

Dubuque Rescue Mission

398 Main St. • P.O. Box 147 • Dubuque, IA 52004-0147

Phone: (563) 583-1394

Return Service Requested

Years of Service **80**

Thank You!



Dubuque Rescue Mission

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Some News from the Dubuque Rescue Mission

Years of Service **80**

Thank You!



Dubuque Rescue Mission

“What is it that you rescue?”

Last week I was sitting at a booth, sharing information about the Dubuque Rescue Mission to interested IBM workers, when one worker approached, looked at the Dubuque Rescue Mission sign and asked, “What is it that you rescue?” I was caught off guard by the question and said, “I’m sorry, what was your question?” He pointed to the sign and asked again, “The Rescue Mission—what is it that you rescue?” “Humans,” I responded. “Oh, my wife and I support the rescue of animals” and with that he walked away. Now, don’t get me wrong, I love animals too and have rescued my share of stray dogs and cats. However, as I reflected on the many men, women and children served at our mission, I was struggling with an encounter where animals were judged more worthy of rescue than human beings. This is where I find myself each fall when the temperatures begin to drop. Where do those who have no home find shelter? Who will come to their rescue? We always seem to struggle with where to put the next fella who comes to us asking for shelter. “I’m sorry, we’re full. But let’s see... perhaps we can pull out another cot or find someplace in the basement.” In a perfect world, I would pick-up the phone, call a fellow sojourner in the faith and a space would be available. That’s not the case today. Too many unknowns. The individual may flip-out on my fellow believer; have a relapse; slide into depression or a mania episode. Any number of things could happen—too unpredictable. Not going to work. So find a space on the floor; a corner of the basement; the back of the van; anywhere other than the streets. This is what we do—we rescue humans from the harsh reality of homelessness and hunger. If you would like to be part of our “rescue team” please come and we will put you to work. Besides, once you meet some of the very special people we assist, you will most likely think very hard about how you can support clean, safe and affordable housing for the least among us.



Board of Directors

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Fall 2011

Dubuque Rescue Mission



A Tribute to Patrick and all those who struggle with alcoholism.

I first met Patrick in 1990 while standing at Four Mounds overlooking the Mississippi river. He had a vision of preserving the bluffs and their natural beauty for all generations to enjoy. Like many visions, it was long on ideas and short on money. Nevertheless, I was caught by his enthusiasm and contagious smile. Over the years, our paths crossed often—most recently in the last four years through my work at the Dubuque Rescue Mission. You see, Patrick often was in need of housing due to his alcoholism, which made it difficult for him to keep a job and secure a home. Sadly, Patrick died this past September in Des Moines when he fell to his death while sleeping under a bridge. I daily think of my friend, Patrick, and am comforted by my faith which assures me he is resting in the arms of our Beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. Still, I can’t seem to get the thoughts out of my head that I didn’t do enough to secure a sober, safe place for Patrick to live. I ask you to join our effort as we work on behalf of all who suffer homelessness as they wrestle with the demons of alcohol and drug abuse. Peace. Rick Mihm



Yes, I would like to help the poor and homeless by contributing to the Dubuque Rescue Mission.

Yes I would like to help in some other way and would like to be contacted.

I would like to contribute \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other Amount (\$)

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Rick Mihm
Dubuque Rescue Mission
398 Main Street
P.O. Box 147
Dubuque, IA 52004-0147

E-mail Address Thank You For Your Support!

“Home, Sweet Home”

**Mid pleasures and palaces, though we may roam.
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.**

Deanna Durbin from her 1939 movie: First Love

I just returned from a ten day camping trip up north and when I reached the turn for our lane, I hummed the familiar song: “Home, Sweet Home”. How I take for granted my home—that place where I feel relaxed, calm and secure. However for me, on the heels of this warm thought and comforting tune, was the realization that I would be heading into the Mission that evening to comfort and preach the “Good News” of Jesus Christ to thirty men who have no home. It’s a frustrating position to find yourself in—how to receive the questions and feelings of hopelessness when one is without a home and winter is approaching. The heart of the problem, for most, is a sustainable wage. They are able to find work that pays \$8 or \$9 an hour, but that does not provide the income needed to secure housing and the additional expenses that come with a roof over one’s head. All the things I take for granted. So, to address this issue, the Board of Directors, have taken steps to secure housing for four individuals who will pay a monthly fee to live in a new home for up to two years. The hope is: after two years they will have secured enough savings to move into their own home and succeed. If this works, it is our plan to build additional housing for other men using this model. Clearly, we will need your support. If you are able or open to discussing how you can assist with these steps, please contact me and let’s talk. Until then, please pray for us and those we serve. These are difficult times for all of us, but most especially for those whose resources are so limited. Peace.



Image adapted from original construction drawings by William Turnbull & Associates

Mission Wishlist

- Prayers (Without them, nothing else matters. Really!)
- Good used furniture.
- Used bicycles
- Mattresses
- Blankets
- Kitchenware
- Towels
- Milk
- Coffee
- Laundry Soap
- HyVee Gift Cards
- Financial Support

Who are we ?

Our Mission: To share Christ’s love and provide biblically based services (works of mercy: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, etc.) that meet the spiritual and practical needs of the poor.

Vision: To provide vital, on-going services and programs to Dubuque’s poor and create new opportunities in education, job training and employment — helping to build self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty through faith in Jesus Christ.

Core Values: We honor God by trusting and obeying God. We believe that people matter most and that all interactions are opportunities to serve Christ in our brothers and sisters. We know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ transforms people’s lives. We minister to the whole person. We operate with integrity. We strive for excellence in all that we do.

When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty you gave me drink. When I was a stranger (homeless) you welcomed me in. When did we do this, Lord? When you did it to the least of these you did it to me.

Jesus of Nazareth

Lunch at the Rescue Mission: What I gave and what I received.

One early fall afternoon I was not at home drinking hot cocoa or sitting by the fire, but I was walking up the stairs of the Dubuque Rescue Mission in downtown Dubuque. The smell of hot chicken soup was in the air and hot cocoa was being given out to every person who wanted some. My family and friends surrounded me, and I was having a great time! My job was to serve hot cocoa, which was right next to the dining trays. After I served many adults cups of cocoa the next person I served was not quite an adult. I looked away, smiled and said “Would you like some hot cocoa?” I looked back to find a small girl looking up at me. She grinned and replied “Yes, please” in a thankful voice. I gave her some hot chocolate and said, “What’s your name?” “Cassandra” she said proudly, looking up at



Fall Volunteer Opportunities

- Serve meals and help clean-up
- Answer the Mission phone
- Help prepare garden for winter
- Sort donations in Thrift Store
- Maintenance skills needed
- Male spiritual mentors
- Work in the Mission Bike Shop
- Work at Thrift Store counter

If you are interested in volunteering please call us at: (563) 583-1394 or visit our website at: www.dbqrescue.org

her mother; “Same as mommy.” She was happy, but I could see the goosebumps on her half-bare arms. She looked cold. “Moria!” I called to my sister. “Would you do this job for a minute?” She took my spot as hot cocoa server, and I led little Cassandra to a good friend of mine. “Marcia?” I said to her. “Do you think you can find a coat and some warm gloves for Princess Cassandra?” She giggled, stuck her hand to her mouth and began sucking it. Marcia smiled. She took a bright pink coat with the shining face of perfect Princess Ariel, “How’s this, your majesty?” I looked at Cassandra. She took her hand away from her mouth and gave Marcia two thumbs up. She slipped on the coat and I handed her some purple gloves. She grabbed her mom’s hand and walked off happily. I went back to my job and was soon finished with my service. Nearly everyone in the dining hall was now gathered in a circle about the size of a movie theatre screen. We were all holding hands and the love felt in that circle was without a doubt a glimpse of heaven. I often wonder if this is what the early Christians had in mind when they wrote in the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 “they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone in need.”

* Editors note: If you are interested in donating some of your time to serve in one of our ministries, please call or email me at: mihmr@mchsi.com. We are confident that the gift of your time and talent will be returned ten-fold.