



New Directions

The rooms were crowded. The hallways were crowded. Everywhere, people were talking or taking tours of the Maplewood Center. We had hoped that people would be interested enough to come, but we were overwhelmed when as many as 300 people, over the course of three hours, came to show support for the Mission. So many of those who came had been faithfully giving to the ministry of rescue for many years.

One such man, white haired and smiling, stopped staff people and emptied his wallet into their hands. "This is for the Mission," he insisted, "I'd give more if I had it."

He was beaming. "I stayed at the Mission myself, a long time ago. When I had nowhere else to go. I was headed in the wrong direction," he said firmly, "and they gave me a new direction. They help a lot of people who are headed the wrong way and don't have anything to help them get where they need to go."

He stopped to smile at his wife, standing behind him. "I have the Mission to thank, and her." And now they do what they can to help others.

"We've been very blessed," his wife added with a smile of her own.

And that is the incredible thing about people who recognize their blessings, they can't help but "pass it on." Every inch of flooring, each nail and screw, and all the hours, minutes, seconds of hard work that will transform Maplewood into a haven for women and children, all of these things are a testimony to the grace and provision of God. He has so richly blessed us, through you.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need. Thank you for helping us help others.



A Message from Mark: taking a moment to say “Thanks”

I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts... Colossians 4:8

While meeting with staff at our Maplewood Center, I noticed a man approaching the door of what will be our day shelter for women and children. It is somewhat unusual to see a man come to the newly opened women and children’s shelter, and he appeared somewhat dirty and very tired. Not a far description from the sixty or so men that we shelter each night this time of year. I didn’t expect his question: “Do you take food here?” but after a slight pause I responded “Not normally, but I would be glad to accept your donation and take it to our Michigan Avenue facility.” As I escorted him to his work truck, he explained that he had been homeless in the past few years, and now he just wanted to give back. He handed me a box of food, the tangible evidence of his gratitude, and I was overjoyed.

How encouraging! How glorious that a former guest would desire to become a supporter of the Mission. He explained that he doesn’t have much, but he knows others are struggling more than he is right now. He has a job and he’s working hard. Best of all, he’s thankful to God for the refuge that was given him by the Mission, through the ministry of rescue.

I, too, headed home, but that encouragement wasn’t enough. As I was crossing the street, to get to my vehicle, I was interrupted by another man. He looked the complete opposite of the man that I had met earlier that day. Dressed professionally and coming from the direction of downtown, he was also returning home after a long day’s work. “Excuse me,” he said, “I just want to say thank you for what you guys do at the Mission.” He explained that he had been “down and out” a couple years ago and simply wanted to shake my hand and sincerely thank me for the services he received when he was in need. I explained, “Well, praise God and give Him thanks.” “I do praise God,” was the response, “and He is so good.”

When God sends encouragement, He doesn’t seem to stop at one occurrence. What a blessed day! The verse above describes how the apostle Paul sent Tychicus to comfort the church of Colosse; in the same way, these men played a vital part in encouraging my heart. It is truly a blessing to be able to hear how the Mission has helped set men, and women, toward a new direction. Thank you for helping us help others. Thank you for making a difference to thousands of souls who come to the Mission each year.

To God be the Glory,



Mark Criss
Executive Director



Maplewood Update: Our hands are full!

We are very pleased to announce that we have met our fundraising goal to complete renovations on the final phases of our Maplewood Center. Staff at our women and children's shelter are eager for the space. Last month alone, we had to turn away 35 women and 53 children. Current capacity at the new women and children's shelter is 36 beds. Once Maplewood is finished, the two dorms and 18 "family units" will give us the capability of housing as many as 130 women and children.

Moving the administrative offices to the Maplewood Center will allow the dining room, men's shelter, and other services at Michigan Avenue to expand as well.

Please pray for wisdom for staff, as we work toward final construction and begin the first steps of transitioning to this new facility. Look for updates in contact information to be included in upcoming newsletters. By the end of the year, we will list the new address and phone number to our offices.

Thanks again to everyone who has so faithfully given to our "Mission: Home" project to help open Maplewood. Funds received in excess of the fundraising goal will be used to cover operational expenses.

For further information on this project, please visit our website, www.lcrm.org, email info@lcrm.org, or call our offices at 517.485.0145.



Volunteer Van Driver Positions Available



The City Rescue Mission is looking for "a few good men" to volunteer as afternoon drivers for our Mission van. Volunteer drivers will be responsible for loading and unloading items donated from local stores and restaurants, as well as for picking up Mission barrels, located at various churches and businesses in mid-Michigan. Duties require heavy lifting of a minimum of 50 pounds. If you have a good driving record, have some free time, and are "like-minded" with our ministry, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Roger at roger@lcrm.org or by calling our offices at 517.485.0145.

The "Boys" Go to Barakel

The men in our Transformation Program had the opportunity to attend a men's retreat at Camp Barakel. This is the second year they have attended and been able to fellowship with other Christian men in a setting outside the Mission.

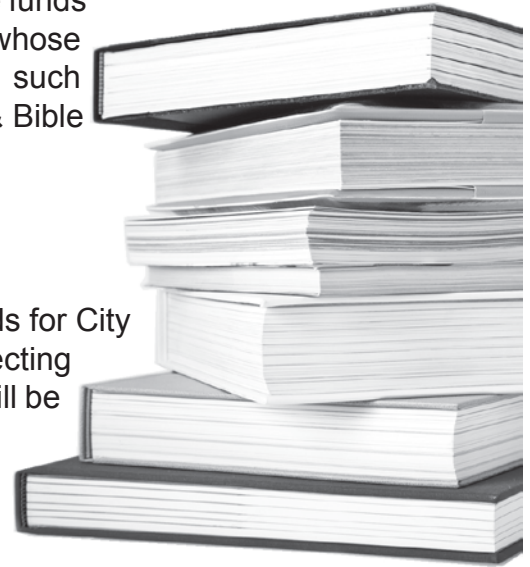


Book Collection Benefits the City Rescue Mission of Lansing

Gift & Bible is collecting quality, used books and cds to sell to raise funds for the City Rescue Mission. They prefer books and music whose content is consistent with their regular inventory. If you have such items, please deliver them directly to either of the following Gift & Bible locations:

Gift & Bible, Delta Center (west of the Lansing Mall)
Gift & Bible, 522 Frandor

This is an outreach by Gift & Bible, for the purpose of raising funds for City Rescue Mission general operations. They have a goal of collecting 10,000 items to sell on a continual basis, the proceeds of which will be given to the Mission. We are grateful to Gift & Bible for their desire to help us help others.



Fight Hunger 5K Run/Walk



A run/walk is being sponsored by
Meridian Plumbing Heating Cooling Remodeling
Sunday, July 18, 2010
all proceeds from this event will go to benefit the
City Rescue Mission of Lansing

This event has been planned by Meridian Plumbing. For more information, go to their website www.themeridianadvantage.net or call them directly at 517.339.6300.

Housekeeping

Tour of the Mission:

For those interested in a tour of our Michigan Avenue Facility, please call 517.485.0145.

Personal ID Number:

Above your name on your receipt or newsletter envelope is your PID. This number will help if you have a duplicate or have questions regarding a monetary donation to the Mission.

Tax Deduction/Credit:

Gifts given to the City Rescue Mission of Lansing qualify for a tax credit/deduction. By law, we are not allowed to list a dollar amount for non-monetary donations; please keep your store receipts for new items to attach to your copy of the receipt. Monthly giving reports for cash donations are always mailed in the middle of the following month.

Too Many Mailings?

If you are receiving a duplicate mailing, please call Judy at 517.485.0145 or email info@lcrm.org.

Mission Needs List

Cans of Fruit

- Cans of Vegetables
- Drink Concentrate
- Double-bladed razors
- Shaving Cream
- Diapers (sizes 5, 4, 3)
- Napkins
- Styrofoam Bowls and Plates
- Umbrellas
- Women's Underclothing
- Men's Underwear 32-34
- Men's PJs Medium or Large
- Women's PJs Plus Size
- Men's Blue Jeans
- Plus Size Clothing
- Men's T-shirts
- Socks (white crew length)
- New Pack-n-Plays (2)