



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

SUMMER ISSUE 2014

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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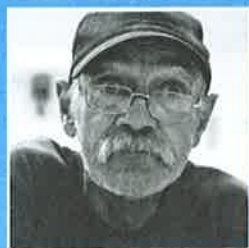
Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

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"I'm Home!"

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Mission's doors open 365 days a year

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I would drink myself almost to oblivion and then go to work

My name is Jeff. Thank you for making Chattanooga Rescue Mission available to me. Coming to the Mission saved my life. I say that because I was drinking myself to death. My drinking was hardcore. Industrial grade. I drank to relieve the stress in my life, but my addiction just about killed me. In the past, a typical day for me would be to wake up, vomit, grab my bottle, shake like an earthquake, go to the bathroom, and throw up some more until the shakes went away. That was my morning. *That was my life.* I would drink to excess each morning and then go to work. It might sound crazy, but I drank before work so I could go to work. I had a responsible job running chemical reactors, something I did for eighteen years.

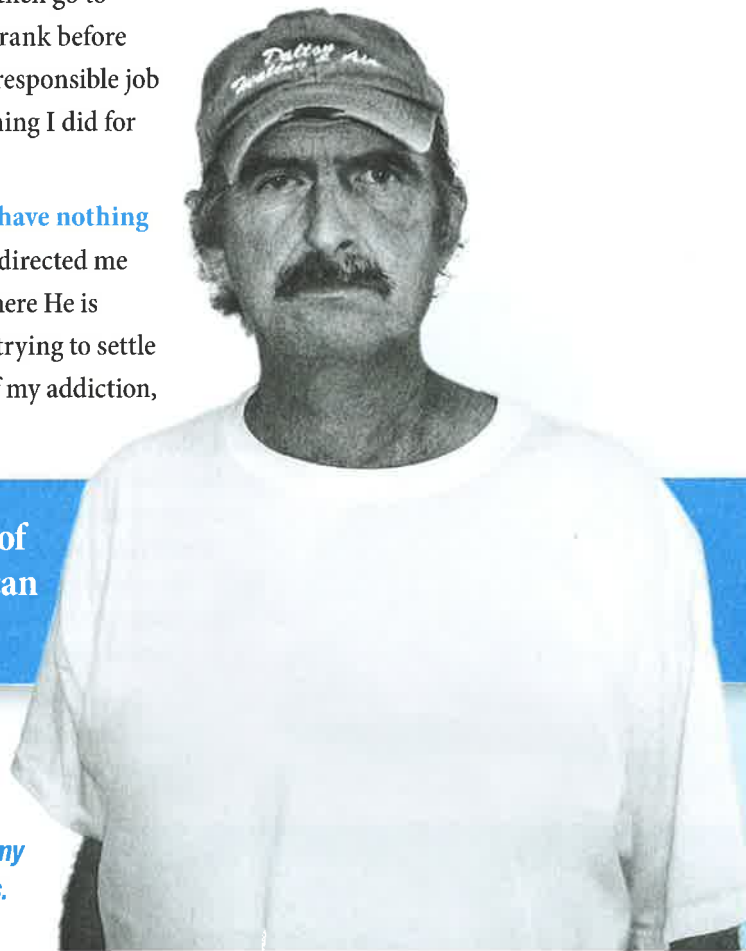
Without your support, we would have nothing

Then one day, God in His mercy directed me to Chattanooga Rescue Mission, where He is turning my life around. Today I'm trying to settle down. I'm still feeling the results of my addiction,

but today I can say I am free in Christ. My prayers are what keep me in touch with the Almighty. I now have hope. I'm so glad I'm a Christian. I don't have the words to express my appreciation to God, the Mission and to a friend like you. Your donations help produce miracles in so many lives. Without your expressions of love, we would have nothing. God bless you . . . and thank you again.

Your friend,

Jeff



"I'm still feeling the results of my addiction, but today I can say I am free in Christ."

I don't have the words to express my gratitude to you for your donations.

Dale Grisso, Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries

Dear Friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

I've had some familiarity in trying to find my way in the dark. I used to enjoy exploring caves, and I will never forget one experience a few years ago. I hadn't eaten too well before I went into the cave, and soon after entering my electrolytes began to drop. I was hungry and I became disoriented. I started to panic in the pitch-black darkness. At that moment all I wanted was light — even a glimmer of light.

That glimmer of light means hope is around the corner

In many ways, this is how many of our residents and overnight guests feel. They live in darkness. They are stuck. They panic. Many have burned all bridges with family. The further they descend into their caves of darkness the more despairing they become. That's why at the Mission we share Jesus Christ with them, the only one able to provide a way out of that darkness. Eventually, that slightest glimmer of hope becomes a beacon of light. As our friends absorb God's Word and enjoy Christian fellowship, they slowly move out of their caves of darkness. Before long, life becomes worth living and hope is restored.

Thank you for all you do to help make this hope and light possible for all who come to the doors of Chattanooga Rescue Mission. Your investments of money and acts of service are crucial to this ministry of rescue. As I write this I'm also thinking of you and the concerns you may have in your own life. Please know we pray for you daily. God bless you for all you do to make Christ known to those in need of a Savior.

Your servant to the needy,

Dale Grisso

Dale Grisso
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



"As our friends absorb God's Word and enjoy Christian fellowship, they slowly move out of their caves of darkness."

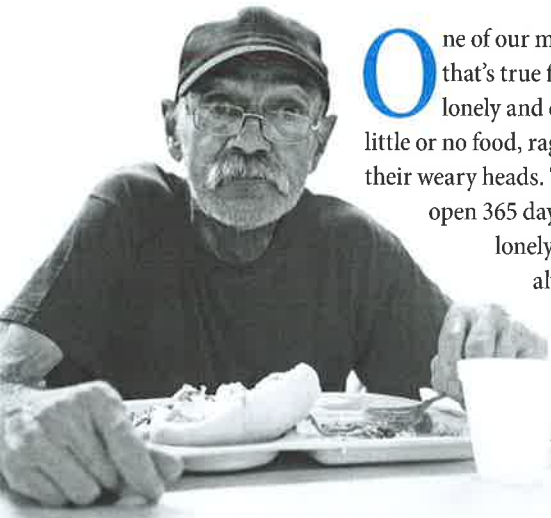
That's When I Know I'm Home

One of the people in our program recently said to me, "The first day I was here I knew I was home." It sounded rather strange to my ears for I have always known the stability of a home. But then I started putting myself in the shoes of many of those who look to the Chattanooga Rescue Mission for help. Many of them did not grow up in loving environments. They were told they were worthless, that they were ugly, and that no one would want them. Later in life when they struck out on their own, often at a very early age, they went through a series of failed relationships, and the negative feelings were only compounded by the job losses. By the time they became homeless, they presumed that either there was no love to be found in this world, or that they just were personally unlovable.

The Chattanooga Rescue Mission is "home" for many of our guests. How so? Well, home is where Mom and Dad are. For many, it was here that they came into the family of God. Secondly, home is where we like to be. It's cozy and comfortable; there's no other place like it. Compared to life on the streets, CRM is indeed that. Next, home offers a whole lot of love and total acceptance. Everybody wants you around and misses you when you are gone. Right again. Likewise, home is always stable. Mom and Dad don't seem to change a lot and the rules of the house are always the same. Check. Lastly, home is a place for wise counsel and constant encouragement and instruction. No wonder so many drop by for a visit just to hang around for a while, and come running whenever troubles and temptations are near. Home at last!

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Hunger, loneliness and despair refuse to take a summer vacation . . . and that's why your investment today is so vital



One of our most common fears is loneliness. If that's true for most of society, imagine how lonely and despairing it is for those who have little or no food, rags for clothes and no place to rest their weary heads. That's why the Mission's doors are open 365 days a year, seven days a week. The lonely are welcome here. The hungry will always find a good meal at no cost. Those seeking spiritual guidance can count on receiving God's great comfort when they need it most.

During these summer months our compassion for the poor is as strong as it is during the most

violent of winters. And that's why we need your ongoing support today . . . because hunger, loneliness and despair refuse to take a summer vacation.

Our guests will long remember your kindness

You've helped meet the concerns of so many in recent weeks, and we thank you. Now, with summer upon us, we have the opportunity to work together again to show our guests there's a better way to live. To help us respond to so many physical and spiritual needs, please use the reply slip enclosed and mail your generous gift today. Or you can make a donation on our secure website www.chattanoogarescuemission.org. Thank you for reaching out to the needy at Chattanooga Rescue Mission throughout the year — and especially during these critical summer months.

"During these summer months our compassion for the poor is as strong as it is during the most violent of winters."