

rockford rescue mission

rescue • recover • restore



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More Than Just a Makeover

The Rescuer



**See how your
compassion
gave
Eraca a
fresh start...**

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**
SUMMER CAMPAIGN





A meal served with LOVE for a neighbor in need... **just \$2.44!**

A Message from CEO Sherry Pitney



Sharing a story of **HOPE** this summer.

Summer is beautiful in the Rockford area, but it does bring a different set of challenges for people who are homeless. Here at the Mission, we see those challenges up close: more need for water on hot days, shelter, medical attention and especially meals. When school is out, families struggle to find consistent nutrition.

In response, we reflect the love of Jesus Christ by offering them a free haven to be safe, fed and cared for – every single day and night. This presents our whole community with the opportunity to see and serve our neighbors in need. We need your continued prayers, volunteer service and financial gifts as we serve these precious people with deep needs.

With this in mind, I want to invite you to join our **Love Your Neighbor campaign**

for June, July and August. Giving financially is an opportunity to play a role in the amazing life transformation that happens here. Eraca, featured in our cover story, has experienced this transformation in ways she never imagined possible. As you read her story, imagine dozens more like her who need renewed hope this summer.

Thank you for being part of a community that notices, cares and responds. Your compassion makes a difference – sometimes in ways we may never fully see this side of eternity.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney

Sherry Pitney
CEO

“Love your neighbor as yourself...”

- Matthew 22:39



TAKE A TOUR OF THE MISSION

Have you ever wondered what exactly your generosity makes possible?

Join CEO Sherry Pitney for a personal, behind-the-scenes tour. You'll walk through our Crisis and Life Recovery centers, Connection Center, Hope Clinic and dining room and **witness firsthand how lives are being restored** because of your partnership.

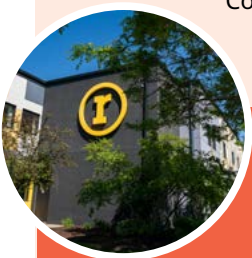
Hear stories... ask questions... share lunch together. Come on your own or bring family, friends, church members or your coworkers.

Mission tours are held monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 11 a.m.

Please visit our website to reserve your spot today, or contact Sabuj Sarker at

SabujSarker@rockfordrescuemission.org.

We look forward to welcoming you!



YOU CAN SHOW A HURTING NEIGHBOR THEY'RE NOT ALONE!



It starts with a meal...



and ends with a life renewed!

Your gift of \$2.44 provides a hot, nourishing meal – and can lead to other life-changing services like shelter, Christ-centered advocacy and recovery.

Share a gift during our Love Your Neighbor campaign... and show neighbors who are homeless and hurting that you care.



Share now!
rockfordrescuemission.org

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
SUMMER CAMPAIGN



“The Mission showed me LOVE until I loved myself.”

Eraca remembers the early years of her childhood being filled with laughter, tradition and joyful bonds. “I was particularly close to my grandma – she was such a fun and beautiful lady,” she shares. So, when Eraca was 8 and her grandma passed away, she experienced her first real trauma.

After losing someone so special, Eraca struggled to cope with the grief... so she started overeating to fill the void. “The kids at school made fun of me. It was hard,” she recalls. By age 13, she was persuaded to try substances to numb her pain. That’s when she began to spiral into a cycle of addiction, relapse and instability that carried over into adulthood.

Even with periods of sobriety, once Eraca’s mother also passed away, grief pulled her back into addictive behaviors. “I knew there was something beyond this way of living, but I just felt trapped.” Finally, with the support of family members, she surrendered to God and was led to the Mission.

Eraca arrived at the Mission determined to pursue lasting change. “At first, I was scared, but then I felt welcomed – I knew I was where I belonged.” She began her healing journey through life skills classes, spiritual growth and giving back in meaningful ways around the Mission.

With the support of our staff, Eraca was able to face her fears and rediscover creativity and purpose. “I learned to fully trust God, and I know that He wants me to take care of myself.” She now looks toward a bright future that includes making art and helping others.

Because of you, neighbors like Eraca know that God loves them and they are worthy of a new beginning. Thank you for opening the door to hope and healing this summer! “I’m grateful for the unconditional love I was shown at the Mission. Now, I believe recovery is not only possible, but beautiful!”



“The color was gone from my days... but then, I went from darkness to light.”



Create Your Own **FUNDRAISER!**

Sharing a gift online is a wonderful way to support Rockford Rescue Mission... but **did you know** that's not the only way to make a real-life impact for neighbors experiencing homelessness?

You can turn everyday moments into opportunities for hope:



Ask friends to donate instead of giving birthday, Christmas or wedding gifts



Share a gift in honor of someone special

No matter what you choose, your efforts help provide meals, safe shelter and life-changing care for those we serve.



Are you ready? Visit the new fundraising page under the "Give Help" tab on our website to learn more. Then, click "Fundraise for Rockford Rescue Mission" in the dropdown menu to begin!

Spend a dollar, Change a life.

Discover great deals at **Rockford Rescue Mission's Thrift Store** – where every purchase directly supports our life-changing ministry!

When you shop our bright, clean and friendly store, you're helping fund the Mission's programs that provide meals, recovery services and hope to individuals in need. At the same time, families in our community can find affordable clothing, shoes, furniture, antiques and household goods.

Donations of gently used items are always welcome and help keep our inventory constantly refreshed. You never know what treasures you'll find!

Shop with purpose at 2710 20th Street, Rockford, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on Sundays). For more information, please call **(815) 316-0607**.



The Generosity You Didn't Know You Could Afford



Perhaps you have a collection you've curated, stocks you've managed or property you've maintained. Research shows that about 90% of wealth is held in valuables like these, known as appreciated assets. Did you know you can turn them into a legacy of changed lives?

First, let's define our terms.

What are appreciated assets? Appreciated assets, sometimes called non-cash assets, are any items of increasing value. This includes personal property, such as artwork, collectibles, cryptocurrency, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate.

What's the benefit of giving appreciated assets?

Donating items of value to a ministry you love can help you reduce or eliminate capital gains tax when you transfer part or all of the assets to the organization before the sale. The ministry can then sell the assets without any tax consequences. You may also receive a tax deduction, essentially increasing the amount you're able to give.

How can my appreciated assets make a difference?

Whether you donate them now or as part of your estate plan, giving items under your stewardship to ministries like Rockford Rescue Mission will impact the individuals and communities we serve. Plus, your generosity can encourage others to do the same.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "One Man's 'Trash' Turns Out to Be Treasure!" by contacting **Ted Tomita** at **(815) 316-4176** or **tedtomita@rockfordrescuemission.org** – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at **rockfordrescuemission.legacywill.org**.