

# The Rescuer

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rockford rescue mission

rescue + recover + restore

## Gratitude



Recently I received a letter from a friend—someone who worked at the Mission’s old Madison Street site back in the 1970s and ‘80s. Today he pastors a small

church in Montana, but continues to give to and pray for the Mission. He writes:

“I am thankful for the opportunity to minister through the Mission’s work when I pray and send my meager contribution. That means I have at least a little part in affecting someone’s life there. ... Even after all these years, I still have a feel for that work.”

As the holidays approach, let me extend our gratitude to everyone who faithfully serves, gives and prays, enabling the Mission to minister to people every single day. We understand the urgency of a meal, or a place to sleep, or receiving a warm coat as winter sets in. But what makes the Mission so special is the spiritual work that happens here. Every guest and resident is told, repeatedly, that they are made in the image of God ... that their life has value ... that they are loved ... and that their eternity can be secure.

It’s truly kingdom work, and I am so thankful for everyone who takes part: guests, residents, staff members, volunteers, donors and prayer partners. You are impacting eternity.

Partners in **HOPE**,

Sherry Pitney  
CEO

## Restoring Smiles

Roscoe dentist Dr. Terry Joiner and retired dental hygienist Juanita Barnes say they have never had more grateful clients. The two have volunteered at our Hope Clinic since January 2019.

They come to the clinic one Friday afternoon each month. Dr. Joiner conducts dental exams for residents and guests as Juanita takes notes, and then Juanita works with Clinic Supervisor Jennifer Jacobs to schedule cleanings and other treatment plans. If a patient is in pain, he or she may be referred to another dental clinic for immediate treatment.

“Some of the people Dr. Joiner and I see have not seen a dentist or hygienist in years,” Juanita says. “This can be a source of shame for neglecting themselves. When a person feels this way, it brings them down on themselves. So, by helping to restore them to better dental health that will truly help lift them up. In this small way of helping people regain their smile, it will help in their overall healing.”

Dr. Joiner and Juanita replaced Dr. Lee Stopoulos and Sue Piippo, who volunteered their dental services for years and have now retired.



## SAVE THE DATE An Evening For Hope

### Our Annual Telethon

LIVE, 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26

WTVO, Channel 17



## 40 Years of Ministry

In September, CEO Sherry Pitney celebrated her 40th Mission anniversary! Staff, residents, board members and other friends of the Mission gathered for a surprise reception Sept. 16. We celebrate Sherry and her lifetime of ministry.



## 'Today, I Have Hope'

This isn't my first time at Rockford Rescue Mission. In fact, pictures of me with my four kids are on some of the walls here. After living my whole life as one big party, and being hurt in countless ways by people I trusted, God was changing me. I was finally free.

And then I wasn't. A couple of years after I graduated, I relapsed. I stopped doing the things that helped me get sober. I set aside church and recovery meetings. I got married and felt like that was all I needed—my children and the job and my husband and the house. I thought I was in control—that I could do a little bit of drugs here and there and nobody would know. I'd be OK. This time would be different.

And it was never, ever different.

I came back to the Mission in 2021, knowing that my relationship with God was the key to everything. It was humbling to say: "I can't do this. I need help—and if I don't get help, I don't know if I'm going to live."

This time, I went through the Life Recovery Program with my head on straight. I talked about things I didn't want to talk about before. If you only get kind of honest, you'll only get kind of sober. I learned about anger management ... setting healthy boundaries ... relapse scenarios. All with a steady, constant relationship with the Lord. We prayed before every class, every meal, every outing.

Now, with regaining custody of my children and working full-time at a job I love, my days are packed full. I'm humbled because this is exactly what I prayed for! I do awesome mommy things—get them ready for school, make breakfast, clip nails, clean ears ... and the best part is getting to tuck them into bed at night and say their prayers with them.

I am so thankful to the Mission for giving me another opportunity to fix my life. When I am faithful to God, the things He does in my life are miraculous. In this world we will have trouble, but He tells me to relax and take heart, because He has overcome the world. Today, I have hope.



“

I hope people will support the Mission because we are all just somebody's daughter. We are all somebody's son. We all need help in one way or another.

- Leah, Life Recovery Resident

”

# The Mission at a Glance

October 2021 - September 2022



**54,052**  
Nights of Shelter



**142,617**  
Meals Served



**5,440**  
Medical Appointments



**123**  
Jobs Secured



**87**  
Life Recovery Residents

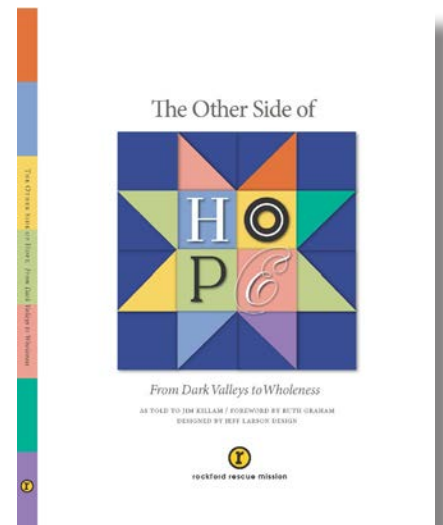


# The Other Side of Hope

A special Women of Hope event this fall at Klehm Arboretum celebrated the release of our new book, *The Other Side of Hope: From Dark Valleys to Wholeness*. The book tells the powerful stories of seven brave women who all have separate connections to the Mission.

Jim Killam wrote the book in each of those seven voices, after extensive interviews with each woman. As the subtitle implies, the stories go through dark valleys—addiction, abuse, family pain and more—but resolve with God bringing each woman to healing and wholeness. Each chapter was distinctly designed by graphic designer Jeff Larson, resulting in a book that takes on the feel of a patchwork quilt—with every unique story becoming part of one larger story of faith and hope (CEO Sherry Pitney's story being one of them).

To order the book, please call the Mission at 815-965-5332, or email [info@rockfordrescuemission.org](mailto:info@rockfordrescuemission.org).



# Lives Are Changing



Recognition celebrations are some of our favorite days each month as we celebrate the accomplishments of our Life Recovery Program residents. Whether it is finishing a stage in the Genesis Process, completing classes in Works! Center or starting a new internship, we love to applaud the incredible work God is doing in their lives!



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