

# Even those who struggle find time to be grateful

I've approached every one of my 60 Thanksgiving Days from a privileged position.

Food. Shelter. Love. Hope.

I've gone hungry for none of them. Not ever. To thoroughly count my blessings, I would need a calculator.

Carl Hullett, on the other hand, is homeless and jobless. At age 47, he's battling a drug addiction and recovering from a collapsed lung. He's struggling to repair fractured relationships and shredded self-esteem.

Hullett's home during last year's brutal winter was an inconspicuous corner of an East Lansing parking garage. Yet, Hullett sat at a table in the cafeteria of Lansing's City Rescue Mission Tuesday night and tossed around the word "thankful" like a man



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who just had just won the lottery.

Hullett said he's grateful for the Rescue Mission's drug treatment program and for the food, shelter and spiritual guidance he's getting there.

"I'm thankful that I'm alive to tell you my story," Hullett said, pointing out that if his lung had collapsed while he was on the street, he'd be a dead man.

## Second chance at life

Dallas Jahncke, 21, sat at the

same table. Tattoos on the knuckles of his hands spelled "AINT RITE."

Jahncke also talked about his gratitude.

In and out of jail and psychiatric wards since he was 15 years old and living on the streets, Jahncke tried to kill himself with a knife in June. At Sparrow Hospital, he learned about the Rescue Mission's program.

"I'm thankful for the second chance at life I'm getting here," Jahncke said. "I'm thankful that I now have a relationship with God, instead of leaning on the bottle. This is exactly what I needed."

## A meal and a bed

Lionel Murray, 57, isn't part of a particular program. He's a "tran-

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sient," in the parlance of the Rescue Mission — just there for a meal and a bed.

Murray said he works part time, driving a truck, but doesn't earn enough to make a go of it. He rolled up a sleeve to show me where he was wounded, in Vietnam, on Jan. 9, 1972.

"This is what an AK-47 can do to your arm," he said.


Murray said he's grateful for his family and the medical treatment he gets from the VA hospital in Ann Arbor.

"I have a place to stay, instead of sleeping on the streets," he said.

Murray was among the 20 or so men who drifted in from the shadows of Michigan Avenue, one by one, and gathered in the gloom Tuesday night, under the lighted crossed-shaped "JESUS SAVES" sign.

The Rescue Mission door opened at 6 p.m. The men shuffled inside, grateful — for a meal and a bed.

Call John Schneider at 377-1175, send a fax to 377-1298 or e-mail [jschneid@lsj.com](mailto:jschneid@lsj.com).



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