during his early years. However, in his 20s, Valdez felt the void of not having his parents in his life. "I felt empty." That emptiness led to smoking marijuana, making bad decisions, and drinking alcohol which led to crime and a long journey to spiritual and emotional wholeness. A path he is still on.

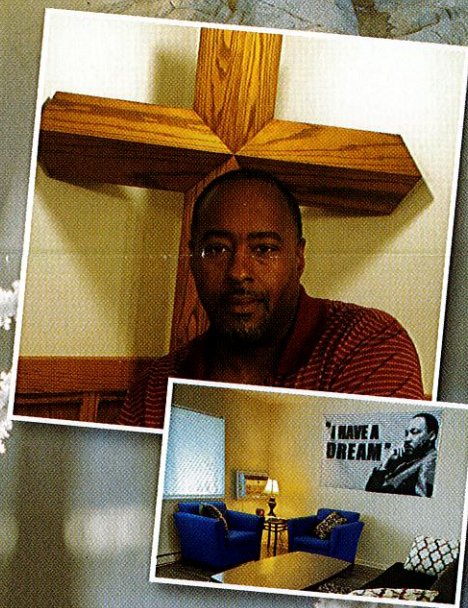
In prison, Valdez renewed his relationship with Christ. He enrolled in classes including one to address his dependence on alcohol. "Life behind bars was hard! The loneliness was the hardest," he states. Then one day he realized, "Lonely doesn't mean alone with God in your life."

**"The Mission has allowed me to grow and act accordingly as a man. I like who I am now."**

During his incarceration Valdez dealt with the loss of his parents and grandparents. They all died. When it was time for his release the pressure of being a husband, father and the unknowns overcame him. With one year left he gave in to life's pressure and another bad choice was made. He realized then that going back to his old ways wasn't an option anymore.

His parole stipulated that he had to enroll in a program. Someone told him about Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan. After being at the Mission Valdez is happy to say, "I made the right choice this time."

Valdez enrolled in and completed the Impact Shelter Classes including Supportive Parenting and Becoming a Responsible Tenant, to name a few. After completing the classes, he qualified for Impact Designs services and recently moved into his own apartment. "The Mission has allowed me to grow and act accordingly as a man. I like who I am now."





# DIRECTOR'S DESK

I think everyone loves a fresh start, a chance to hit the redo button, the opportunity to "get it right" this time. That's why we are drawn to New Year's resolutions. Maybe this is the year I can lose that pesky 10 pounds or stay on track with my Bible reading plan.

Our guests truly value the chance for a restart. Obviously, something went wrong for them to find their way to our shelter. Over 230 men, women, and children on a daily average need that fresh start each day, and our staff are diligent to work with them to help identify what went wrong, but more importantly, how can it be right this time.

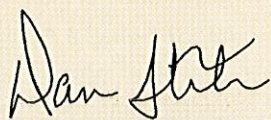
I challenged our staff recently to adopt Acts 20:24 as their theme verse for 2024.

*"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."*

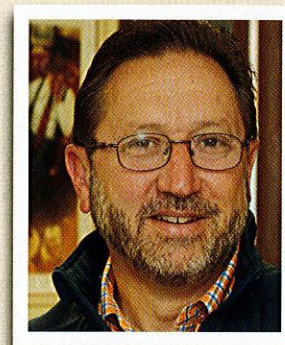
I challenged them to spend more time pursuing the things that generate real joy in our lives, like thinking of others first and testifying of what God will do and has done for us.

Often our New Year's resolutions are very focused upon ourselves. I like to challenge all those taking the time to read this newsletter that we focus more this year on God's message to live for others. Minister in His love, testify of what He has done for us, invest time doing for others. For example, consider helping to prepare and serve a meal, assist with moving someone into their new apartment with Impact Designs, work in a clothing room, sort and assemble hygiene packets. So many ways that a few hours can make a real difference.

Take time to meditate and thoughtfully consider making Acts 20:24 your theme verse for this new year!



Dan Streeter, CEO

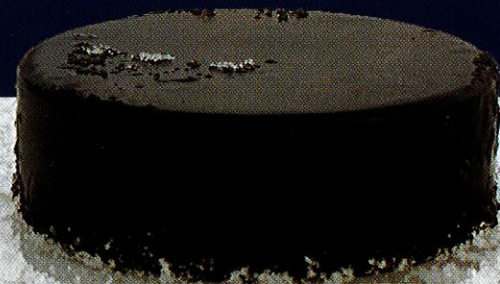






**Saturday March 9, 2024**

Proceeds from the 2024 Hockey for the Homeless will help to provide services to homeless youth from the Bay area. Samaritan Youth Services began working with homeless youth and their families on February 2, 2021. Since its opening three years ago the Samaritan Youth Shelter has served over 95 homeless youth providing short-term emergency for up to 21 days for youth ages 12 to 17 years.



Often, the journey of  
**HEALING** begins  
with a hot meal served  
with **KINDNESS**





# Operation Hope & Care

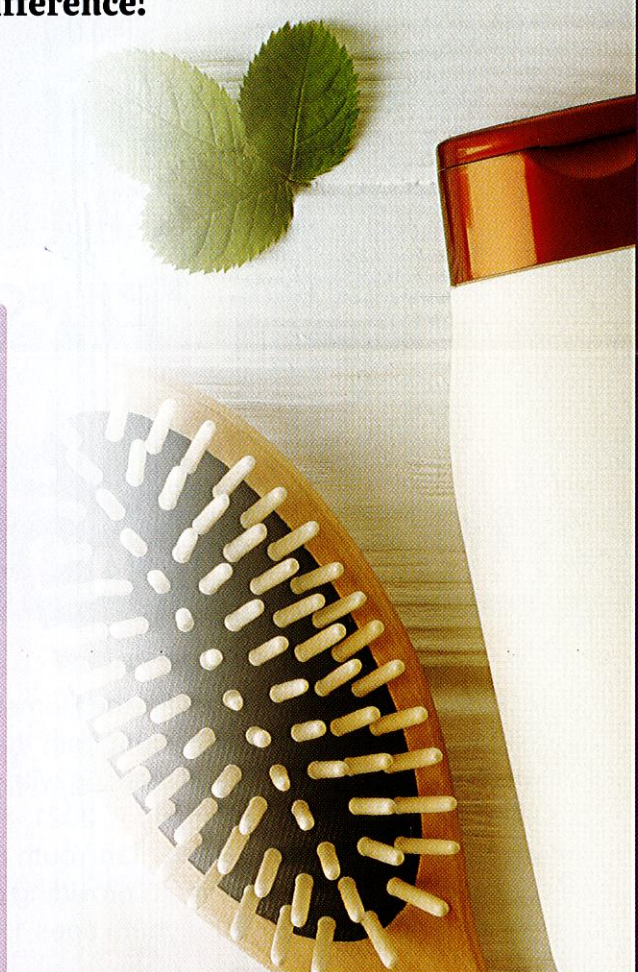


A little bag makes **a big difference!**

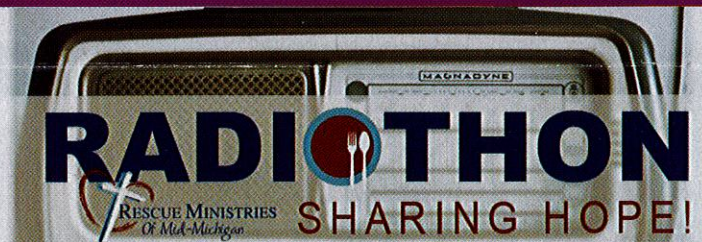
**February 14th -  
March 29th Help  
provide Hope and  
Care to the homeless**

Fill a Hope & Care Tote  
with the following items:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body Wash & Cleansing Poofs
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving Cream (Men & Women)
- Toothpaste
- Brushes & Combs
- Chap Stick



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The 2023 Sharing Hope Radiothon presented by Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland, Fisher Contracting Company and Mercantile Bank was a huge success! The 12-hour radiothon raised \$70,594 providing over 2,300 nights of warm, safe shelter. A special thank you to Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland, Fisher Contracting Company, Mercantile Bank, Martin Chiropractic, Dick Williams Gun Shop, Champagne & Marx, Saginaw Bay Underwriters, Shaw Contracting, Kerkau Manufacturing, Koops Automation Systems, Winford Engineering, Dupont, Veterinary Health Center, and Cech Corporation for sponsoring the 2023 Radiothon.

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