



REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Kallista was nine months pregnant when she came to The Rescue Mission seeking safety. She had left a traumatic situation and found herself unhoused, needing help accessing even the most basic resources. “Kallista gave birth to Andi less than three weeks after checking into Charis House,” says Wanda Demeke, Sr. Director of Program Services.

The real journey began when Kallista left the hospital and returned to Charis House with Andi. “At first, Kallista didn’t know how to prepare a bottle for Andi,” says Julie Conroy, Director of Children’s Ministries. “But the more we poured into her, the more we began to see her knowledge grow and healing take place.”

The staff at Charis House walked alongside Kallista and Andi,

ensuring that Andi made it to all her doctor appointments. The team dedicated themselves to teaching Kallista how to be the best mom she could be. “Over time, we began to see an incredible change,” says Julie. “It’s like the lights began to come on and she could trust us. She allowed us to help her.”

Kallista had spent her first six months at Charis House in near silence, maintaining a stern countenance when interacting with her class instructors, case managers, and peers. “She started smiling and even cracking jokes,” says Wanda. “It was a total turnaround.”

Kallista was determined to care for Andi and herself. She took a steady job with a reputable employer in their housekeeping department. “There was never any question of her love for and

devotion to Andi,” says Julie. “We gave her the tools and she cared for her daughter.”

Nearly two years after she checked into Charis House, Kallista now has an apartment. She no longer rides four

“Kallista gave birth to Andi less than three weeks after checking into Charis House.”

separate buses to and from work because she owns a car. She still works for the same company and, by the grace of God, has found a stable life for her and Andi to enjoy. “I know she believes in God,” says Julie. “At Charis House she saw that God is a good God.”





PUSHING PIECES: CHESS AT TRM

Brian Walker founded the TakeaStan Chess Club in his son's memory, and its growth has been nothing short of a miracle. Walker now partners with the Boys and Girls Club and hosts chess events throughout Fort Wayne. Sunday, November 14th, Walker is hosting an event at 2609 Fairfield Avenue that will bring Chess Master Justus Williams to Fort Wayne and offer live jazz, guest speakers, and a chess tournament. Walker has also been working with the city of Fort Wayne and recently had a hand in four permanent chess tables being set up in Freimann Square.

Despite his busy schedule, Walker dedicates time every Monday night to come to The Rescue Mission and play chess with men experiencing a homeless crisis. "There's a story behind each of these men," says Walker, "they're capable and many of them are striving to get their lives on track." Walker not only plays chess with the men but teaches as well.

One guy I spoke with had just served 20 years in prison. He looked up while we were playing and said, 'If I had kept the principles of this game I wouldn't have lost so much time.'

"It's the same approach we take with kids," says Walker, "There are consequences when you make decisions. You have to think strategically; these are life skills." Walker loves to play and teach chess, and his passion for this work is easy to see.

For Walker, his time at The Rescue Mission is personal. "I grew up with some of the men I see here," Walker says, "we went to school together or worked together. One guy I spoke with had just served 20 years in prison. He looked up while we were playing and said 'If I had kept the principles of this game, I wouldn't have lost so much time.'"

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer at The Rescue Mission and making a real change in someone's life, please visit our website at fwrn.org/volunteer.



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Monthly giving is the most important part of creating sustainable funding. The Rescue Mission receives no government funding, and our services are made possible by donations from businesses, foundations, and donors like you. Here are a few reasons to consider switching to monthly giving:

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SHORT-TERM: IMPACT

The Rescue Mission's Short-Term Program is a vocational program intentionally designed to serve men who are working and are in need of case management, support systems, and financial skills to ensure their stability and success. Tony Guy, Director of Workforce Development oversees the program, walking alongside each Short-Term Resident offering resources, relationships, and Christ-centered collaboration.

"I have a history with addiction," says Guy. "When I sit with a new Resident, that's me 30 years ago, I'm that person in the other chair. This is why I love what I do; I get to see men grow." Guy has been on staff with The Rescue Mission for 12 years. He has seen programming grow exponentially in that time and has been an integral part of that expansion.

Short-Term Residents take a six-week Financial Literacy class in which a facilitator from First Merchant's Bank comes to The Rescue Mission and covers topics from understanding one's credit score to the benefits of a savings account.

Short-Term Residents also enroll in a course called "New Directions" which is offered in the morning and evening to accommodate various work schedules. In "New Directions," Residents gain coping skills to use when facing anger, stress, family problems, and spiritual concerns. This

"When I sit with a new Resident, that's me 30 years ago, I'm that person in the other chair."



Christ-centered course meets men where they are and seeks to give them the tools they need to break free from past behaviors as they forge new relationships and careers.

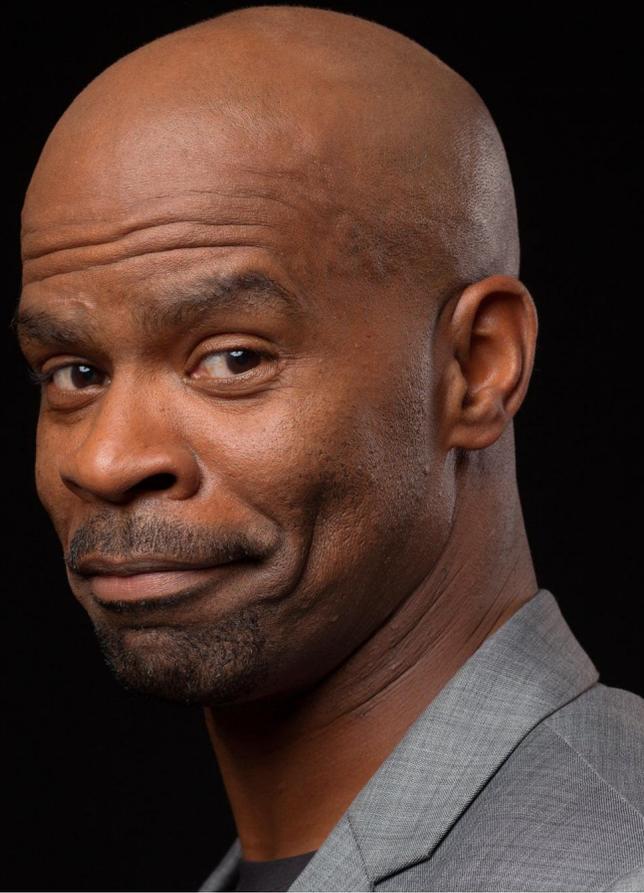
"We offer wrap-around services to our Short-Term Residents," Guy says. "We prayerfully seek growth, to see men connected not just to jobs, but to spiritual healing in Christ as well."

SAVE THE DATE

THE RESCUE MISSION'S FALL BANQUET

FEATURING MICHAEL JR.

THURSDAY NOV. 10



fwrn.org



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