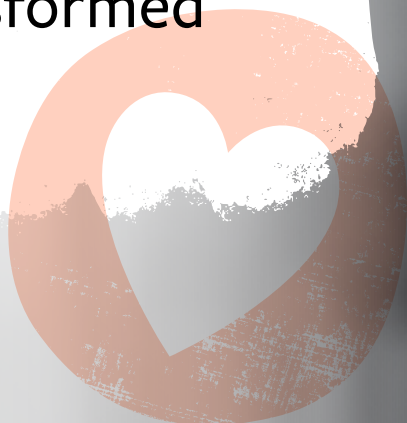


**r**

the ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION  
**rescuer**

**A SECOND  
CHANCE**

David's life  
is transformed



**Don't miss...**

- 2** Show Them You Care
- 3** "Let God do the work."
- 4** Bloom in Every Season



# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

It starts with a meal for \$2.05!



## A Message from CEO SHERRY PITNEY

### Will You Love Your Neighbor This Summer?

Did you know the Bible tells us to love our neighbor in eight different verses? The Lord calls each of us to not just love, but to love generously. At Rockford Rescue Mission, our staff's hearts are filled with love for those who are hurting and lost ... and YOU

put that love into action with your faithful support.

The summer months can be especially challenging for our neighbors in the Rock River Valley. Those living on the streets face added stress and health risks due to the heat. Parents already struggling to pay the bills have the added burden of child care costs and more meals to serve.

What's more, the summer months are when we typically see a decline in donations as everyone gets busy with vacations and other activities. It's easy to forget about our struggling neighbors.

### ***That's why I hope we can count on you during the Love Your Neighbor campaign!***

I know you won't let precious men, women and children be forgotten this summer – that you'll show people like Dave, our cover story, that someone cares and there is hope. I remember when Dave first came to the Mission in 2004 and I got to know him from playing on the Mission's softball team. It's been a joy seeing the Lord work in Dave's life and the man he has become!

Thank you for loving our neighbors with your financial support and for keeping us in your prayers this summer as we minister to the hurting. We need you!

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney  
CEO

## SHOW THEM YOU CARE Help meet our community's needs!

### Your gift today helps provide:



35,917 meals



13,114 beds



hundreds of  
hygiene items



countless  
hours of  
advocacy &  
education



life transformation  
through Christ



**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**

98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

**Share a gift now!**  
**rockfordrescuemission.org**  
**Support our Summer Campaign!**



**DONATIONS DROP  
DURING SUMMER..  
BUT YOU CAN HELP TODAY!**

## How Can Child Care Change a Life?

Some of the residents in Rockford Rescue Mission's Crisis and Recovery programs are parents who want nothing more for their children than a fresh start and a better life. But it has been a challenge for these parents to focus on their recovery and gain the necessary skills for self-sufficiency when they don't have access to child care.

As our Executive Director Sherry Pitney states: "When

people learn to read, write, do basic math, use computers and gain specific job skills, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, find and keep jobs — and ultimately change their lives."

To ensure local moms have time to work on these valuable skills, the Mill Foundation generously granted \$9,900 toward a partnership with the YMCA of Rock River Valley. The Y provides



**“Let God  
do the  
work.”**

**W**hen my wife passed away – leaving me with our 5- and 10-year-old daughters – I started drinking and using pain medications from my wife’s cancer treatments. I fell into full-blown addiction, so Child Protective Services took my two little girls.

I was broke, homeless and in total despair. As I wandered the streets aimlessly, God directed my path and I stumbled across Rockford Rescue Mission. A sign on the door said, “If you don’t have a friend in the world, you can find one here.”

I went through the Life Recovery Program in 2004 but didn’t finish. I left and things were going well for some time ... but I forgot the Mission’s teachings and left God on the side. After a few painful years, everything was gone except my drug and alcohol addiction. I knew that I couldn’t handle life by myself, so I came back in 2020 to recommit myself to the Lord.

This is a faith-based, loving, caring program. I enjoy the structure that we get, including one-on-one

Biblical guidance. The Genesis workbooks (the main curriculum in the recovery program) help correct your thinking with Scriptures and lessons for addiction recovery. We all come together as one ... a big family filled with loving, caring people.

I graduated from the program this time and now am in transitional housing. I work as an intern in the Men’s Crisis Center as a peer group facilitator, helping lead a few anger management classes and sharing my story.

I freely give my time to anyone who needs it and I intend to stay here as long as I can. I’m applying to work at Rockford Rescue Mission because they saved me, so my job now is to give back and help direct somebody else ... get them into the program and then let God do the work.

I am thankful the Mission saved me from self-destruction. They taught me about how Jesus loves us and gave me my life back.

child care services three mornings each week for women who are guests in our Crisis Center. This arrangement allows moms to engage at our Works! Center during their stay for education needs and employment training

*“The YMCA of Rock River Valley is proud to partner with Rockford Rescue Mission to offer child care services to women who are residents at the Mission,” says Trisha Tousant, Chief Operations Officer at YMCA of Rock River Valley. “We recognize the hard work it takes for these moms to rebuild their lives and restore their families, and we want to support them any way we*

*can. It is such a blessing to help these families on their journey to health and wholeness!”*

**We are grateful to the Mill Foundation, our partners at the YMCA and friends like you who help make healing and transformation possible. It is such a blessing to see how these child care services change lives and restore families!**



**The Mill Foundation**





# Bloom in EVERY Season



Are you facing a new season in life? Perhaps you're recently retired, widowed, starting a new career or raising children. No matter your season, you always have at least one of the following three things to offer:

## Young Volunteers In Action

Our very own Sherry Pitney was in Thrift Store recently, and met a group of young volunteers. She wanted to share her experience and thank this incredible youth group:

*"As I walked through Thrift Store, I heard voices in the back of the store processing area. I had the privilege to meet a youth group from Emmanuel Reformed Church in Morrison, Illinois. I thanked them for their help, as we have experienced staffing shortages at Thrift Store during the past six months.*

*They were staying overnight at a local church and helping Rockford Rescue Mission again the next day – serving meals! They went shopping when they were here and bought cups and filled them with candies, lip balm, hand warmers, lotions, etc., that they purchased with the proceeds from a fundraiser they organized. The cups quickly became a huge blessing for our Women's Crisis guests.*

*I was struck by how these teens and their leaders were being the hands and feet of Jesus by selflessly serving behind the scenes... meeting a great need that we have been praying over for months.*

***Thank you, Emmanuel Reformed Church!"***

Jaime Rodriguez, the Youth Director at Emmanuel Reformed Church, said this about the experience:

*"Partnering with our brothers and sisters at Rockford Rescue Mission has been a positive experience. They nurture and foster a Christ-loving and serving atmosphere where people can develop useful skills. To see how the Lord works in and through them on a daily basis is a blessing!"*



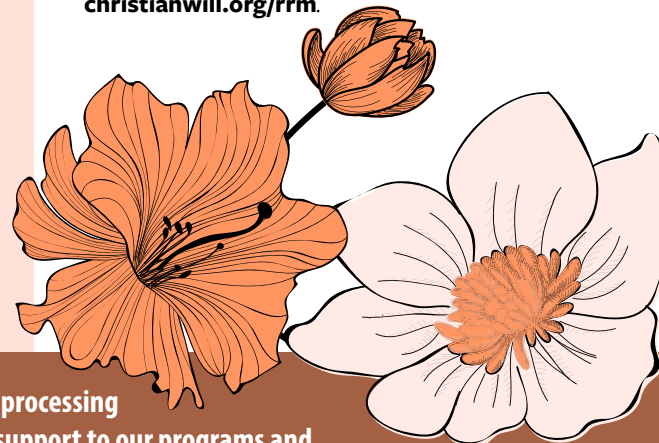
• **Time.** As we age, we often have more capacity to volunteer or serve. Do you have time you can give to an organization you care about?

• **Talent.** Whether you're in the process of building a career or preparing to retire, you have talents and skills you've developed – designed by God to benefit others. Is this a season where your talents can help bring advancement or attention to a cause you're passionate about?

• **Treasure.** Many older adults find themselves less physically equipped to volunteer, but more focused on the legacy they'll leave behind. These individuals carry a deep treasure – a legacy of values they want to pass along to loved ones, or financial gifts for organizations like Rockford Rescue Mission. Each day, more people decide to turn their estate plan into a legacy of love.

Could you be in a unique season of giving?

For the full version of this article, request a **FREE** copy of "3 Ways to Blossom in Every Season of Life" by contacting Ted Tomita at **815-965-5332** or **tedtomita@rockfordrescuemission.org** – or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at **christianwill.org/rrm**.



You may have noticed our new return address. We've moved our donation and mail processing systems to a centralized lockbox location at a significant savings to increase direct support to our programs and services. Thank you for partnering with us in serving the homeless, hurting and hungry in the Rock River Valley.