



Heart of the Mission

SEPTEMBER 2014

CALLED OUT *of the* **DARKNESS**

YOU HELPED LIGHT RYAN'S PATH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** Chief of Police, Steve Anderson
Mission In My Words
- 6** Making the Connection
Volunteer's personal struggle unites hearts



Rev. Glenn Cranfield
President and CEO

Therefore, as
God's chosen
people, holy and
dearly loved,
clothe yourselves
with compassion,
kindness,
humility,
gentleness and
patience.

COLOSSIANS 3:12 NIV

ONE LIFE *at a* TIME

You can make a difference

“Sometimes the smallest thing can make the biggest difference in a person’s life.” I know that sounds like something you’d read in a greeting card, but it was spoken straight from the heart of a mother who is a guest at Nashville Rescue Mission.

I wanted to share her comment with you because I know how hard it can be sometimes to believe you are really making a difference in this world. But here at Nashville Rescue Mission, I see every day how your compassion for the poor touches, changes and even saves lives.

When you help provide a hot meal, a bed or clean clothes, you make someone who has been through a tough time feel cared for and valued. This is where life change starts—with the smallest things.

The first step off the streets often begins with a meal at Nashville Rescue Mission. But with your help, guests get so much more than a meal. They receive case management, recovery counseling, medical care

and more. And that doesn’t even take into account the eternal impact you can make with your gift!

Right now we have an incredible opportunity—a group of generous givers has committed a Challenge Gift of \$150,000 to help those in need. Now through October 31st, every gift given up to \$150,000 will effectively be doubled through this challenge. Which is why I’ve enclosed a challenge check for you to send with your gift today.

Every day of care you provide brings men, women and children closer to Christ and to a life filled with hope and promise. In this issue of *Heart of the Mission*, you’ll see how this promise grows and plays out—in the lives of homeless kids, women in crisis and men battling addictions—and how you really do make a difference, one life at a time!

Chief of Police STEVE ANDERSON

MISSION IN MY WORDS



Glenn Cranfield, president and CEO of Nashville Rescue Mission, with Steve Anderson, Chief of Police.

When I attended Nashville Rescue Mission’s 60th Birthday Bash in May of this year, it was a little bit like coming home for me.

In 1975, when I started my police career, I was assigned a zone in Downtown Nashville that included the Mission, which, at the time was located on 7th and Demonbreun.

Many things have changed over the years, but one thing that has remained the same is Nashville Rescue Mission’s commitment to helping those who are in need. I always knew if I took someone to the Mission, they would get the help they needed.

As a police officer, my job has been to protect and serve the community. If I encountered someone who needed a little help and wasn’t putting the community at risk, it wouldn’t be out of the ordinary for me to take them to the Mission. Some people are just down

on their luck. They aren’t committing a crime or involved in illegal activities, they just need a temporary place to stay or a meal to fill an empty stomach.

I would hate to think what Nashville would look like without the Mission and the services they provide to this community. Nashville was recently

More than that, the Mission actually goes out seeking people who are in need with their Hot Patrol in the summer and their Cold Patrol in the winter. They’ve helped men and women overcome addiction, find gainful employment and move into independent housing. They’ve reunited families.

“I always knew if I took someone to the Mission, they would get the help they needed.”

named one of the 25 largest cities in America. I think of our city as the largest small town in America. We are connected community by community—people helping people.

Nashville wouldn’t be the city it is today without Nashville Rescue Mission. There are countless numbers of people who have been helped by the work of its dedicated staff and supporters. Our community is a better place because of what they do in not only caring for those in need, but also addressing the problems that bring people to the Mission’s front door in the first place.

The staff of the Mission takes the word “rescue” which is a part of this important institution’s name, to heart. They are in the business of saving people.

CHIEF STEVE ANDERSON, is a 39-year veteran of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. He is a graduate of Belmont University and the Nashville School of Law. Prior to joining the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, he served in the United States Air Force and was employed by the White County, Tennessee Sheriff’s Office.

MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2014

A group of generous friends has presented Nashville Rescue Mission with a **Challenge Gift of \$150,000**. Now through October 31, your gift can go **EVEN FURTHER**.

Your immediate gift will be **MAXIMIZED** through this challenge gift to provide meals, safe nights of shelter, Bible studies, educational opportunities and more to turn lives around.

Return the enclosed Challenge Check with your gift of any amount and see your donation make an even bigger difference.



CALLED OUT *of the* DARKNESS

YOU HELPED LIGHT RYAN'S PATH

“For 29 years I could never grasp my identity,” says Ryan. “My biggest issue was the need for acceptance from those around me.”

RYAN HAD a great childhood. His parents dearly loved him. He played little league baseball and went on family vacations. But the fear of rejection fueled Ryan with the means and motivation to do things he knew he shouldn't. He did these things so people would like and accept him. “I started experimenting with alcohol

as a teen,” he says. “It didn't take long for me to progress from alcohol to marijuana, opiates, ecstasy and meth. Drugs and alcohol took away my anxiety and at that point, I didn't care what people thought of me.” Ryan started sneaking in to nightclubs and was immediately caught up in a life of partying.

ON A PATH of destruction, Ryan's parents intervened. “I saw therapists, addiction counselors and tried lots of antidepressants,” says Ryan. “Nothing made me happy except alcohol, drugs, food and television.”

After hitting rock bottom, Ryan knew he needed help. It was then, God shined a light into Ryan's life and pointed him to a Christ-centered program in Indiana. This is where Ryan's eyes were opened to his pride,

selfishness and disobedience. “The program wasn't easy,” shares Ryan. “And while I did come to know the Lord as a result of my time there, I struggled and shortly after completing their program I relapsed.”

After grappling with what to do, Ryan's counselor suggested he leave Indiana and try a different program. Ryan packed his bags and headed to Nashville Rescue Mission. “At first I wasn't sure if I wanted to stay,” Ryan recalls. “But I'm so glad I did. It wasn't easy. I struggled. But I learned some very valuable lessons.”

“One of the biggest lessons I learned at the Mission was that no matter what I (or anyone else) did in the past, the staff and volunteers at the Mission demonstrated love and compassion,” says Ryan. “After what I had done, I didn't deserve a place to stay, clothes

“I WAS
COMFORTABLE
IN MY SIN,”
SAYS RYAN.
“THERE ARE
FAR TOO MANY
STORIES TO TELL
ABOUT HOW
I SHOULD
BE DEAD.
I DESTROYED
EVERY BRIDGE I
HAD EVER BUILT.
BUT GOD, HIS
MIGHTY HAND
REACHED DOWN
AND PULLED ME
AWAY FROM
THAT LIFE.”



Friend and fellow runner, Karl, joins Ryan in prepping for a race.

on my back or food to eat. But the Mission did all of that and much more. It was an incredible example of Christ's love.”

WHILE IN the Mission's program, Ryan saw grace extended to everyone. “I saw people go astray, and the Mission would welcome them back with open arms, just as the father welcomed his prodigal son back. We might leave God, but God is always right there waiting and hoping we will come back.”

“Seeing compassion extended so generously, I learned to never give up on life,” shares Ryan. “I'm so grateful they took me back after relapsing in September of 2012. I was amazed to see staff, volunteers and other men in the program coming up to me with words of encouragement. God doesn't give up on us and neither did they.”

“Within a week of graduating from the Mission's Life Recovery Program in November 2013, I was on a bus headed to Iowa,” says Ryan. “Because of a relationship the Mission had formed with the owner of a printing company in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, men graduating the program are being given the opportunity to relocate there for a job. The owner of the company

believes in and supports the ministry of Nashville Rescue Mission, so much so that he paid to relocate me, gave me money for groceries and provided me with transportation. I was given an incredible opportunity to start over!”

TODAY, Ryan is still working in Iowa. He's engaged to be married and is living out the life God had planned for him. “If it wasn't for Nashville Rescue Mission I very well could be dead,” shares Ryan. “Now, because of the Mission and the people who support it, I have friends, a job, a future, a fiancée and a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ. There are not enough words to say how much the Mission means to me. God is using them and me in a big, big way.”

“I can say with confidence that today my identity is not based on what job I have, or what car I drive or how much money I make. It's based on my relationship with Jesus and if I'm trusting Him or not. I'm a new creation. The old is gone, the new has come! I'm God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. I'm chosen. I found my identity... my identity is in Christ. Who am I? I am His.”



MAKING *The* CONNECTION

VOLUNTEER'S PERSONAL STRUGGLE UNITES HEARTS

For the past ten years, Deb and husband Rob have performed across the U.S. and overseas in churches, prisons, homeless shelters and recovery centers with their band Dust & Daisies. Their music and live shows are all about spreading a Christ-centered message of hope and healing.

DEB SAYS, “Hands down, my favorite place to play is Nashville Rescue Mission.” Since 2011, Dust & Daisies has been sharing their music (and Deb’s own recovery story) at the Friday Night Coffee House, graduations and most recently the Mission’s 60th Anniversary celebration.

“From the second I get up on stage and introduce myself and my struggle, we are all connected,” says Deb. “We are on the same journey. We have the same Savior leading us and healing

us. It is the most amazing spiritual experience I have ever encountered. The men and women in the Mission’s Life Recovery Program are on fire for God in such a real way, because they have been through so much. I feel like maybe that’s why the connection is so powerful. I have been on a similar journey and I get it.”

Because of Deb’s past struggles and now victory over her own addiction, an eating disorder, she is passionate about bringing music to the Mission to serve those who come to listen.

“AS ANY VOLUNTEER will tell you, you go to the Mission with the intention of being a blessing to others,” shares Deb. “But you come back being ten times more blessed! Every story the men and women share with us about where they came from, what

they are going through, the big and small victories they are experiencing and the hope they have found as they are fighting to get their lives back on track—these are all really God’s story and it absolutely inspires me.”

Dust & Daisies original songs are inspired by real-life experiences along the recovery journey. Add in contemporary worship to their set, along with mainstream rock, and it makes for an energetic crowd anytime they perform at the Mission.

“When we start to play Heart or Janis Joplin, the place goes nuts,” says Deb. “But then in the same set we will play *Revelation Song* and *Amazing Grace*. There is just so much reverence and passion. It becomes an unbelievable worship experience. I get really choked up when I see the men and women raising their hands



“From the second I get up on stage and introduce myself and my struggle, we are all connected,” says Deb. “We are on the same journey. We have the same Savior leading us and healing us. It is the most amazing spiritual experience I have ever encountered.”

and singing their hearts out. I am thankful we have such a powerful ministry like Nashville Rescue Mission to help men and women who are struggling—get out of the pit and lay the groundwork so they have another chance at life.”

“SOMETIMES we get stuck in our comfort zones and we think as long as we are going to church every Sunday and checking it off our list, we are fine,” shares Deb. “But there is such a blessing and fulfillment that comes from serving others and loving them in the ways that Jesus did. Like He himself said, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
— Matthew 25:40.”

GETTING INVOLVED IS EASY

Visit nashvillerescuemission.org/volunteer

“I had no idea *all* this happens here!”

(This is something we hear from visitors who take a tour of Nashville Rescue Mission.)

It is our privilege to show you what we are doing to end hunger and homelessness. Nashville Rescue Mission is an amazing place of hope. If you haven’t visited before, please come and see how lives are being changed every day. If you have taken a tour, come again and see what’s new.

SCHEDULE A TOUR

Email us at
rescue@nashvillerescuemission.org

LIVES **YOU** HAVE TOUCHED

JULY 2014

54,443
Meals Served

24,840
Nights of Lodging

13,777
Chapel Attendance

3,200
Education Hours

1,240
Bible Class Attendance

1,543
Decisions and Prayers

7,024
Volunteer Hours

41
Travel Assistance

4
Program Graduates



Visit mwmnashville.com to purchase your tickets today!

A NIGHT OF MUSIC BENEFITING NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION OCTOBER 12, 2014, 7:00PM

Schermerhorn Symphony Center • Hosted by Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers • The Nashville Symphony Conducted by Jim Gray
Tracy Lawrence • Lynda Carter • Beegie Adair Trio • Chip Esten • The Henningsens • The Willis Clan • Jesse Lee Jones



DONATE

.....
a meal can change a life



VOLUNTEER

.....
sign up online today



EMAIL

.....
stay up-to-date on Mission news



CONNECT

.....
connect with the Mission online



NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION

639 Lafayette Street, Nashville, TN 37203
615-255-2475 www.nashvillerescuemission.org