



The Rescuer

Andy has

**HOPE FOR THE
NEW YEAR,**

thanks to you!



A Message from
SHERRY PITNEY

Hope starts here... thanks to you!

With the new year comes HOPE... hope for new ministry opportunities, and hope for the individuals who will find a fresh start in 2026, thanks to your support.

Every day at Rockford Rescue Mission, we meet guests who arrive here feeling broken, burdened and lost. But because of friends like you, they discover the power of a fresh start. Through a warm meal, a safe place to sleep and guidance in our life-recovery program, they begin to have hope that a new life is possible.

I'm reminded of the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:17... "the old has gone, the new has come!" Thank you for helping share this message of renewal with guests like Andy (whose story is on the right).

I'm grateful for another year of ministry together – and I'm grateful to you for helping make fresh starts possible.



Partners in Hope,
Sherry Pitney
Sherry Pitney, CEO

A Year of Hope



"I want to complete my high school education, become a private pilot and help others."

– Donald



Tune in to our 28th Annual Telethon!

Evening for Hope

January 22, 2026, 7 - 9 p.m.
Live on channel 17 WTVO
and Facebook Live!

Tune in to hear inspiring stories about the heart of Rockford Rescue Mission. Our goal amount to raise is \$125,000. All funds raised will help **Rescue, Recover and Restore** the lives of our homeless, hungry and hurting neighbors in Jesus' name. God works through community members like YOU to transform the lives of neighbors in need.

Thank you for your support!



WATCH OR LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST

Hear about the impact you help make!

Tune into Season 2 of *The Way Home* podcast, and be inspired and uplifted by stories of hope and healing! It features our candid conversations with guests about second chances, compassion, leadership – and loving people like Jesus did.

SCAN TO WATCH OR LISTEN NOW! ↗



Our residents share the goals they're working toward in 2026 – and the hope they've found for their future... **thanks to you!**



"I want special and alc an art t

“I am totally transformed.”

Andy grew up in a stable home with parents who did their best. But later in life, things began to unravel. After his divorce, he was heartbroken and devastated. Longing for relief, he turned to drugs and sadly developed an addiction that gripped him for 25 years... until alcohol took over.

“I was a functional addict, working as a cook,” Andy says. He was drinking so heavily that he wound up in the hospital every month.

The damage reached beyond his own health. “I was even drinking in front of my grandson, and he would mimic what I was doing,” he recalls.

One Christmas, his daughters intervened. “They were desperate,” Andy says. “They grabbed me, hugged me and cried. **They wanted to see me live longer.**”

That moment pushed Andy to seek change. He came to the Mission and spent three months in the Crisis Center before entering the Life Recovery Program.

“I thought I’d just come in, maybe get sober and they would send me back out to the streets,” he admits. “It’s unbelievable, everything they’ve done for me here. I didn’t expect this.”

“I want to be a recovery support specialist and help others struggling with addiction and domestic violence.” – Jakari

to be a peer
ist, a certified drug
cohol counselor or
therapist.”

– Eraca



“Finding my faith has completely changed my life. I believe in my Lord and Savior.”

Andy embraced every part of the program – from Bible study and church to the classes and advocates.

“They’ve helped me through a lot. It’s been a great experience.”

Even his daughters are amazed at the change in him. When they visit and hear him playing gospel music, they can hardly believe he’s the same person.

Now Andy looks ahead with hope. “I want to live a longer, healthier life – to see one, if not both, of my daughters get married,” he says. He also looks forward to seeing his grandchildren grow up.

Andy’s fresh start is possible because of you! Thank you for your prayers and support that are filling him with hope for the new year. “Everything about me is totally transformed. The Mission introduced me to Christ, and I got baptized.”



“I want to keep taking care of myself, putting God first and trusting in Him.”

– Fernanda

How YOU Helped

Thank you for your impact in 2025!



120,876
meals served



54,006
nights of shelter provided



22,421 hours volunteered
by people like YOU!

Last year, you helped surround our neighbors in need with love and care. Together, we can make 2026 a year of hope for even more individuals in our community!

NEW YEAR,

New Opportunities

TO HELP

God has blessed us with a new year full of opportunities to care for individuals experiencing homelessness or hunger in our community. **You can make 2026 better for our struggling neighbors.** Give today to provide a meal for only \$2.44 – and share hope in the new year with someone in need.



2026 To-Do:

- Give a meal, just \$2.44!*
- Pray for a neighbor!*

Send your first gift of 2026 to help today!

New Changes to Charitable Deductions

The One Big Beautiful Bill brings 2 important changes to charitable deductions:

ITEMIZERS:

Your donations are deductible after 0.5% of income and max 35%.

NON-ITEMIZERS:

Deduct up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (married filing jointly) for cash gifts.

Talk to your tax advisor for more information about maximizing your charitable deductions.

