



**rockford rescue mission**  
**rescue + recover + restore**



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

October 2019 - September 2020

Rockford Rescue Mission shares hope and help in Jesus' name to move people from homelessness and despair toward personal and spiritual wholeness.



# CEO MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Typically, an annual report compares the year just ended with the previous several years. This assumes external factors remain about the same, and so it's relatively easy to measure how we did.

The Mission's 2020 Annual Report is anything but typical. When the pandemic arrived, the number of people we could serve dipped because of public health precautions. The Mission even had to quarantine several times. Our daily meal service changed radically. Our Thrift Store—key to the Mission's sustainability—had to close for three full months.

Statistical comparisons don't do much good, because nothing in any of our lifetimes compares to 2020. Yet, our news is incredibly hopeful. Our guests have been safe. Staff and residents drew close, innovated and persevered. Our financial donors responded more generously than ever. In a year that could have been disastrous, we instead saw our trust in God grow like never before. Enjoy this brief look at a year like no other.

Partners in Hope,

*Sherry Pitney*

Sherry Pitney  
CEO

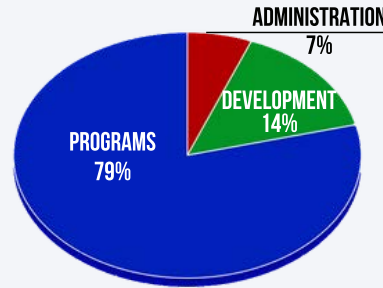
# 2020 FINANCES

Funding was received through financial gifts, in-kind donations (clothing, food and professional services) and volunteer services from individuals, churches, organizations, businesses and corporations.

**OPERATING BUDGET: \$7 MILLION**

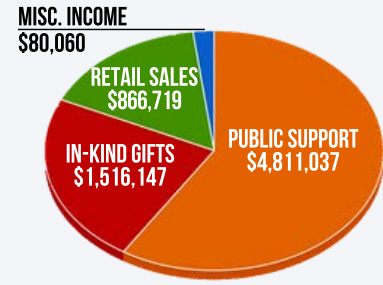
## EXPENSES

You can be confident that your gifts are used in the most efficient and God-honoring ways. 78% directly helped hurting people!



## REVENUE

All funds are received from friends who care for neighbors in need.



## YOUR 2020 SUPPORT PROVIDED



158,540

Meals  
(Avg. 433/day)



48,657

Nights of Lodging  
(Avg. 133/night)



200,279

Food, Clothing  
& Personal Items



398

Spiritual Decisions



20,062

Volunteer Hours  
by 337  
Volunteers

# RESCUE

## FOOD SERVICE

**158,540 meals served**  
**Average: 433 meals a day**

Innovation and adaptation were the key words for 2020. When the health department said we couldn't serve meals indoors to people who weren't already our residents or guests, we created an additional system to serve to-go meals to hungry people in our community. Because we couldn't share the load with volunteers, much of the food service tasks were done by our residents.



## WOMEN'S CRISIS

**202 women and 61 children served**  
**21,854 nights lodging**

The pandemic intensified domestic violence risks for some. Rockford Rescue Mission continued to offer safe shelter — and hope — to women and kids who often had nowhere else to turn.



## MEN'S CRISIS

**399 men served**  
**26,803 nights lodging**

Our Crisis Centers faced perhaps the biggest challenge from the pandemic, as we continued to offer hope to the hopeless in a safe environment. This meant reducing our capacity, social distancing, and adjusting our intake process to help everyone stay well.



# RECOVER



## MEN'S LIFE RECOVERY

55 men served

The Men's Life Recovery residents have persevered during the pandemic and have been a shining example of how people can grow — and grow closer to God — amid a crisis.



## WORKS! CENTER

400 participants  
122 educational tests administered

Education and career training saw a temporary reduction because of the pandemic and quarantines. Yet these valuable services continued, especially with our Life Recovery residents preparing to re-enter the job market. The program is poised to see big growth in 2021.



## WOMEN'S LIFE RECOVERY

26 women served

Most of the Women's Life Recovery residents not only stayed through the pandemic, but they thrived. This is a special group. They felt safe, and they grew close as a family, with help and guidance from our equally special staff.

# RESTORE

## SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

**398** spiritual responses after introducing people to Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord

**6,638** counseling sessions

Receiving Christ is the most important decision any person will ever make. Every Mission program and activity centers on moving people toward personal and spiritual wholeness. In 2020, we saw fewer residents and guests than in a "normal" year, yet we know from Scripture that every spiritual decision caused a celebration in heaven.



## RETAIL

**26,077** donations

Our Thrift Store—which customers rely upon and which is responsible for an average of 15% of the Mission's revenue in a typical year—had to close for three full months because of the pandemic. We came back strong in terms of donations, customers and sales. Our newest venture, Nettie's Mercantile, also had a challenging first year but is showing promise.

## HOPE CLINIC

**12,644** medical, dental and chiropractic appointments

Here's where the 2020 statistic really does tell the story. The number of appointments was **THREE TIMES** the number of 2019 appointments. Clinic staff did heroic work, handling regular appointments while doing COVID contact tracing and related safety tasks.





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rockford Rescue Mission is governed by a godly and compassionate Board of Directors who understand their responsibility to ensure your contributions are used honorably and with integrity.

## **Ann Dittmar**

*Chair*  
Attorney: Guyer & Enichen P.C.

## **Ronald Billy, Jr**

*Vice Chair*  
Architect: Tyson & Billy  
Architects PC

## **Michael Kalodimos**

*Treasurer*  
VP Commercial Lending:  
Rockford Bank & Trust

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*Secretary*  
Retired School Administrator

## **Tim Clauson**

Intl Playground Director:  
Kids Around the World

## **David Davitt**

Attorney: Schlueter Ecklund & Davitt

## **Anita Miller**

Professor & Teacher: Dominican University

## **Laura Ortiz**

Retired: ComEd Human Resources

## **Warren Slabaugh**

President: Heartwood Creations

## **Doug Warren**

Trust Officer: Midland States Bank

# COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Council of Elders provides spiritual counsel and prayer support for the Mission.

## **Rev. Robert David Aldridge**

Bethany Presbyterian Church

## **Rev. Peder Carlson**

Retired Presbyterian Pastor

## **Pastor Steven Cossey**

Total Faith Community Church

## **Rev. Gordon E. Hanstad**

Retired Baptist General Conference Pastor

## **James Harness**

Retired Minister & Missionary

## **Richard Todd**

Todd Transi: CEO

## **Rev. Dwight Zuercher**

Retired Baptist Pastor

Rockford Rescue Mission has achieved accreditation as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ecfa.org). ECFA recognizes Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising and board governance. The Mission is a certified member in good standing with Citygate Network (citygatenetwork.org). We have a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org) which tracks nonprofits' accountability and transparency.



**FOLLOW OUR  
STORIES**



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