

A Message from Ross Swihart

As we begin our 58th year of caring for people who are hungry, homeless and in need, I want to thank you for being a “door opener.”

For many of the men, women and children who come to Faith Mission, life has been so hard for so long that it’s often difficult for them to believe that there is another way to live, “a door to a better life.”

You are the person who helps open that door!

It may start with a simple meal or a night of safe shelter. A chapel message. Or a conversation with a staff member.

Tomorrow, new faces will come through our doors. They will be hungry, homeless and lost.

Please continue to feed them, give them a warm place to sleep and begin the work that returns them to their homes, their families and their communities. Use the enclosed gift slip to make your gift or give online at www.theFaithMission.org.

Your support is a great blessing that is never taken for granted.

Ross Swihart
Executive Director

“A Place to Change My Life”

Jeff’s 12-year marriage ended in divorce and marked the beginning of a 15-year struggle with alcohol. “I basically destroyed everything I possibly could,” Jeff says. **“The only thing I was worried about was where I was going to get my next bottle.”**

Then, in 2008, Jeff received Christ as his Savior while in SOS Ministries – a Christian recovery program recommended by Faith Mission when our facility was full. “Ever since then, I haven’t been the same,” Jeff says. “I’ve been sober now going on five years.”

When Jeff left SOS, he joined Faith Mission’s Training Faithful Men Program. **“We have three classes a week, seminars, prayer meetings and outings,” he says. “I’d recommend it to anybody who really wants to see God.”**

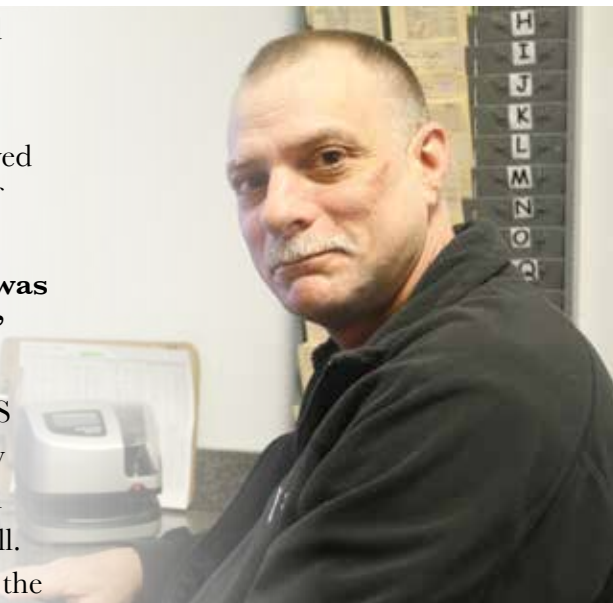
Meanwhile, Jeff is working at the YMCA and using some of his earnings to pay back child support for his four children, with whom he has reconciled. “I can feel good knowing... even though my kids are grown... I’m still taking responsibility for what I did,” he says.

Jeff also mans the Mission’s front desk. He is the first person people see

when they come through the door; the first voice they hear when they call. “If you give love and kindness and mercy and grace, like God has on us, then they’re going to feel more at ease,” he says.

Jeff is praying about earning a degree in theology. “My heart’s been leaning towards being a youth director or a youth pastor,” he says. “If this is something God wants me to do... He’ll make a way.”

“I thank God for having Faith Mission here for people. If it wasn’t for Faith Mission, I don’t know where I’d be now,” Jeff adds. “If you really want to... apply yourself and really want to change, this is the place to come.”



Thank you for your support in 2013!

These are truly wonderful reminders of all the great work you've made possible here at Faith Mission during the past year.

If you volunteer, you may find yourself in one of these pictures! Dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies and families donated more than 13,000 hours of their time to make life better for homeless men, women and children.

Emergency Food & Shelter

More than 41,660 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women and children who might otherwise be sleeping in cars or on the streets of Elkhart.

Nearly 150,000 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.

Family Shelter

41 homeless families, 186 women and children were given the physical, emotional and spiritual support they needed to begin living healthy, self-sufficient lives.

8 women participated in our Training Faithful Women residency program, equipped with the confidence and the tools for long-term success and independence.

Shelter for Men

496 homeless men were cared for at our Shelter for Men where they received shelter, meals and medical care, and attended chapel services and classes.

Training Faithful Men

31 men have participated in our year-long rehabilitation program which gets them ready to start new lives, reunite with their families and return to being productive, contributing citizens.

Chapel

Nearly 628 chapel services, Bible studies and elective classes for men and women in shelters and long-term programs were led by dozens of local churches and staff who shared God's love, healing and hope.



Concert goers contributed hundreds of pounds of canned goods to Faith Mission as part of their admission for the Nashville Comes to Town concert. It was an evening of great music for a great cause!



Faith Mission Thrift Store. Every resident of Faith Mission receives a clothing voucher for free clothing from our store. Last year we gave out more than 600 vouchers.



Meals on Wheels and Mobil Meals. Faith Mission's food service caters the meals for the Window in Goshen's Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army of Elkhart Mobil Meals programs. Over 16,000 meals were made in our kitchen.



The 5th annual Turkey Stampede, a fun-filled walk/run through the streets of downtown Elkhart on Thanksgiving Day, was a resounding success! Over 2,431 runners and walkers of all ages – a record-setting number of participants – raised money to help feed and shelter their homeless, hungry neighbors.



Move your feet so others can eat! This is what it looks like when thousands of runners and walkers take part in a family event on a wonderful family holiday. And as more than one person was heard to say, "It's a great way to have an excuse for eating all you want at Thanksgiving dinner!"



A very merry Christmas. Hundreds of generous individuals and organizations donated Christmas gift boxes and bags to make the holidays brighter for our homeless guests. Gaily wrapped and filled with necessities like socks and gloves as well as small personal hygiene items, the gifts were distributed during the Mission's festive Christmas celebration.



Warm smiles and home-cooked meals. Our kitchens serve meals every day of the year to those in need. This year 6,000 volunteers helped serve over 200,000 meals to hungry men, women and children.



The loneliest time of the year is turned into a celebration as guests enjoyed food, companionship and worship. The presence of volunteers to share these holiday meals meant so much to those with few friends or family!

2014 Forecast



The Mission never closes. Ahead of us are 365 more days of providing food and shelter, healing and hope, to homeless, abused, addicted and poor men, women and children.

What the statistics do not count are the tens of thousands of hours of care, counseling and classes that help people get back on their feet. Or the

tremendous amount of compassion and generosity shown by our donors, volunteers and staff – gifts of time, talent and treasure that help achieve such outstanding successes.

Please continue to partner with us to create a better life for people who are hungry, homeless and in need of your help.

You change people's lives and give them hope!

As we marvel at all the good works that have been done in 2013 and look forward to 2014, one thing is crystal clear: **None of this would happen without your support.**

Your generosity provides meals and shelter. Your gifts make it possible for homeless people to receive the help they so desperately need to get off the streets and into programs that will change their lives and give them hope!

Michiana has an enormous number of people in need right now.

We need your generous support today to feed, clothe and shelter them, heal them physically and show them the love of Christ that will mend their broken hearts and souls.



Please help us start the New Year off strong. Use the coupon below to send your gift today. Or give safely and securely online at **www.theFaithMission.org**.

Thank you in advance for your compassion and love!

