

*“I am a new creation in Christ!”*

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME FIND MY WAY BACK



My name is Michael. My mom passed away when I was very young and I grew up with a verbally abusive, alcoholic father.

I accepted Jesus Christ at age 19, but I was still living the way I wanted. To suppress some bad childhood memories, I turned to alcohol and dove head first into addiction.

I had periods of sobriety, but when the memories came flooding back, I went right back to drinking and drowned them.

When my wife died in 2015, I blamed God and wanted nothing to do with him. No one could convince me otherwise. I didn't care about anything but my addiction.

I got a job working for a friend of mine with the agreement that I would stay sober. I couldn't hold up my end of the bargain.

As I was driving one of his vehicles on the Northway, I was praying the whole time. Then I kept hearing, “Go to Albany Med. Go to Albany Med.” I obeyed.

I stayed there for 24 hours and met a nurse who volunteered at Capital City Rescue Mission's Free Medical Clinic. She knew I needed a recovery program and

more importantly, Jesus Christ.

When I was discharged from the hospital, she was there to make sure I made it to CCRM. It was her day off.

My journey back to God began when I entered the Rescue Mission doors. The first few nights were not easy. I was still experiencing withdrawal symptoms and I was very uncertain about my future.

With some encouragement from the staff, I joined the work readiness program (Volunteer Extension) for a short time, then the 9-month New Life Program (NLP).

Joining the recovery program brought me back to having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, one that I'd run away from for 28 years.

During my stay, I've learned that I'm not alone in my struggles. I have a family here that cares for me and men who understand what I've been through.

And through my pastors, counselors and my brothers in Christ, I am reminded to turn to the Lord in prayer when faced with temptation. It has made a huge difference.

As I've progressed through the NLP, I've been blessed with being able to help other men who find themselves in the same position that I was in. I can witness to them and relate to them.

I've graduated the New Life Program and have been on staff at the Mission wherever they have needed me.

I have helped in the kitchen, developed new skills on the construction crew and I just started serving in the Free Medical Clinic. I work at the Welcome Desk answering the phone, registering patients and recording statistics among other tasks.

I am also serving in my church as an usher and am thankful for the accountability and the support that my church family has shown me.

If it wasn't for the Mission and God putting each person perfectly in my path, I honestly believe I would be dead. Instead, I'm a new creation in Christ.

It is such a blessing that the Mission is here to help people in so many different ways.

Thank you for *my* second chance!

## THANK YOU FOR LOVING WANDA

Wanda (pictured right) went into foster care at the age of 3. As a teenager, she was made fun of and ridiculed, so she began searching for love and acceptance in the wrong places. She started drinking and doing drugs. She moved various places thinking a change of scenery would help her kick her addictions. It didn't work.

Wanda was introduced to New Faith Program Director, Nancy Dore at a Bible study and it began her life transformation. She entered the recovery program and gradually moved from a place of darkness and isolation into the light of Christ. For so many years, she had neglected herself and her residence... she felt worthless. But at the Rescue Mission, she was welcomed into a bright, clean and loving environment allowing her to heal emotionally and physically.

Now, Wanda is learning how to have healthy relationships and how to take care of herself and the things entrusted to her. It has given her a sense of value again. In turn, she is able to offer hope in her job as a care line worker, encouraging people over the phone who are in the midst of their own struggles.

*Thank you* for showing Wanda the love of Christ so she is able to love others!



## These amazing Free Clinic stories are only possible WITH YOUR SUPPORT!



This is Brenda (patient) and Ashu (student volunteer) as we placed her first continuous glucose monitor. Brenda returned for her 10 day follow-up and to place her next sensor, and she is so happy. She says that this monitor has already made a huge difference in her life. Because she can see in real time how certain foods affect her blood sugar, she has already made significant changes in her diet, and lost 5 pounds. Her average daily glucose is in the normal range for the first time in years. She says that it has given her the tools and motivation to make a positive change. We are hopeful that she may be able to decrease her insulin usage very soon!

A blind and homeless man recently sought care in the clinic. He had untreated diabetes and had gradually lost his vision over the past couple of years. He was fired from his job when he could no longer see well enough to complete his tasks and therefore lost his housing and his insurance. The volunteer doctors in the Mission's Free Clinic were able to get him back on medication for his diabetes, helped him sign up for Medicaid and made sure he saw an ophthalmologist. The eye doctor was able to determine that the vision could be corrected and he will be having surgery very soon. Praise God that this man was able to get the care he needed because of your generosity in supporting the Mission Free Clinic. Very soon he will be on his way to gainful employment and have a way to pay for rent again.

## Don't Wait to Give

Jack Reynolds started his bucket list late in life, attacking it with gusto and Guinness World Records. He became the oldest man to get his first tattoo at age 104. Then, at 105, the oldest to ride a roller coaster; at 106, the oldest to ride a zip line; and at 107, the oldest to perform as a guest star on a TV show. He used the publicity around each event to raise money for a cause close to his heart, making an impact in the here and now.



Maybe generosity is a “someday” item on your own bucket list. But there's no need to wait. Your retirement assets are a great way to jump in and start giving now while stewarding your money wisely. Here's how you can use those resources:

**Give your time.** Consider volunteering with a ministry you love, including Capital City Rescue Mission. It will pay lasting dividends in lives impacted.

**Share your earnings.** It's common to carefully protect retirement earnings to ensure they last as long as they're needed. What if you used yours now to bless others while also saving on your tax bill? When you make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to Capital City Rescue Mission, your retirement assets can change lives.

We can give generously now because God gives generously always. “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “Is Giving on Your Bucket List?” by contacting Mandy Schettini at (518)462-0421 or [mschettini@albanymission.com](mailto:mschettini@albanymission.com) - Visit [christianwill.org/ccrm](http://christianwill.org/ccrm) to bless your family with an up-to-date will.*

# 75 YEARS OF GIVING HOPE

Help us celebrate **75 years** of serving the Capital Region!

Annual Banquet at the Marriott Albany  
 Tue, Oct 15 @ 6:00PM  
 Cost: \$40 per person

**Online Auction:**

Preview: Mon, Oct 14  
 Bidding Begins: Tue, Oct 15 - 9am  
 Bidding Ends: Thu, Oct 17 - 9pm

**RESERVATIONS NECESSARY**

RSVP by October 8...  
 call 518-462-0421 or visit  
[capitalcityrescuemission.org](http://capitalcityrescuemission.org)



**A MESSAGE FROM**

**PERRY JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



What's happening at the Rescue Mission? It's a question I often hear.

The good news is that God is at work saving souls and transforming lives through Jesus Christ. Men like Michael who you will read about in this issue. Michael is walking out his love for the Lord by serving on staff and in the clinic. What a blessing to watch him as his seed of faith grows into a tree with roots.

Challenges at the Rescue Mission include the number of men and women in need food & shelter, and those who struggle with addiction and despair. Staff is literally saving lives daily — often administering CPR or Narcan.

Your partnership is critical in meeting these challenges.

Please pray for the ladies in our emergency shelter. Pray Jesus will move their hearts to make the next steps in recovery and to follow Him. You have helped give them a safe place to land and hope for a future. Thank you!

Please join us at the Albany Marriot on October 15 to celebrate our 75th anniversary of giving hope to those who had none. We are looking forward to a great gathering of partners! As usual, it will be accompanied by our much anticipated online auction.

See and hear how God is using you to move among our neighbors who are hungry for hope.

Reserve today (\$40 per person) for this exciting event at [capitalcityrescuemission.org](http://capitalcityrescuemission.org) or call 518-462-0421.

Blessings,

*"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
 ~ Romans 5:8*

You are a special friend to the needy . . . especially as Thanksgiving approaches

Because you continue to be a faithful partner, you are a valued friend to more neighbors in our community than you could possibly imagine. Summer or winter, you continue to respond with acts of loving kindness . . . because you know it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Your actions reflect the compassion of our Savior. Mission guests especially feel your presence as Thanksgiving approaches, when you provide an even greater abundance of food, clothing and concern for their well-being. And you do all this with arms of love. *You are so generous . . . and we are so grateful.*

To continue to invest in the lives of those in need, please use the remit slip enclosed. Or, make your donation online at [capitalcityrescuemission.org](http://capitalcityrescuemission.org). Thank you as together we reach out to the homeless at Thanksgiving . . . and every day of the year.

**Help us gear up**

**Drop off by Nov 20:**

- Turkeys
- Boxed/bagged stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- Instant potatoes
- Canned corn
- Boxed dessert mixes
- Canned gravy



**Clothing**

- Men's socks & shoes
- Men's jeans & pants
- Men's/Children's underwear
- Women's bras/underwear
- Coats

**Toiletries**

- Men's Deodorant
- Bar soap/body wash
- Shaving cream/razors
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Neutral scented lotion

**I'LL BRING HOPE TO THE HUNGRY THIS THANKSGIVING**

**YES, PERRY!** I'm giving a generous gift to help bring God's restoration and hope to those who come through the Mission doors. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$26    \$50    \$100    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check or give via credit card: VISA / MC / AMEX / DISC

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a FREE copy of "Is Giving on Your Bucket List?"

Donate online at [capitalcityrescuemission.org](http://capitalcityrescuemission.org) • CCRM | 259 S Pearl St | Albany, NY 12202



**I blamed God for my struggles. But He never left me.**

# THE MISSION: RESCUE

FALL 2024

Stories of hope...lives transformed



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