



# city Mission of Findlay

JUNE 2017

*Truth without grace degenerates into judgmental legalism. Grace without truth degenerates into deceitful tolerance. Randy Alcorn, The Grace and Truth Paradox.*

There have been a lot of discussions over my 23 years at the Mission about finding a balance between holding the residents accountable to their programs and extending grace when appropriate. When and how much? There are also limited resources so at times we have also had to decide who to help and what are the criteria for staying at the Mission. Again, how long can people stay or how often can they come for dinner.

In my reading on the subject by authors such as John Chrysostom, and John Wesley and historical portrayals through shows such as 'Victorian Slum House', I have found that similar questions and concerns have been raised for centuries. **The public notion that the poor and homeless have only themselves to blame or, that they can be separated into those that are "deserving" and "undeserving" has been around for a long while.**

**We continue to work towards that balance between truth and grace.** The focus on quickly finding a job and returning to the community was not effective for those dealing with addictions or disabilities. The Mission's new reSTART program is intended to be adaptable to individualized needs. We are collaborating more with other agencies that can provide the counseling, recovery and long-term housing services needed by our residents. AA and NA have meetings at the Mission.

**The Mission is a place of second and even third chances while also being sensitive to not enabling individuals to continue destructive life styles.** The road to recovery, from anything, is not always a straight path. We plant seeds and don't always get to see the harvest. Those who need time for recovery and working through outpatient therapy are provided that time. Those who have fallen on hard times financially can stay and save enough to return to the community.

In either case the passage of time is not as important as making progress on your goals. **Not everyone has the same abilities or works at the same pace and success looks different for each individual.** We prefer that residents, like *Roger, Christian, and many others*, stay longer, learn more, save more and be prepared to return to the community so that you are less likely to return to the Mission. **The average stay is now almost 60 days with the longest being 9 months.**

Thank you for your support of the Mission as we make these changes. As always, please feel free to call me if you ever have any questions about the Mission.

*Phil Oswald*





# CITY MISSION'S 3RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Thank you to our amazing community for coming together and making our 2017 Golf Outing the most successful yet! 112 golfers came together in a fierce competition that ended in a draw due to inclement weather. But as usual, the golfers were great good sports and made the best of the day. All were treated to Kathy's Korner for lunch and treats provided by Penn Station and Keith's Dugout. Golfers participated in a 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, and par contests! We cannot wait for our 2018 outing and hope to see many familiar and new faces! Huge thank you to our Sponsors!



## Be An Ambassador of Hope

There are moments of spiritual awakening in life that become a catalyst for change. Ruthie Tong (Operations Director) and I were blessed to experience such a moment recently at the 2017 Association of Gospel Rescue Missions Annual Convention. We were given the opportunity to attend this amazing convention through an AGRM scholarship and spent four days learning from experts in our field, praying with fellow Christians, and growing in our spiritual walk.

As we dove into Scripture, we began to realize that our own Mission needed a spiritual awakening. We were doing the work Christ called us to do by caring for 'the least of these' but our zeal for serving Him in all we do had faded. We realized that the Gospel of salvation and redemption must be evident in all we do—whether we are serving a warm meal, providing a bed, working with volunteers, or fundraising for our programs. With this realization came conviction, and as a Mission we have come together to grow in Him.

We are truly excited to see the work that God is doing in and through our staff as we continue to seek His will. The men, women, and families who walk through our door seek hope and acceptance. **How blessed we are to share the true Hope and Redemption offered through a relationship**



**with Jesus Christ as we minister to their physical needs as well.**

And the need continues to be great. In the last year our nights of lodging have increased 500% and our meals served have tripled. Over 75% of those we serve are from our community or a 20 mile radius. These, our neighbors in need, come to us for a warm meal and safe bed but leave with much more—the hope of a new life. **When you give to the Mission, you are an Ambassador of hope.**

We ask that you, our faithful community, prayerfully consider how you may join us in our ministry. Please take the time to read the commitment card attached and return it in the provided envelope.

**Thank you for your gifts of time, talents, and treasures! We cherish these gifts and strive to be good stewards of these blessings.**

*In Christ,*

*Joy Barger*

### YES!!! I want to be an Ambassador of HOPE!

#### Prayer Partner

I will lift the City Mission's financial and program needs in prayer as they minister to the broken and hopeless men, women, and families who come to the Mission in need.

#### Volunteer Partner

I want to donate my time and talents to the City Mission to minister to the men, women, and families in need.

#### Financial Partner

I want to partner with the City Mission to help meet the great financial need by making a Summer Pledge of \$150, \$300, \$600, other amount \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in full over July, August, & September.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

**Online:** [www.FindlayMission.org](http://www.FindlayMission.org)

**Check Payable to:**  
City Mission of Findlay P.O. Box 1566  
Findlay, OH 45839

**CC Enclosed:**

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

# Roger's Story

Roger came to the City Mission from the Hancock County Jail where he was serving time for a drug related offense. Because he was a disabled veteran, he was referred to the Mission by Veterans Services. During his stay at the Mission, Roger continued working with the Hancock County Veterans Services and WSOS to seek transitional housing for veterans and ensure he was aware of all services he may be eligible for. His City Mission program manager assisted him in contacting transitional housing located in Fort Wayne, IN. Working together, Roger and his City Mission program manager were also able to get his probation transferred to Fort Wayne and to resolve several identity theft issues he was dealing with. When Roger's approval for transitional housing came through, Veterans Services arranged transportation to the facility through HATS. In the three months Roger was at the Mission, he continued to struggle with his addiction. Roger's road to recovery will be a life-long battle but his story is not over. His story is one that shows the amazing positive outcomes when agencies collaborate to assist an individual or family. We are so grateful to be a party of a community who cares about people!

# Christian's Story

Christian walked into the Mission after the end of a relationship, with nowhere to go. He had burned all bridges to his loved ones long ago. At this point in his life, Christian would use any drug that came across his path. Marijuana. Meth. Cocaine. Alcohol. Heroin. It didn't matter. For 20 years, these had been Christian's nearest companions and with a father, brother, and wife in the throes of addiction as well, it was the only reality he could remember. With no employment or secure housing, Christian had no way to care for himself and no hope for a better future. The hopelessness was written on his face and was evident in his body language.

During his stay, Christian was compliant with staff and helpful to other residents. For several weeks, he was able to stay sober and glimpses of hope could be seen in his manner and conversation. As is the case too often, Christian began using again and failed a drug test administered by staff. Dejected and resigned to failure, Christian's glimpse of hope was fading fast until his program manager reached through the fog of hopelessness and asked him a simple question: What do you want for your life? That's all it took to spur Christian into action. He wanted sobriety. He wanted peace. He wanted hope. Christian wanted to return to the specialized trade he had worked for years with his father and son. He wanted to spend time with his children and grandchildren. With these goals in mind, Christian worked alongside his program manager to secure a bed recovery housing at Focus on Friends. With a requirement of 30 days of sobriety, Christian now had a realistic goal to work towards.

Christian's transition in to recovery housing was successful and his program manager was thrilled to receive a letter upon his completion of his program: *"I just want to say thank you to the entire staff of the mission for the respect and guidance you all showed me."*

## **Why did we give him a second chance? What qualities did he display?**

Because I saw something in him that was just helpless. He didn't know anything else but that life. I saw someone who didn't have any self-worth and I wasn't ready to give up on showing him he mattered. He was very sweet and compliant and more than willing to help when asked. He was laid back and got along with many of the residents here. Hopeless or hopeful?

He was hopeless at the beginning of his time here and I believe he was hopeful at the end.



# MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

Gifts were given in memory or honor of the following:

Hanson, Zack (H)  
Kayser, Ann-Marie Lamont (H)  
Carley, Craig & Bobbe (H)  
Colwell, Rowan (H)  
Kellybrooke Neighbors (H)  
Murray, Gary & Wanda (H)  
Lee, Daren (H)  
Lee, Dick & Shirley (H)  
Schechter, Mark & Theresa (H)  
Hepperly, James & Shelly (H)  
Shepherd, John (H)  
Healy, Don (H)  
Corbin, Janet (H)  
Zimmerman, Octavian (H)  
George, Jack (M)

Wingate, Debra (M)  
Wood, Alyssa Dawn (M)  
Wynkoop, Ray (M)  
Justis, David (M)  
Pizzuti, Cheryl (M)  
Chapa, Natalio & Hortencia (M)  
Bouvier, Bernard (M)  
Gordon, Rev. Charles E. (M)  
Lause, Ivan (M)  
Wysocki, Michael S. (M)  
Schilling, Susan (M)  
Amy Brehm's Parents (M)  
Walker, Bob & Liz (M)  
Lee, Ron (M)  
Goebel-Komala, Felix (M)

Strader, Quentin (M)  
Wagner, Stefania (M)  
Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry and Ted  
Hauman (M)  
Oman, Clayton (M)  
Clarke, Richard (M)  
Peterson, Mindy (M)  
Nesler, Teresa (M)  
Walker, Cindy (M)  
Rader, Linda (M)  
Croy, Richard (Jr.) (M)  
Bishop, Mildred (M)  
Roberts, Mildred (M)  
Kuhlman, Richard (M)

When you make a memorial/honoraria donation, please provide the name and address of the individual or family to whom the acknowledgement should be sent.  
Thank you to all who honored their loved ones by blessing the City Mission!



Caring for the hungry and homeless of Hancock county and neighboring counties since 1934.

■ 510 W Main Cross Street ■ Findlay, OH 45840 ■ (419) 423-9151 ■ [findlaymission.org](http://findlaymission.org)



■ Please send mail to our new P.O. box: P.O. Box 1566, Findlay, OH 45839

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