

Transformed Hearts. Transformed Tattoos.

Rescue Mission men cover tattoos from their pasts

Jacob Davidson looked at the tattoo on his hand and thought for a moment. He was at Grade A Tattoos in Glenbrook Square, waiting to get the tattoo covered with something that is a reflection of who he is now, a changed man from being in the long-term program at The Rescue Mission.

“It’s rare to have help for something like this,” he said. “It really means a lot, coming from the lifestyle I lived. I was in a really bad place when I got this tattoo, and now it will be a tattoo that’s worth being there. **It says more about who I am today.**”

Rescue Mission Life House staff member David Pitcher came up with the idea after seeing many men face vocational and social hurdles due to inappropriate and even inflammatory tattoos.

“In Life House we want to serve the men as best we can to the glory of God,” Pitcher said. “If a participant has a tattoo that is holding him back personally or professionally, we want to walk alongside them as they put that piece of ink permanently in their past.”

Pitcher brought the idea to his friend Ralph Burnett of Grade A Tattoos, who loved the idea.

“I’ve had people help me out a lot in my life,” Burnett said. “This is a chance to give back.”

So when Pitcher has a programming resident at The Rescue Mission in search of tattoo transformation, or even tattoo removal, Grade A Tattoos will make it happen, free of charge. Fort Wayne’s Dark Horse Tattoo Parlor is also volunteering to do tattoo cover-up for Rescue

Mission residents.

Pitcher has seen men come through Rescue Mission programming with a variety of inappropriate tattoos, ranging from prison tattoos, gang tattoos, to tattoos containing nudity.

“We see amazing transformation in men here at The Rescue Mission, and many men do not want to wear tattoos that they believe are not honoring to Jesus Christ,” Pitcher said.

“Men who have struggled with drug abuse, gang activity, and incarceration often have tattoos connecting them to past behaviors and associations. **As the men heal and their behaviors change, many of them want their tattoos to reflect their new life.**”



A note from
Rev. Donovan Coley, Sr.
 CEO | Senior Pastor

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Dear Friends,

I love when I have good news to share with you, and I usually do. There are always incredible things happening in the lives of the men, women, and children at The Rescue Mission.

But I can't ignore the reality of the issue of homelessness for so many in our community. **In 2018, 25 people from the homeless community passed away.** We honored those people with a memorial walk in December.

My heart aches when I think about

those people who didn't take the opportunity to change their lives at a place like The Rescue Mission.

We cannot give up hope. We have to keep trying to reach those who live on the streets and are in need of transformation.

Thank you for partnering with us in Changing Lives for Good. We will not give up!

Donovan A. Coley



Your support helped Ron find his way

Ron came to Fort Wayne to commit a crime. He left changed for the better.



"I worked hard to change my life. This program really helped me find my true self. Being away from home was hard, but the support of staff and my peers helped me overcome my loneliness.

"This program really helped me find my true self."

I want to thank every staff member, friend, and volunteer for making a positive impact on my life. My plans are to return to California to seek employment, reunite with my family, and find a church home. May God continue to bless The Rescue Mission."



You Provided True Transformation

Women celebrate how far they've come since their days at Charis House

The laughter was loud, and the smiles were huge. In November, The Rescue Mission's women and children's ministry, Charis House, held a reception for program alumni.

Your incredible support makes these moments possible. For years, women at Charis House have been overcoming addictions, trauma, and mental illness to live fulfilling lives. November's party was certainly a celebration of transformation!

Check out some of the feedback we got from the women:



"The presence of God was shining bright. I left Charis House uplifted and full of hope."

"I am blessed to have been a part of this!"



"I had a wonderful time! It was the best time I've had in a while!"



Save the Date

CHARIS HOUSE

Gala

2019 Live & Silent Auction

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019

Early Bird Special

Order tickets before March 15 at the discounted rate of \$55 per person AND for free parking the night of the event!

Tickets after March 15 are \$75 and do not include parking.

TheRescueMission.net/gala2019





A Christmas to Remember



Thank you to everyone who donated throughout the holidays to provide our men, women, and children with a memorable Christmas!

Holiday meals feed homeless & hungry

In 2018, you helped The Rescue Mission provide three major holiday meals:



2,200
Easter
Meals

3,250
Thanksgiving
Meals

3,160
Christmas
Meals

Up Next: Easter 2019

Easter Sunday is April 21, and after a record-breaking Christmas, The Rescue Mission is expecting large numbers.

You can provide an Easter meal for just \$1.84. Give your Easter gift today at: TheRescueMission.net/Easter



Corporate Partners

The Rescue Mission would like to thank our corporate partners for their faithful and generous support:



TheRescueMission.net



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD. Men are literally transforming from the inside out. Women are sharing their stories of transformation with each other at Charis House reunions. The hungry are fed incredible holiday meals. **With the Easter season approaching, will you consider another gift to change more lives?**

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$20 to change lives for good
- \$50 to change lives for good
- \$100 to change lives for good
- Please bill my credit card
- \$_____ to help as much as possible

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Credit Card # (if applicable) _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____



THE Rescue Mission™

YES,
I want to provide for the homeless this Easter season

