

# STORIES of HOPE

A publication of Gateway Mission • SUMMER ISSUE 2023



Formerly  
Holland Rescue  
Mission

**THANK YOU  
FOR LOVING  
YOUR  
NEIGHBOR,  
JUSTIN,**  
and giving him  
hope for the  
future!



## DON'T MISS...

**2** Your love will transform lives this summer!

**2** Celebrating 10 new beginnings... thanks to you!

**3** "The Mission loved me when I didn't love myself."

“The Mission  
loved me  
when I  
didn’t love  
myself.”



Justin grew up in a loving home, with caring parents. But as he grew older his insecurities got the better of him.

“I was always made fun of for being the smaller kid... I took it a lot harder than I should have. Then I started making excuses and looking for things to fill those voids.”

His breaking point came when a relationship ended, and he turned to drugs to numb the pain and heartache.

“When you’re in the midst of addiction, everything gradually falls apart. I was sleeping in the back of my car for four months, in the winter, and I didn’t want anyone to know.”

Thankfully, Justin’s family saw his struggle. “Having to look my family in the eye and hearing the word ‘addict’ used out loud... it was like my darkest secret. I knew right there I needed to change.”

**That’s when Justin’s aunt told him about our Gateway Program, and he came here determined to get clean and rebuild his life.**

Justin was initially skeptical about the daily routine of life skills classes and Bible studies. But then God began to work in his heart, and he soon gave his life to Christ.

“When I first got here, I was kind of selfish and broken in the center. But now I’m around people who love me and are giving me tools I can put into my little toolbox for life.”

Today, Justin is grateful for the support he has found from his new church family, as well as his brothers and sisters at the Mission. He is training for his forklift operator’s license, and is excited to see what the future holds.



Before, I was on my own. Now I have God on my side – He brought me this far and I know He’ll take care of me!



**Justin is thankful for the way you have answered God’s calling to love your neighbor as yourself – and have helped him learn how to love himself.** “They’ve given me a new outlook on how to handle the things I’ve literally struggled with my whole life. I can honestly say I look in the mirror now and like what I see.”

“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14

# A meal for \$2.43 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



## A Message from JAY RIEMERSMA

### Thank you for loving your neighbors as yourself

If I've learned anything in my new position at Gateway, it's that we all need a helping hand from time to time. No one makes it through life without a little care and compassion along the way. That's what loving your neighbors is all about, right?

And yet, you and I know that God's Word has a way of challenging us to go further... of stretching our faithfulness beyond what we thought possible. The Lord makes the impossible POSSIBLE at the Mission, thanks to the generosity of friends like YOU.

**Now, as the summer months approach, I hope we can count on you during our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign.**

Time and time again in Scripture, we're told not just to "love your neighbor" but to "love your neighbor as yourself." That's a big difference! It's making the needs of others a priority equal with your own from the beginning.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who give in this way to help men, women and children in West Michigan who are hurting and homeless. And I ask for your continued support through the summer, when the weather can be dangerous for people who live outside.

Thank you for offering a helping hand to your neighbors most in need – and for continuing to love them **as yourself.**



Jay Riemersma  
Executive Director

## **YOUR LOVE** will transform lives this summer!

Your gift today provides:



38,000 meals



11,700 beds



hundreds of  
hygiene items



countless hours of  
counseling & education



life-transforming decisions  
for Christ

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS  
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE  
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**  
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

**Give now!**  
[hopefoundhere.org](http://hopefoundhere.org)



*Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild lives!*

## Celebrating 10 new beginnings... **THANKS TO YOU!**

*We're proud of our Gateway Addictions and Discipleship Program graduates!*

It's a special time at the Mission as **we celebrate 10 new graduates from our long-term Gateway Addictions and Discipleship Program!**

After 40 weeks of Christ-centered counseling, classes and life-skills training, this is only the beginning. Thanks to your support and God's grace, they have a new life of HOPE.

As our graduates return to our community, please keep them in your prayers. And thank you for your continued support, as more people walk through our doors to start their own journey of transformation.

Want to learn more about our recovery services for men and women? Visit **[hopefoundhere.org](http://hopefoundhere.org)**.

# MEET OUR MISSION:

## Take a tour

Did you know you could take a tour of Gateway Mission to see your generosity in action? You're invited to see firsthand how local men, women and children are getting the loving care they need to restore their lives.

This is your opportunity to learn more about the support, guidance and services we offer to help our guests experience long-term life change.

If you'd like information on upcoming tour dates, please contact us at **(616) 396-2200** or **info@hopefoundhere.org**. We hope to see you soon!



*Leave a Legacy of  
Blessing*

Thank you for your generous spirit. It's reflected in all you do to share your blessings with those in need.

Would you like to continue bringing healing and hope to the broken beyond your lifetime? When you remember Gateway Mission in your will or estate plan, you ensure that your spirit of compassion continues blessing others tomorrow and beyond.

For information on planned giving opportunities, please contact our Development Team at **(616) 396-2200** or **info@hopefoundhere.org**.