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the ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION  
rescuer

**YOUR SUPPORT  
IS GIVING  
GENÉ  
A SECOND  
CHANCE**

and she can't thank  
you enough!



# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

It starts with a meal for \$2.05!



A Message from CEO  
SHERRY PITNEY

## Every Day, Our Thrift Store Restores Lives

My first volunteer experience at the Mission was in our original thrift store on Seventh Street, Ye Olde Rescue Shoppe. I was dating my future husband, Perry, the son of the Mission's cofounders. Perry's job was to run the store, so I helped by sorting clothes in the basement.

This was 1979, the year the store opened. Since then, the Mission has had stores in seven other locations – including our Thrift Store, 2710 20th St., which opened in 2012.

Today's Thrift Store is a far cry from Ye Olde Rescue Shoppe, or for that matter, most stores that sell donated items. For one, it's huge - 56,000 square feet in what was once Bob's Hardware, one of Rockford's first "big box" stores. It's ultra-clean and well-lit, with a vast selection of quality clothing, jewelry, furniture, housewares, antiques, toys, sporting goods and more. Plus, our drive-through donation center is convenient and efficient, considering the thousands of items donated and processed each week.

I'm so thankful for our dedicated staff, community volunteers, and for so many of you who donate high-quality items and also shop both at our Thrift Store and at Nettie's Mercantile. You are directly supporting the life-changing ministry of the Mission.



Partners in Hope,

*Sherry Pitney*

Sherry Pitney  
CEO

## 3 MONTHS OF *Summer*

Help meet our community's needs

Your gift today helps provide:



39,563 meals



11,721 beds



thousands of  
hygiene items



countless hours of  
advocacy & education



life-transforming decisions  
for Christ

**DONATIONS SLOW DOWN IN SUMMER...  
PLEASE HELP TODAY!**



**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**

98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN



Share a gift now! [rockfordrescuemission.org](http://rockfordrescuemission.org)

Do you know our

**SUMMER 6?**



Our Summer 6 are essential items in high demand for our guests all summer long.

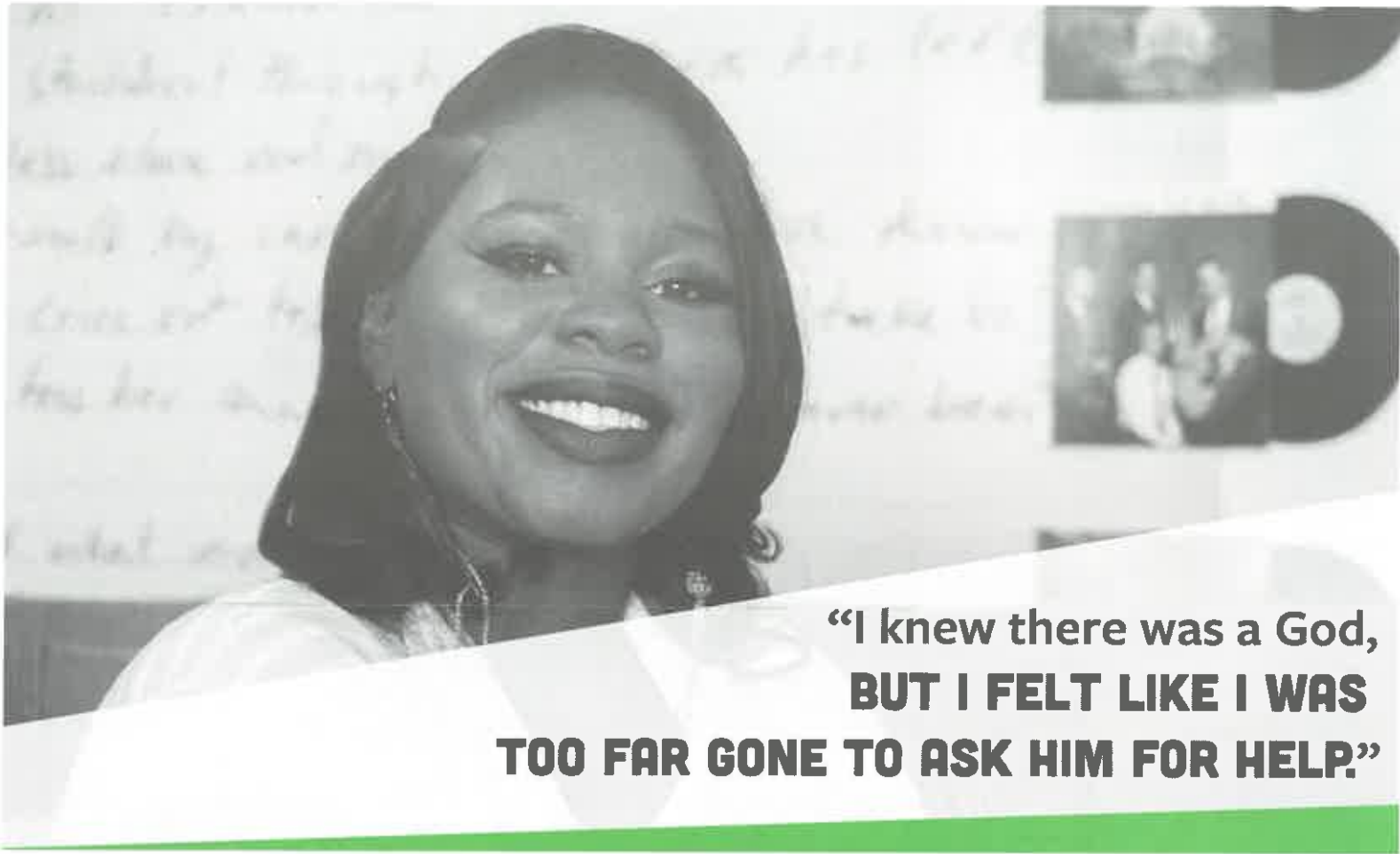
**We'd LOVE if you helped by donating any – or all – of these items!**

You can deliver your Summer 6 donations to 715 W. State St. in Rockford on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It's a great way to care for our guests this summer!



1. Bottled water
2. Flip flops – all sizes
3. Sunscreen lotion – individual packets
4. Lysol/Clorox wipes
5. Paper towels
6. Laundry soap





**“I knew there was a God,  
BUT I FELT LIKE I WAS  
TOO FAR GONE TO ASK HIM FOR HELP.”**

## **GENÉ'S STORY**

**T**he Roseland community on Chicago's south side was not the safest place to grow up. My grandma raised me in a Christian environment, but I kept losing the strong roots that had helped me walk through my faith. My beloved pastor got called to Africa for missionary work. Counselors would get sent back home because they had earned their master's degrees by working in my neighborhood. I felt alone in the stuff I was dealing with. Worse, I felt like God didn't understand.

And I was dealing with a lot. Cycles of violence and abuse. Terrible family secrets. After my grandmother passed, I fell into alcohol and drugs. Years later, I moved to Rockford to escape an abuser, but I didn't escape abuse. A home invasion threatened my four kids and me. More abuse happened after that, and the only way I dealt with it all was by using.

The day the state took custody of my kids, I made them a tearful promise. “Mommy loves you. Mommy will come back for you. Mommy won't give up, but Mommy needs help.”

I ended up coming to Rockford Rescue Mission's Women's Crisis Center, and then the Life Recovery Program. It felt like home – back when none of that crazy stuff was happening. I felt safe.

I used to be one of those Christian kids who could recite the Bible – Old Testament, New Testament. I can still remember a lot of those verses. But they mean something now. Before, I was learning them in Christian school for points. But when I had those scary times, I didn't go to those verses.

Now, with help from the Mission staff and the other residents, I'm literally putting it into practice. God is a just and true God. What He says, He means. Fall into Him and it will be all right. I see that more and more every day.

I am considering going back to college to finish my degree, or to cosmetology school to be a hairdresser. But no matter where the Lord leads, my priority is being a good mother.

Right now, I'm just seeing what God wants because He knows the desires in my heart. My goal is to be a sober mommy first, and I'll just leave it at that.

My life has turned around here, and I'm on track to get my kids back. I am also learning patience. When I arrived, I wanted to “microwave” things for a quick solution, but what I needed was to open up and get genuine with people. Thank God, the Mission has helped me to do that.

# Doubly blessed by General Mills of Belvidere



General Mills in Belvidere recently approved a grant application from Rockford Rescue Mission – for twice the amount we requested! Thanks to General Mills, we can now purchase the following items for our heavily used kitchen and meal-service area:

- Heavy-duty wire food storage racks for our pantry
- A commercial grade, heavy-duty electric can opener, capable of opening hundreds of canned goods daily
- A stainless-steel table for sanitary food preparation
- A ceiling fan for the food storage area
- Two cafeteria tables for the dining area
- A computer tablet and hardware, including an anti-theft device and software, for efficient check-in of our food service volunteers

Each of these items enables us to serve our community more safely and efficiently. Thank you, General Mills, for your generosity!

## Your Cast-Offs Can Become Someone Else's Treasures

The Mission's Thrift Store is truly community in action. It's a great place to donate gently used clothing, household goods, antiques, furniture and accessories. Our staff and volunteers process hundreds of donated items daily – meaning our store is different every day, with hundreds of new, low-cost items to discover. Even better, all Thrift Store sales directly benefit the life-changing ministry of Rockford Rescue Mission.

The Thrift Store is located at 2710 20th St., just south of Harrison Avenue. We're open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Summer is an especially busy season for donations. We offer a convenient, drive-through donation center at the rear of the store so you don't even have to get out of your car! Check our donation days and hours at [rockfordrescuemission.org/thrift-store](http://rockfordrescuemission.org/thrift-store). For large furniture, call **815-316-4144** to schedule a pickup.

**THRIFT  
STORE**  
ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR... SHARE TODAY!

Sherry, here's my special summertime gift to provide meals, shelter, care – and hope.

- \$25       \$50  
 \$75       \$100  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible  
 **Make my gift monthly! (see back of form)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your gift in the envelope provided.

CHECK ENCLOSED     BILL MY CREDIT CARD

VISA     M.C.     DISCOVER     AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CIV/SEC # \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Donate now! ☎ 815-965-5332**

[rockfordrescuemission.org](http://rockfordrescuemission.org)

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