



# Heart of the Mission

JUNE 2013

## *feels like* **HOME**

*You've* given this mom  
and her son hope

### INSIDE

Find out why WSMV's Lisa  
Spencer loves the Mission

The blessing of volunteering  
is a two-way street



**Glenn Cranfield**  
President and CEO

*For there was not a needy person among them...they would be distributed to each as any had need.*

—Acts 4:34a, 35b

# Partners in Hope

*Thank you for giving!*

I address you as partners because at Nashville Rescue Mission, we understand no one organization does anything alone in God's kingdom. We know without you—our faithful supporters, donors and prayer warriors—the Mission could not meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our community.

Together, we are tackling an enormous endeavor and will continue to do so. Acts 4:34-35 speaks to the power of togetherness; how the members of the early church banded together to answer God's call. There were no needy persons among them. From time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

This is a beautiful picture of God's people working together to meet the

needs of others. It was and still is something the Lord desires from each of His children.

As you read this month's newsletter, may your heart be touched by Victoria's story...a mother, who found herself homeless for the first time in her life. It is because of your gifts, she and her son Frederick could come to Nashville Rescue Mission in the midst of this difficult situation and receive the emergency services they so desperately needed.

Thank you for your dedication to this ministry. Together we are making a difference.



# Lisa Spencer

I have volunteered to serve food many times at Nashville Rescue Mission since moving to Nashville over 12 years ago to work as a meteorologist with WSMV. Serving others is something my family enjoys doing together. I think it's wonderful the Mission welcomes younger volunteers. In the beginning, my son and daughter both came with me to serve, especially during holidays. My son's now in college, but my daughter is home and still looks forward to joining me. She's eager to be the very last person on the serving line. She's the one who hands them their tray and loves telling them to enjoy their meal.

As a mom and someone who values service to others, I think it's extremely important to include children in volunteering in the community. So many kids grow up and don't see what's really going on in the world around them. While serving a meal to a person who is homeless may seem like a small gesture, it always seems to bring a smile to the person

**“Joy that comes from giving to, or doing for others, fulfills like nothing else. God calls us to help and serve others.”**

on the other side of the counter. It also provides a valuable learning opportunity for my kids and myself. It is a reminder that we are so blessed.

Honestly, I cannot imagine how hard it must be to not have a home and be labeled homeless. But I do know God loves each of His children and whether someone is homeless or not, we are all the same in the eyes of God. When I volunteer, I notice a lot of the men and women who walk through the serving line never look up. I suspect they don't feel noticed. But I do my best to try to engage each and every person who walks by. I make eye contact. I smile. I make a point to wish them well and tell them to enjoy their meal. It's always fun to see their eyes, their smile and when they frequently recognize me as “that lady on TV,” even in my hairnet.



MISSION IN MY WORDS

I really look forward to the opportunities I get to serve at Nashville Rescue Mission. I always leave feeling so blessed. I don't think a lot of people realize the Mission doesn't receive any money from the government. I'm amazed at all they do for those in need in our community and it's all because of generous donors and faithful volunteers. The Mission provides all their services for free. They are open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They are changing lives. It's an honor and privilege to serve with them.

*Lisa Spencer is the Chief Meteorologist at WSMV Channel 4. You can catch her weekdays at noon, 5 and 6 pm. She has won seven regional Emmys and was named “Best Weathercaster” in Tennessee by the Associated Press.*



# H2O

**HOPE TO OTHERS.** PLEASE HELP HYDRATE THE HOMELESS IN THE COMMUNITY. YOUR DONATION NOT ONLY PROVIDES RELIEF, IT ALSO GIVES HOPE.

*Help the homeless this summer by hosting a “Bottled Water Drive.” Download posters and other resources at [nashvillerescuemission.org](http://nashvillerescuemission.org).*



# feels like HOME

“This is the first time I have ever been homeless. I never imagined it would happen to me,” says Victoria. “Yet in the midst of this situation, I have peace. I know God brought my son Frederick and me to Nashville Rescue Mission.”

Raised by her grandparents, Victoria grew up in Mississippi. She left home at the age of 16. “I grew up fast,” shares Victoria. “I was mostly around adults, so I think I was very mature for my age. When I moved out, I already had a job. I was able to rent a house, buy a car and live on my own with no problems.”

## New Opportunity

Victoria had spent the last 23 years living in Memphis. She is a mother of five. Her four oldest children (ages 23, 22, 21 and 20) still live there. “Memphis has become a very dangerous place,” says Victoria. “My youngest son Frederick is 16 and I was concerned for his safety. We have family in Nashville. My employer also has an office here, so I was able to transfer to their Nashville office. It seemed like the perfect solution.”

Shortly after arriving, Victoria learned her employer didn’t have enough work to keep her. “I was devastated,” shares Victoria. “We had packed up everything and moved. Frederick and I were staying in a hotel, but it didn’t take long for the money I had saved to run out and we had no place to go. My aunt, who lives here, had a full house of people, so staying with her wasn’t an option.”

## Send Help

It was during a church service Victoria attended, that she cried out to God. “Please send me help!” she prayed. A few minutes later, Victoria was introduced to someone who told her about Nashville Rescue Mission. “I had never stayed at a shelter,” says Victoria. “It is humbling. But I am so grateful.”

“Having the opportunity to attend chapel every day is one of the biggest blessings of being at the Mission,” says Victoria. “The Lord is my strength, my shield and my rock. Despite this setback, I still praise Him. Plus, I know we’re just passing through. Hopefully,

Frederick and I won’t need to stay much longer.”

Victoria is already on a waiting list for transitional housing. She is interested in taking the GED Test and has made a few contacts for finding a new job. “I’ve worked in the private security business for many years,” shares Victoria. “My security license is expired, so I’m in the process of getting it renewed. Once that’s resolved, I hope to be back to work.”

“The staff at the Mission has been wonderful to work with,” shares Victoria. “Diana, my case manager, has been extremely helpful. From the staff to the volunteers, everyone we’ve met has been kind, compassionate, patient and helpful. We couldn’t ask for better treatment.”

## Answered Prayer

Just days before going to the Mission, a friend told Victoria she felt sure their situation would change by Wednesday. It did. Victoria considers it an answer to prayer. “I couldn’t believe it, but when we got to the Mission, they had a room just for

us. It also includes a bathroom. I have since learned that a few years ago, the Mission would have had to turn us away because they couldn’t accommodate moms with boys over the age of 11. It reminds me of Mary

**“This journey has been a long and difficult one. But at the Mission, I have found peace, joy and rest.”**

and Joseph being turned away. I’m so thankful the Mission had room for us.”

“It has taken me a while to get used to living in a shelter,” shares Frederick. “It was hard at first, and with all the activity, studying has been challenging. I was also lonely. But I’ve made a lot of friends at my new school. I’m in 11th grade and looking forward to playing on the basketball and football teams. Even though most everyone is younger than me I’ve made several new friends at the Mission. It’s starting to feel like home.”

## Giving Back

Victoria plans to volunteer at the Mission once she gets back on her feet. “I’m accustomed to giving and serving others. It’s very humbling to have to be on the receiving end, but I know God is going to use it to His glory,” shares Victoria. “You definitely can’t miss the love that is being poured out at the Mission. It flows freely. I’m hopeful for the future.”

Frederick also looks forward to giving back. “There’s another kid at the Mission I’ve become friends with, even though he’s a lot younger,” says Frederick. “Since I’ve been here, I’ve tried to encourage him. I know he’s really struggling. He hates being at the shelter and he doesn’t particularly like school. I’m hoping I can inspire him to do better and study more, since he needs to keep his grades up if he wants to play sports. I pray God will use me in his life.”

Because of generous donors like you, Victoria and her son Frederick have food, clothing and shelter during their time of need. Thank you for giving. You are changing lives.



*Victoria and her son Frederick have found their temporary home at the Mission. It’s a safe place where they can spend time together, pray and receive counseling. Bottom: Victoria and Frederick with Diana, their case manager.*

# Help the Homeless Beat the Heat

## Summer heat threatens homeless

Here are 5 reasons to care for the homeless this summer:

### Risk of sunstroke and heatstroke

The homeless have limited access to places where they can go to stay cool during the hottest part of the day.

### Risk of dehydration

Public water fountains are harder to come by than you would think.

### Homelessness increases in the summer months

Landlords who are reluctant to evict during the winter are less hesitant when it is warmer. Families that have endured poor housing conditions to spare their children embarrassment at school finally pack up and leave. And relatives who have taken in families in cramped apartments lose patience when children are suddenly underfoot all day long.

### Kids no longer have support from their schools

During the school year, homeless students are provided with free or reduced price meals and have a safe place to spend their days.

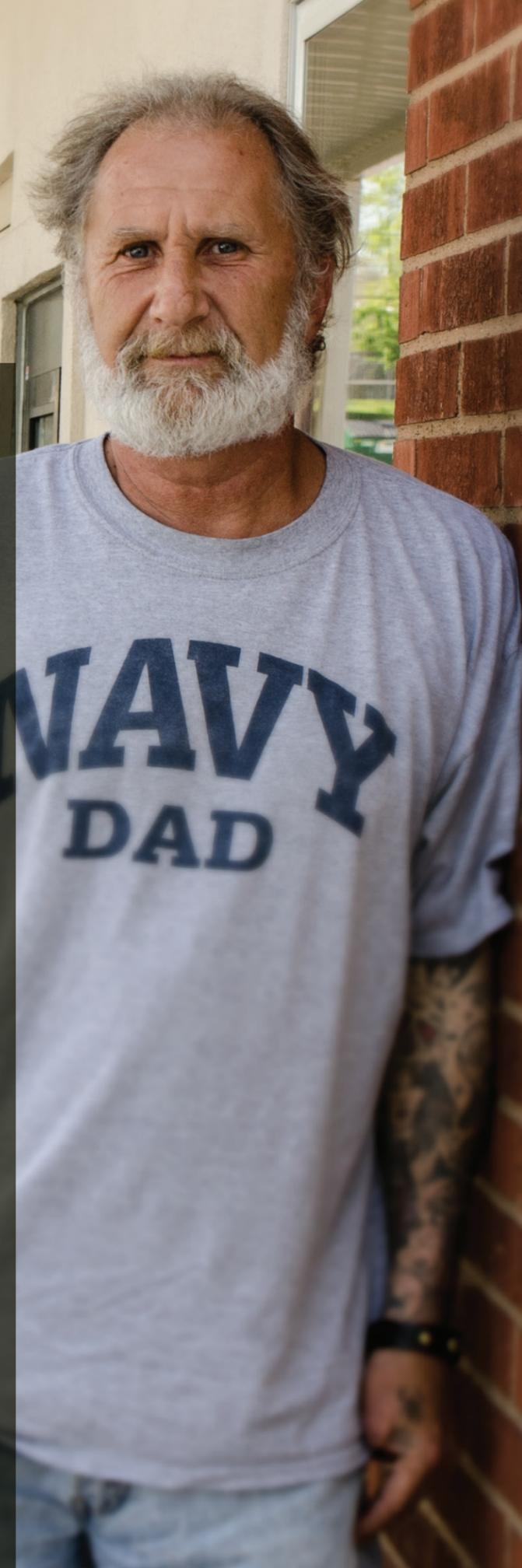
### Kids no longer have a free place to have fun with friends

Homeless kids often can't afford summer camps or water parks. Summer break can mean two months of boredom and loneliness.

With your gifts, Nashville Rescue Mission can help the homeless beat the heat. The Mission's air-conditioned day room is open to those in need of a cool, safe place on days when the temperature rises above 90 degrees. And on the hottest days of the year, the Mission's "Hot Patrol" hands out bottled water to the homeless community providing them with much needed relief.

The Mission can accommodate moms with children of all ages, and offers a "Bright Spaces" playroom for moms and their kids; giving them a cool, safe place on hot summer days. Kids staying at the Mission during the summer also have the opportunity to attend summer camp at Deer Run Retreat.

Your generous gift today will help provide those who are homeless and in need of shelter refuge from the heat, cold water, food, showers, clothing and a chance for a better life.



# The Gift of Giving Back



## John enjoys using his gifts to help men prepare for the GED Test

"After moving to Nashville last fall, I took some time to explore the city. I saw people walking aimlessly up and down the streets of downtown and found myself wondering who are these people and where are they going?"

As John drove by Nashville Rescue Mission, he was struck by the enormous size of a building that served hurting people who most likely had seen great tragedy. "I was going through my own struggles," shares John. "But, I couldn't sit around feeling sorry for myself and do nothing. I had to find something useful and productive to do with my time. I wanted to help others. Nashville Rescue Mission seemed like a great place to start."

### Time on my Hands

John signed up to serve meals five days a week at the Mission. "I really enjoyed serving in the kitchen," shares John. "Everyone was so polite—on both sides of the serving line. There was a genuine gratefulness on the part of the guests. I tried to make eye contact and acknowledge each person I served. I always saw a smile—even if it was a brief one on their faces as they received their meal."

John, who has a Masters Degree in Education, spent the last 27 years teaching in the classroom. He loved it. He also missed it. When he heard about the Mission's life-recovery program and the Education Department, he immediately wanted to know more. "I quickly learned there's a lot more to Nashville Rescue Mission than simply feeding the homeless. If someone doesn't have a high school diploma, then they take classes to prepare for taking the GED

(General Education Development) Test. It's obvious education and opportunities for a better life are of the utmost importance to the Mission."

### Blessed to be a Blessing

"I definitely felt a strong pull to help in the area of education," says John. "When I learned I could volunteer to teach GED preparation classes I was so excited. I didn't have a lot going on, so this was a great use of my time. I'm a volunteer, so I don't get paid to come to the Mission. Yet, it is probably the most rewarding job I have ever had. I definitely think of it as a job...I take it seriously. I feel like I'm using the talents God has given me. It is a huge blessing to see the men make progress and achieve goals."

John looks forward to the two hours a day he spends teaching at the Mission. "I recently started working a full-time job. I'm so grateful they were willing to accommodate my request to work around volunteering. The hours I spend at the Mission are the highlight of my week and I wouldn't want to miss it."

"The men I'm working with are an inspiration to me," shares John. "I know I'm here to teach them, but in the process, they are also teaching me. My faith is growing. It's definitely a two-way street. If you're looking for an opportunity to give back and be blessed in the process, I know they can find a place for you to serve at the Mission."

"The Mission is probably one of the best-kept secrets in town, both for those in need of their services, as well as those like myself who are looking for ways to give back."

# Happy 237th Birthday America!

Help make it a festive 4th of July for the homeless

Americans recognize July 4th as Independence Day—a time of proudly flying the American flag, watching fireworks, having picnics and attending parades.

Nashville Rescue Mission will celebrate America's birthday by serving over 2,000 meals to homeless men, women and children in the community on July 4th. You can help make this day extra-special for those in need by donating the following:

Hot Dogs	Soft Drinks
Hamburgers	Bottled Water
Buns	Potato Chips
Condiments	Cookies

Donations for the celebration can be dropped off at the Mission's Donation Center located at 616 7th Avenue South, Nashville, TN, Monday through Saturday from 7 am to 7 pm. Or you can make an online donation at [www.nashvillerescuemission.org/donate](http://www.nashvillerescuemission.org/donate).

Your generous donation will help make this year's Independence Day—a day of life, liberty and happiness for Nashville's homeless.

## LIVES YOU HAVE TOUCHED

APRIL 2013

53,784  
Meals Served

22,019  
Nights of Lodging

19,159  
Chapel Attendance

2,261  
Education Hours

1,948  
Bible Class Attendance

1,541  
Decisions and Prayers

6,261  
Volunteer Hours

42  
Travel Assistance

5  
Program Graduates



DONATE

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\$2.26 can  
change a life



VOLUNTEER

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sign up  
online today



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Mission news



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