



The Rescuer



A Bright Future

Life was stacked against Noah.
Then he came to Rockford Rescue
Mission.

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“
HAVING HOPE FOR A BRIGHT
FUTURE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING.
”

NOAH'S RECOVERY OPENS LIFE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

No future. That's what my life looked like as I entered my early 20s. But then I came to Rockford Rescue Mission—and everything changed.

My parents divorced when I was 6. Addictions were part of that. When I was 13, my mother died. I went to live with my grandmother. But as I started high school, I also started dabbling with weed, alcohol, cigarettes and eventually harder drugs like cocaine and heroin.

Then when I was 20, my grandmother died. **I had nowhere I thought I could go, and things really took a bad turn.** For a while I lived out of my car, or sometimes at friends' houses. I knew I needed help. I even tried four different 30-day programs. But they just weren't enough. Then my dad told me about someone he knew who had gone through the Life Recovery Program at Rockford Rescue Mission. **I decided to give it a try.**

Let me try to summarize what's happened in less than two years. **I got clean. I met Jesus. I got baptized at Maywood Free Church – on Good Friday, no less.** I got involved in a young adults group at Maywood. I completed the Life Recovery Program. Through the Mission's help and connections, now I have a great job. I recently started working at Hennig in Machesney Park. And, I'm also getting help from Rock Valley College with a scholarship made possible by the Goellner family toward a welding certificate—which I'll be able to use to advance in my career.

Here's maybe the best thing about all that's happened: I still have my whole life ahead of me. Older guys here at the Mission helped me understand that. They tell me the things they went through, sometimes into middle age. They tell me what to do in recovery, and what not to do. They say they wish they would have understood all this at my age.

I see now why faith is such a huge part of recovery. It gives you a different perspective on how you look at life. Every person here, whether it be staff or a resident or my church, **shows me the love and care of Jesus.** I am so grateful for that.

Having hope for a bright future is a beautiful thing.”



**A CONVERSATION WITH SARAH WHITE,
WORKS! CENTER DIRECTOR**

How does the Works! Center help the Mission's residents in finding jobs?

We help people explore what careers are out there. And then we have classroom-based training opportunities through online adult-learning platforms. The hope is, as they get nearer to finishing the Life Recovery Program, they've narrowed down what their interests are and what they might be going into career-wise once they finish up.

How did this work in Noah's case?

What we found with Noah is that he has a lot of different talents. He has a lot of different skill sets, and he has a lot of different interests. So as he finished his classes we were trying to decide, does he want to go the fitness route because he's very active, very health conscious and we know he's a really hands on guy? So we were looking in a couple different directions.

And then, Hennig Inc. and the Goellner family are longtime supporters of the Mission and very involved. They had reached out and said, "We have this program. We want to connect with you guys. Is there anyone you have in mind who would be good for this?"

Immediately everyone's mind went to Noah and how he would be an excellent fit. He's got a very go-getter kind of mindset. He's such an active and willing participant and willing to step up and do things.

The timing was just beautiful. And this was something Noah was talking about—"Maybe I want to go into the trades, but I don't know exactly what I want to do."

So it really just felt like God drew this beautiful story and connected all of the dots together.



**Read the Full Conversation
with Sarah on Our Website**

A New Chapter for Rockford Rescue Mission

“Hello! This is the space where I usually tell you about something happening at the Mission or in the community, and point you to our cover story. This time is going to be a little different.

After 42 years of service to Rockford Rescue Mission, including the last 24 years as Executive Director/CEO, I have made the difficult decision to retire, effective July 2025. This decision follows much prayer, reflection and counsel, as the Mission has been central to my life's calling.

Serving alongside our guests, residents and staff has been an incredible privilege, and I consider you, our supporters, to be family. While stepping down as CEO will be a significant transition, I believe it's the right moment for new leadership to guide the Mission into its next chapter.

I'm honored to share that I will continue to contribute as President Emerita, focusing on donor relationships, special projects and preserving the Mission's legacy. I remain deeply committed to the ongoing impact of this ministry and look forward to sharing the powerful stories of lives transformed.

Please join me in prayer as our Board of Directors conducts a search for the next leader who will guide Rockford Rescue Mission into a hopeful and impactful future. Your continued support is vital as we stay dedicated to moving people from homelessness and despair to wholeness in Jesus' name.”

Partners in Hope,



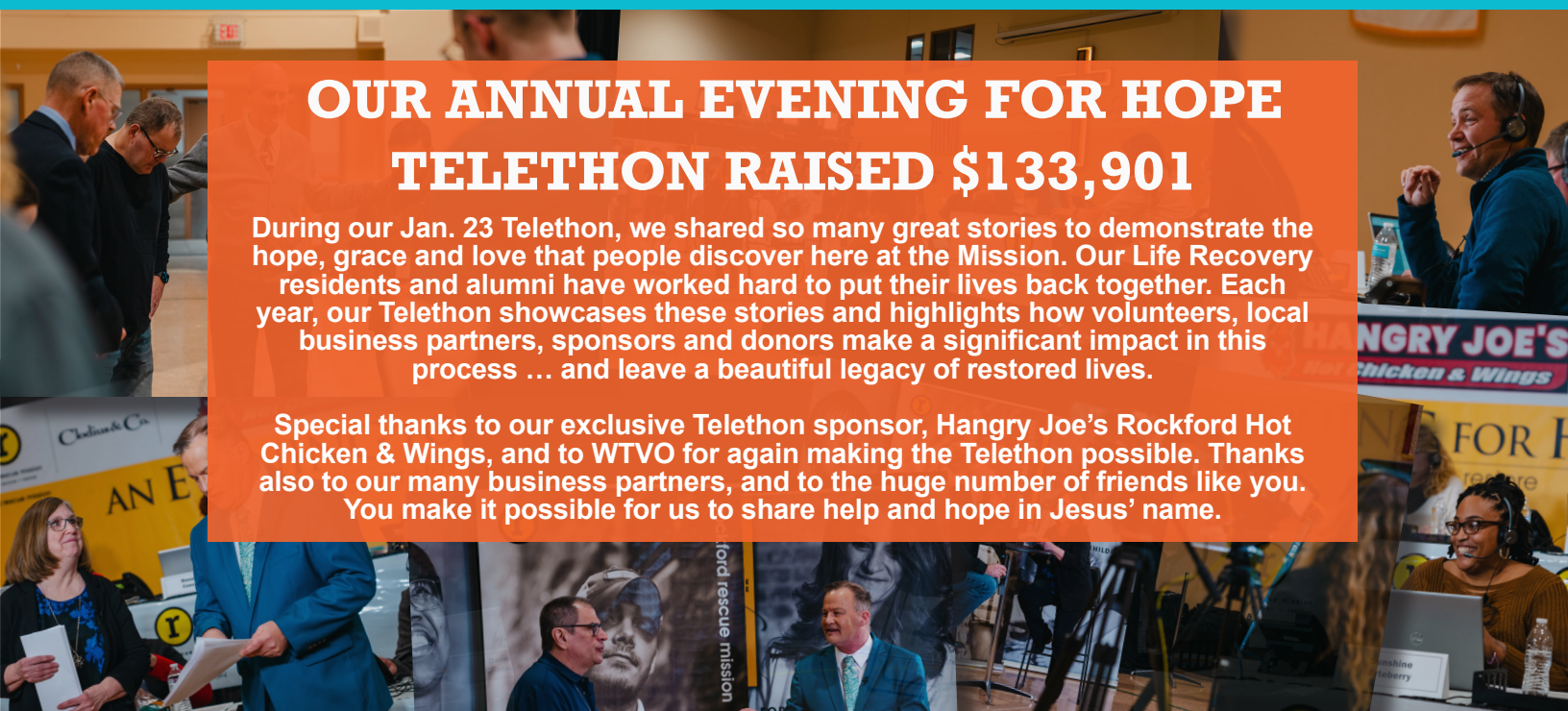
Sherry Pitney



OUR ANNUAL EVENING FOR HOPE TELETHON RAISED \$133,901

During our Jan. 23 Telethon, we shared so many great stories to demonstrate the hope, grace and love that people discover here at the Mission. Our Life Recovery residents and alumni have worked hard to put their lives back together. Each year, our Telethon showcases these stories and highlights how volunteers, local business partners, sponsors and donors make a significant impact in this process ... and leave a beautiful legacy of restored lives.

Special thanks to our exclusive Telethon sponsor, Hangry Joe's Rockford Hot Chicken & Wings, and to WTVO for again making the Telethon possible. Thanks also to our many business partners, and to the huge number of friends like you. You make it possible for us to share help and hope in Jesus' name.



Congratulations to Thrift Store!




SHARE HOPE THIS EASTER

When YOU become a Hope Giver, you'll make such a difference for those taking their first step toward a new life. Month after month, our Mission guests will know they have you standing beside them, supporting their healing – and it will be a blessing that changes their lives forever!

Your monthly gift provides basic necessities ...

- Nourishing Meals
- Safe Shelter
- Warm Clothing

... and long-term support to heal and move forward into transformed lives, changed by God's love!

- Life Recovery Program
- Advocacy
- Career Coaching
- Medical, Dental and Chiropractic Care

Give Today on Our Website



Noah's Baptism on Good Friday 2024

Noah and many others can participate in the Mission's Life Recovery Program at no cost, made possible by our faithful donors. If you would like to support the Mission and its life-changing programs, please give through one of the options below and consider becoming a monthly Hope Giver.

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 🌟 Give online anytime at rockfordrescuemission.org



hope givers

transforming lives through the power of giving