



## Your support changed Ellis' life for good

It should have been enough for Ellis to get his life together, but it wasn't. He had been shot in the back, inches away from his heart. They needed to operate, but Ellis was so high on crack cocaine that they couldn't put him under for the surgery.

So they did the surgery while he was awake.

"But that experience still didn't stop me from using drugs," Ellis said. "I was out there with no purpose in life, in and out of prison. My life was a mess."

And it only got worse when Ellis discovered heroin.

"Heroin was the worst drug I ever tried," he said. "It was very addictive. I had to have it, and I got sick if I didn't have it. I overdosed twice and almost died."

During his final jail sentence, Ellis really began to examine his life and pray for guidance. His case manager in drug court suggested he go to The Rescue Mission for help once he was out of jail.

"I didn't know what to expect," Ellis said. "The only thing I knew was that people were saying hi to me and shaking my hand. They were welcoming me to The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission, and I wasn't used to that. I was used to being on the streets doing my thing."

"I began to feel loved. I decided that maybe I could do something with my life at The Rescue Mission."

Ellis said The Rescue Mission's long-term program made him not only a clean and sober

person, but a stronger person. He said he has great respect and love for Rescue Mission staff who never gave up on him.

Ellis is also thankful for all of the experiences he's had at The Rescue Mission.

"I have been to places I would have never gone to, like the Grand Wayne Center, Tin Caps games, and Mad Ants games," Ellis said. "I've had so much fun, and I am so grateful that I came through this program. It really straightened me out."

Ellis is busy working two jobs these days, and also makes it a point to try and inspire men who are currently in the program at The Rescue Mission.

"I recovered from 30 years of addiction," he said. "If I can do it, anybody can do it."

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

## The homeless need you more than ever

Dear Friends,

When the temps rise, the giving falls. But the needs of the homeless are still there in the summer months. Not only that, but we're in the middle of making Fort Wayne a City on a Hill with our building campaign for a new Rescue Mission.

My prayer is that you will talk with God to see how you will support our community's homeless population going forward. We're asking our

friends and neighbors to do three things: pray, give, and share.

**Pray** for Fort Wayne, our community, the homeless, volunteers, and Rescue Mission staff.

**Give** of your time to learn about the issue of homelessness. Give your hands to serve our residents, and give what you are able to financially.

Finally, share. **Share** with

friends and family what God is doing at The Rescue Mission.

Together, we are changing lives for good!



*Donovan A. Coley*

Learn more at

[CityOnAHill.net](http://CityOnAHill.net)

## You helped Lynn overcome addiction

Lynn had reached her breaking point. After 35 years of addiction, periods of homelessness, and abuse, she finally cried out to God.

"Lord, I can't do this no more," she prayed. "You've got to help me. If you don't help me, I don't know what's going to happen. If you don't heal me right now, just let me die. I can't live like this anymore."

For the first time in decades, a peace swept over Lynn, and she knew what she needed to do. She called her sister, came back to Fort Wayne, and was ready to make a change. She tried a few different recovery programs in Fort Wayne, but nothing was working out. Then, she got the call that Charis House had an opening.

"When I got to Charis House, I was so broken. I was battered, I had just been attacked. I was desperate, and I was depressed," she said. "I was riddled with guilt and shame. Most of all, I felt unloved."

God used Charis House to change everything for Lynn. She worked her steps, listened in class, attended chapel every morning, and made life-long friendships.

**"I never have to be homeless again."**

Lynn gets emotional when she talks about how she feels about Rescue Mission staff. She said they are true angels.

"It wasn't until I came to Charis House that I really found out what love was,

because of the grace of God and the obedience of the people here who sacrifice and work at The Rescue Mission," she said. "They showed me what being loved really means and what it looks like."

"I'm so glad that it's over, finally," she said of her 35 years of addiction. "They say you can never say 'never' but I disagree. I have a God that tells me I don't ever have to use drugs again. I never have to be homeless again."



# Building Bonds in The Old Fort

Can you imagine wanting to do something good and volunteer, but being told you can't? That was the issue facing Rescue Mission Phase Re-Entry Coordinator, Dave Pitcher. Phase Re-Entry is a fairly new initiative at The Rescue Mission, tailored for men just out of long-term incarceration.

Pitcher was looking for volunteer opportunities for the men in Phase Re-Entry, as they learn a lot about building community.

"There are two sides to community: those who support us, and those who we support," Pitcher said. "By volunteering, we actively support our community."

But Pitcher quickly found few places were willing to allow convicted felons to volunteer with their organization.

"These men have served their time and are free, yet many doors remain closed to them," Pitcher said.

Someone suggested that Pitcher reach out to Bob Jones with The Old Fort. Jones didn't respond with trepidation, fear, or judgment.

Pitcher saw a true brother in Christ in Jones, who has welcomed the Phase Re-Entry participants with open arms. Jones is a retired elementary teacher who does an excellent job of sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of The Old Fort with the men while they volunteer.

**"In The Old Fort there is no desk between us, just the clean air and a sense that we are contributing to something very special."**



"Jones' knowledge really deepens our appreciation for the incredible structures and spaces in which we are volunteering," Pitcher said.

In their first few volunteer experiences at The Old Fort, men split wood by hand, planted high-traffic sod, worked in the garden, moved gravel, stocked rooms with firewood, and cleaned and swept the buildings.

"By volunteering at The Old Fort we are able to help support an exciting local tourist attraction and are given the opportunity to physically delve into the history of our city," Pitcher said.

Phase Re-Entry men have loved the experience so far, and it's



changed the way they look at volunteering. It's also been a positive experience for staff.

"What I have enjoyed the most is building relationships with these men outside the office," Pitcher said. "In The Old Fort there is no desk between us, just the clean air and a sense that we are contributing to something very special. I know the men are excited to return as soon as possible!"

# SAVE THE DATE

The Rescue Mission's 2019 Annual

# Fall Banquet

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Stay tuned to [TheRescueMission.net](http://TheRescueMission.net) for ticket sales!



*Featured Guest:*

Christian recording artist Anthony Evans

## Corporate Partners

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



[TheRescueMission.net](http://TheRescueMission.net)



**YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD.** People like Ellis and Lynn are overcoming decades of substance abuse, and men just out of prison are getting another shot at life. Lives are changing because of you! **Will you continue to support men, women, and children who are facing a homeless crisis by sending in your best gift today?**

## 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 see  
more people  
change their  
lives for good

