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the ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION
rescuer

NAOMI IS
*celebrating
new life*
THIS EASTER!

Thank you for touching
her life with hope.



"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" –

Luke 24:5-6, NIV



A Message from CEO SHERRY PITNEY

The everlasting hope of **EASTER**

As we celebrate the joy of Easter morning, we must also remember the pain and sorrow of

Calvary—the agony Jesus faced and the fear His friends and followers felt when they thought all hope was lost.

Many of those who come through our doors also feel like all hope is lost. They look back on their lives and feel nothing but brokenness ... regret ... shame.

But this Easter, they can experience the heart-pounding joy and love that comes through new life in Christ! Your support helps us share that message of hope all year long, but most especially during the miraculous Easter season.

The Bible tells us, "*And God is able to bless you abundantly...*" (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV). Through your gifts to

Rockford Rescue Mission, you pass on those blessings to those who come through our doors!

Thanks to caring friends like you, this Easter will be a time of rejoicing for those who have found abundant life in the arms of our risen Savior ... and a time to welcome anyone in need of everlasting hope.

I pray that you, too, will be filled with blessings and peace this Easter!

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
CEO



CELEBRATE EASTER BY CARING FOR OUR HURTING NEIGHBORS



Hurting men and women turn to Rockford Rescue Mission each day ... longing for a second chance in life. Today, you can help make their new beginning possible with help like:

♥ **A hot meal for \$2.05 - often the first step to a new life in Christ**

♥ An overnight stay in our safe shelter

♥ Christ-centered care & healing in our life recovery programs

By giving generously, our homeless and hungry neighbors will be welcomed with food, shelter and care this Easter season!

✉ Share a gift now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

✦ Share a gift online anytime at **rockfordrescuemission.org**.



Thank you for your support of our Rockford Rescue Mission guests. Have a blessed Easter!

"Life is an absolute blessing."

Everything good happened for me when I walked into Rockford Rescue Mission and made the decision to change my life. I had been in drug addiction for five years, bouncing back and forth between Rockford and Beloit. As long as I had a few dollars to give someone, they would let me sleep on their couch.

Finally, because of my addictions, I lost my two kids – and it felt like my life was over. Homeless and pregnant with my third child, I came to the Mission, stayed two weeks and... left. I just wasn't ready.

But I came back a year later, pregnant again and with my toddler on my hip. This time, I put everything I had into the Life Recovery Program. I stayed 22 months – longer than most – because my sister came into the program the year after I did and I walked through her recovery beside her.

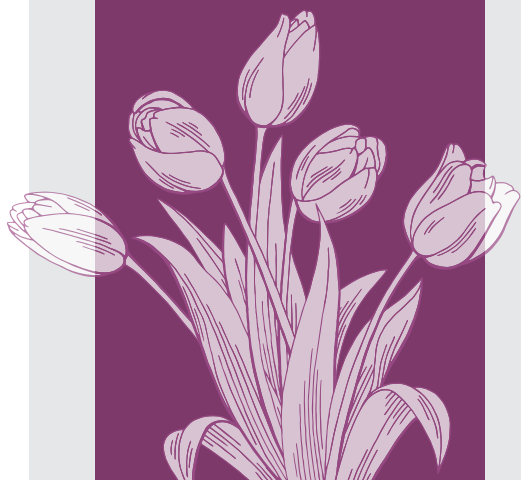
My sisters and I were brought up in the church... Dad was a youth minister and mom sang

in the choir. But when I finally decided in desperation to seek Christ for myself, it was a whole different understanding. You can watch somebody else's life change, but to actually live through it – consciously aware of what He's doing in your life – is completely different.

Today I live in Tucson, Arizona, with my three daughters. And my sisters are both here, too. I work at Whole Foods, and my daughters and I do what we call "Be a Blessing." Every day, we come up with 10 random acts of kindness we can do for people around us. Recently, a neighbor lady passed away and we ended up doing this huge origami mural for her grandkids. We create a lot of artwork that we give away.

And I'm a grandmother! My beautiful grandson was just born to my son, who still lives in Rockford. I continue to attend City First Church online.

Life is an absolute blessing, and I look back on my experience at the Mission as a rebirth. I am so grateful.



Easter 2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



18,134 meals this Easter season
\$2.05 for a meal!



87 men & women in our recovery programs (on average) this Easter season



31 people receiving education & career training this Easter season



5,382 nights of shelter this Easter season

Thank you for sharing hope & joy this Easter!

YOU Can Make a Difference

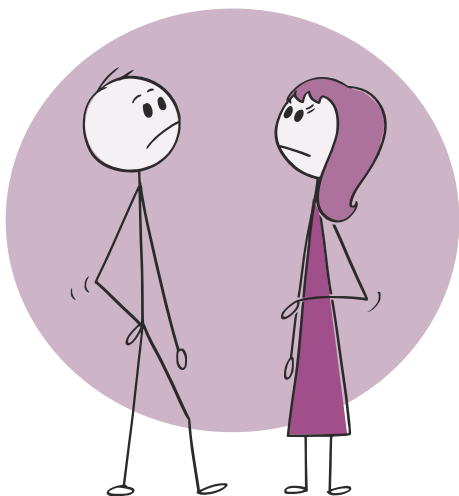
Rockford Rescue Mission is always in need of caring, compassionate friends to lend a helping hand. With so many volunteer opportunities, you're sure to find one that suits your time and talents!

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator for more information: volunteer@rockfordrescuemission.org | 815-965-5332, ext. 151

'We just can't agree!'

Have you ever found yourself struggling to get on the same page as your partner? Maybe you're at odds on how to structure your legacy planning. Here's some help:

1. **See conflict as an opportunity.** Conflict is uncomfortable but it's unavoidable. The best way to resolve conflict is to see it as *necessary* for growth.
2. **The wise way is better than "my way."** It's normal to think our way is superior, and sometimes it is! But sometimes we're being motivated by self-preservation or fear. When we can unpack *why* we are feeling a certain way, it can help us humble ourselves to hear someone else's idea – which may be the wiser choice.
3. **Consider inspiration over information.** There's a *big* difference between seeing your estate plan as a complicated financial arrangement and seeing it as an expression of your values.



When your will aligns with your values of faith, family and organizations that inspire you like Rockford Rescue Mission, it becomes rich with meaning – a crucial part of your family heritage you'll want to pass along and communicate to your children.

For the full version of this article, request a *FREE* copy of "Can't Get on the Same Page? Here's Help" by contacting **Ted Tomita** at 815-316-4176 or tedtomita@rockfordrescuemission.org – or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/rrm.

He is risen!

