

Paul's Ponderings

As we move forward with our plans to serve even more people who are hurting, I have been talking a lot about our foundation. When a building is built it must have a good, strong, and firm foundation. As we build and expand services, we needed to ensure a firm foundation on which to build. We have done that, and now it's time to build the future, so we may do what God is calling us to accomplish. Scriptures use this metaphor as well.



Paul Stasi,
Executive Director and CEO, CRM

FOUNDATION

Isaiah 33 and 28 says that the Lord is the firm foundation for our lives, "a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation," and in Ephesians it says, "Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." We must choose to remain hopelessly devoted to Him and Him alone. He has no equal. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

Jesus, Himself, said, "Everyone who hears his words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24).

Our goal at the Mission is to help others first to accept a saving relationship and faith with Christ as Lord and Savior, and then discipleship to help them learn how to live for Him. This builds their lives on that solid foundation of Christ, so that when they are befallen with storms of life, they have that foundation.

It is only thanks to your gifts and prayers that this is possible, and we are so grateful to you. You are a huge part of this life-changing ministry!

Thank you!

A BREATH OF FRESH HEIR

Have you heard about these outside-the-box bequests?

- A wealthy Portuguese bachelor randomly selected 70 names from the Lisbon telephone directory and bequeathed his fortune to those individuals.
- Billionaire Leona Helmsley's left \$12 million to her dog (and excluded two of her grandsons).
- Robert Louis Stevenson gave his birthday, November 13, to a friend who didn't like hers.



These stories illustrate a larger point: your estate plan is one of the best ways to communicate with your loved ones about what's most important to you. It's Psalm 78:4 in action: "We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders."

You can get started by:

1. Writing a Legacy Love Letter. This cover letter for your estate plan outlines guiding principles, stories of personal faith, and future wishes for your family. Contact us for a free guide.

2. Including a Gift in Your Will to City Rescue Mission. An in-will gift to our ministry makes your priorities clear and helps us impact lives.

Your will is the ultimate opportunity to share what's most important to you.

For more information, please contact Angela Washington at (904) 421-5147 or awashington@crmjax.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

City Rescue Mission is in need of the following:

- **New Life Inn Men's Dorm AC \$5,680** ◀ *Urgent Needs*
- **Homes of Hope Roof \$15,000**
- Kitchen exit doors for New Life Inn \$10,000 and McDuff exit doors \$22,000
- Gently used or new furniture, clothing, home goods, books, and more for the CRM thrift store
- Bus passes - 3 day passes - \$12/7 day passes -\$20
- White, large draw string laundry bags for students use (120)
- Men's boxers (M, L, XL), Women's undies (M, L, XL)
- White twin sheet sets and pillows

Contact: Angela A. Washington
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(904) 421-5147

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New Life

APRIL 2024

NEWS



KIE'ARRA I HAD NO SENSE OF BELONGING

On her own at age 15, with no one to guide her or make her feel she mattered, Kie'Arra did what she had to to survive, diminishing her self-worth and hope for the future. At the Mission - where gifts and prayers from friends like you help build new lives in Christ - she discovered she has value and a place in the world.

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KIE'ARRA'S STORY

I HAD NO SENSE OF BELONGING

Alone. On her own. With no one to talk to – much less to guide her – Kie'Arra found herself homeless at age 15, after enduring a traumatic childhood.

“When I was 6 or 7, my mom was into drugs pretty heavily,” she recalls. “And my dad just really stood there and watched.”

After officials found Kie'arra's environment unsafe for the little girl and her sisters, they were placed in the custody of a great-grandmother. But as Kie'Arra grew older, she longed to know her mother and to have her be part of her life.

The two were reunited, and Kie'Arra was ecstatic when her mom invited her to share her home. But their relationship turned sour and the arrangement fell apart.

“We had a huge argument and she put me out,” Kie'Arra says.

With nowhere to go, she began sleeping under bridges or in strangers' homes – anywhere she could find to lay her head. She dropped out of school and adopted a toxic lifestyle she believed was necessary to survive. Her actions diminished her self-esteem and her hope of finding a path forward. Weary, disheartened and feeling there was nowhere she belonged, she turned to drugs to ease her growing despair.

“It was the only way I could think of to soothe my pain,” she says. “It became my best friend.”



By the time she was 20, she'd reached rock bottom. Her dangerous and destructive habits were threatening her life. She'd gone days without eating or bathing. She could feel her body shutting down. “I knew I needed help – I really needed help,” she says. “So I asked somebody for \$1.75, and they gave it to me.”

It was bus fare to City Rescue Mission. Kie'Arra had been through our doors before: for emergency food and shelter at our New Life Inn. At that point, however, she wasn't yet ready to make the commitment to turn her life around. But this time was different.

“When I came back, I felt more at peace... more calm... like I was in a place where I belonged.”

Now part of our LifeBuilders Residential Recovery Program, she embraces the compassion of our counselors and others she feels truly care about her. “If I need someone to talk to about my past, they listen to what I have to say – I've never had that before.”

And through the teachings of our grace-oriented coursework, she's releasing false beliefs as she learns about God's faithfulness and love. “Before, I felt like God had abandoned me... like I deserved what I got. Now with Him in my life, I feel I have a place on this earth.”

“The most important thing I've learned is that in order for me to sustain a happy life, and to remain healthy, I have to remain in Christ and God's Word.”

With her new sense of self-esteem and encouragement from staff and mentors, Kie'Arra is earning her GED. Then she plans to work as a beautician while she trains to become a phlebotomist. Today, with virtually her whole life ahead of her, she's grateful to friends like you for her new beginning...

“Before I came to the Mission I was lost. I was hopeless and I didn't have a sense of belonging. Now I'm renewed. I feel I belong. I see myself as a good person and I know I'm worthwhile.”

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT CROSSROADS

Ryan - Crossroads Graduate

“I joined the Army and had three deployments. On a routine mission we were attacked and my Humvee blew-up. I was injured and then given a medical discharge. This was devastating because I had planned on being on active duty for a full career.



My depression and PTSD led to self-medicating with drugs. I was arrested for a DUI and given a choice of going to CRM's Crossroads program or serving time in jail. I'm so glad I chose Crossroads. I know I made a wise decision to come to CRM. I learned my triggers and coping skills. I enjoyed the groups and counseling and learned patience. This place is like a big family with a lot of camaraderie, where I could be open about my feelings and get support. I am reconnecting with my family and now that I have graduated, I want to help other veterans like me.”



SAVE THE DATE



14th Annual Champion's Challenge
TPC Sawgrass August 26, 2024



Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
April 18, 2024, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
City Rescue Mission Chapel
426 S. McDuff Avenue

CITY RESCUE MISSION'S 9TH ANNUAL

Difference Maker's Gala

FEATURING THE COMEDY OF

Robert G. Lee



A Limited Amount of Tickets Are Still Available!

Seating begins at 6 p.m.
Banquet begins at 6:30
Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk
Tickets \$150
Table (10 seats) \$1500
1515 Prudential Drive,
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Contact: Angela Washington
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or crmdevelopment@crmjax.org

May 2,
2024

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

THANK YOU!

