

HIS HANDS

REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES

NO LONGER BROKEN

Joan Finds Her Calling at Laura's Home



Perseverance in Uncertainty



Rev. Richard Trickel
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friend,

How has your life changed since the March edition of *His Hands*? I imagine your answer is as complicated and unforeseen as ours is here at The City Mission. The COVID-19 pandemic brought immense scheduling, structure, and operational alterations to our entire organization. We scaled back programming, shifted staff responsibilities, and reorganized activities to follow CDC guidelines. Strangely, in as many ways as the virus forced us physically apart, it brought our people mentally and emotionally together.

We felt that unity with our community as well. During the initial weeks of the Stay at Home order we saw a swelling of support through prayer, financial gifts, Amazon Wish List needs met, and notes of encouragement. There are no words to describe our gratitude for God's provision through your generosity.

Extra operational expenses due to the coronavirus were and are a real challenge for The City Mission. We were forced to suspend volunteer activities (which caused an immediate financial burden for us — see left) and we remain committed to not receiving government funding. An unprecedented crisis of this nature implores us to lean into the kindness of our community even still.

While we do not know the fullness of what the coming months will bring, we do know that the repercussions of a weakened economy and healthcare system will bring unexpected people into our care. With your continued support we will help them regain independence, just as we were able to help Joan.

I pray that Joan's hope in God's power to change circumstances will inspire you to feel that same confidence in your own story, no matter what today brings.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev Richard Trickel".



*These numbers are estimated extra weekly costs to the Mission due to COVID-19 based on previous volunteer work and cleaning supply orders.

YOU GAVE JOAN A PLACE

"I came here broken, and God is healing me."



Joan never thought she would leave her husband. They had been married for almost 30 years, and she had suffered mental and emotional abuse during most of them. But when he raised his hand to her, and she hit back, Joan knew it was time to walk away. "God finally gave me the strength to leave," she says. "Things had to change, or I wasn't coming back."

Things had to change not only in Joan's marriage but in her heart. After staying with a friend, she knew she had to take the next step toward healing. That meant coming to Laura's Home.

When she arrived and learned what the year-long program entailed, Joan wondered if she would be able to get through it. "I thought about leaving, but I decided to stay and let God work on me," she says. "I've learned so much from the classes; they helped me so much. God showed me things I needed to change. I came here really broken and hurt, and God is healing me, delivering me, and setting me free."

A Calling to Ministry

Since coming to Laura's Home, Joan has discovered a calling to

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me."

minister to the young women in the program. "We pray and have Bible studies. I tell them what I've been through, how great God is, and what He's done for me, He can do for them."

Now that Joan has graduated the Laura's Home program she is considering how to use the healing she received to pour into others. Joan calls her ministry Compassion of Christ. "It's going to come forth one day," she says. "As He pulls me up, I can pull these women up. That's why I'm here, to let Him work on me and to minister to these women."

Many of the women at Laura's Home, Joan tells us, see God as a harsh father figure. "They've never been loved, and they don't know what love is. I tell them God isn't waiting for them to mess up so He can punish them. He's a kind and loving God."

A Miracle in the Making

God's mercy has had a profound effect on Joan's relationship with her husband. She has no plans to divorce him. "In my heart, I'm still right by his side. But he has to change too and get right with God. He's been an alcoholic and drug addict since childhood, but people can change. I'm going to wait for God. There's a miracle in the making right now. It will all come together."

As she waits for that miracle for her husband, Joan is busy building her new life. She recently moved into an apartment and at the time of writing this article was actively applying to jobs in her neighborhood. But she is not leaving Laura's Home behind. On Tuesday nights, she comes back as a volunteer to share her testimony. "I want to show these girls that God loves and cares about them, regardless of how the world treated them. He wants to make them whole and deliver them from their past. That's what He did for me."



"There's a miracle in the making right now. It will all come together."

Team Captains Stay On Course with Creative Fundraising Ideas!

With the date of Running with a Mission moving from June 13 to October 3, we now have more time to make the event — including Team Captain Fundraising — bigger and better than ever this year! Team Captains are special champions for the work of the Mission. Each one has set a goal to raise a dollar amount of their choice through their online fundraising page by the time the race kicks off on October 3. Here are two unique ways Team Captains are using their talents to ask their community to make a difference with them.

Mike Campbell has been volunteering with The City Mission since he was a young student, but this past year he decided to deepen his dedication to the Mission by becoming Chair of our new Associate Board. One of the Associate Board's main responsibilities is to organize and raise funds for Running with a Mission, and Mike is meeting his Team Captain goal in an amazing way: by raffling off a custom-made dining room table! Here's more from a quick interview with Mike:

TCM: Why are you supporting our work at The City Mission?

Mike: I love your work because you understand that many different influences play a role in someone



Team Captain Mike Campbell hand-crafted a custom-made dining room table to be raffled off!

becoming homeless. Your programming puts in the extra effort to identify and repair the trauma that brought individuals to crisis so they can move forward with a better life.

TCM: How did you come up with your creative fundraising idea?

Mike: I wanted to show others they could use their unique strengths to support their favorite organization in

RUNNING WITH A MISSION *continued from inside*

creative ways. Everyone has something special they can do to give back to their community and have fun doing it!

TCM: What is your fundraising goal for Running with a Mission?

Mike: Anyone who donates \$20 or more to my page will be entered into the drawing for the dining room table. My goal is to raise \$2,000 and have at least 15 different donors. I hope you'll join me in supporting such an impactful organization!

Emily Van Vranken is the Volunteer and Internship Services Assistant at The City Mission. She is fundraising for her Team Captain page by inviting more people into sharing her passion for our clients,



art, and running. Much like Mike, Emily is giving everyone who donates at a certain level a chance to win a custom wood-burning of their home! This is what she had to say about her creative fundraising tactics:

TCM: How did you become involved with The City Mission?

Emily: I first learned about The City Mission seven years ago when I spent a summer interning with the organization. Now I've been on staff for three years! I love that

spiritual, physical, and emotional transformation rooted in Christ really is taking place in the lives of those we serve. It's witnessing those moments and hearing those stories that remind me why the work we do matters.

TCM: What made you choose art to raise funds?

Emily: Art is a passion of mine, and I love finding ways to integrate it into all spheres of life. Raffleing off some art to raise money for the Run seemed like a worthwhile way to do that!

TCM: What do you hope to accomplish for Running with a Mission?

Emily: My goal is to gain more traction to my personal fundraising page, and as a result, make people more aware of what The City Mission is doing to serve men, women, and children in crisis.

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