



# INNER CITY MISSION

helping the homeless find lasting stability



**A New Year at ICM / Whitli's Story / Christmas 2016  
Praise and Prayer / Current needs**

## A New Year at ICM

God is good and never fails to provide for our needs. With your support, blessed friends, ICM continues to help the homeless find their way Home as we enter 2017.

Our desire for the coming year is that God will clear a path to our door for those with no direction, and that those who need His love will find it here in abundance.

This will be an exciting year as we work to expand the physical capacity of our shelter by renovating "Miss Daisy's House." Six additional rooms will mean six more families or homeless women off the street and under the love of Christ *every night*. We ask you to bring your prayers to this ambitious project. Stay tuned for further details.

May God bless you and yours in this coming year as you have blessed this ministry.



Thanks to our friends at Celebrate Recovery for a rousing breakfast Christmas Day.

## Whitli's Story

Maintaining a job has never been a problem for Whitli, a single mother of three. But maintaining healthy relationships has been. Family discord and personal conflicts brought her and her kids to homelessness.

Back in 2013 after an ended relationship, Whitli left her children in the care of an aunt. She travelled to Arizona to stay with her sister and focus on earning some money. Within a few days she found work, but squabbles arose in the household, and she had to abandon that plan.

Back in Illinois with the children, Whitli was put out of an apartment because her kids couldn't get along with the children of a roommate. This brought her to ICM, but even that blew up after a few months when Whitli found herself arguing with staff and unable to get along. She left the facility and continued in a pattern of maintaining employment but losing housing. In June of 2016, out of resources, she again turned to ICM.

This time Whitli was surprised to be asked to give up the one thing she thought she had going for her: her job. "I gave two weeks notice at my nursing home CNA job a month into being here. It was hard getting back and forth, my car breaking down.... Mr. Payne thought I was putting too much on myself."

Whitli took ICM classes, beginning with one entitled 'Safe People.' "A lot of my problem was how I picked people. My family was dysfunctional and I didn't have any real friends. Now, I do. Brie (shelter supervisor) is my best friend."

As she becomes more stable in her ability to relate to others, Whitli attends classes that will train her to be a medical assistant—a job with duties similar to an LPN. "I've always done medical work," she says. "I'd like to work in a doctor's office and take continuing education in the future."

"I am so grateful for ICM," Whitli says. They have helped me so much with myself and growth and understanding. My kids are doing wonderful in school....

"Christmas was awesome. I don't know the last time someone bought me a gift. Seeing my kids faces just light up because of what people had done for them...."



## ICM Current Needs

Did you know that Inner City Mission uses 1,200 rolls of toilet paper every year? Thanks to a big donation from Southside Christian Church we're "flush" in that regard for the time being, but we do need....

- Dish Soap
- 42 gallon trash bags
- Diapers in sizes
- Industrial-sized coffee filters





## CHRISTMAS 2016



Many volunteers, supporters, and donors came together to make Christmas at Inner City Mission a special memory for our residents (especially the children). Any attempt to list them all would be futile. We want to say one last thank you to everyone involved.

As we close out this holiday season we want to offer a farewell nod to Candace Maynard, our long-time staff member who called up the stairs every Christmas morning for so many years, calling the little ones down. ICM's "Christmas Elf," Candace organized the gift drive each year in addition to her other responsibilities. Candace is still part of the family, but she's moved on from ICM and is driving a truck now.

Beginning with this Christmas, the wild sleigh ride that is Christmas season at ICM is under the control of Stability Coach Brie Higginson (pictured above). She bears the responsibility of coordinating gift-giving to make sure every resident and child receives appropriate gifts and nobody gets left out.

"It's been a wonderful experience, working with this," Brie says. "It was crazy that before I even reached out, people started calling me. Churches, people working in an office who wanted to do something... It is a ripple effect of people wanting to help out.

"Christmas morning, I was here to watch them open gifts. It was great, not just because of the presents, but residents got to see family they don't see often. It was so exciting for the kids and family members. I know most of them have bad memories of holiday experiences, so this has to be a good memory they'll hold on to for the rest of their lives."



## Praises & Prayers

**Please join us in praising God** that our resident children are all in school, receiving good reports, and staying focused on their studies.

**Be in Prayer** for a family whose children are no longer in our care. May the seeds we planted while they were with us take root. May God continue to find ways to speak to the parents.

**Continue to pray with us** for those who struggle with addiction, that they may rely on Christ for strength and peace and recovery.

**Praise God** for the success of some residents/families that are preparing to move into homes of their own, more stable and capable than ever before. May He continue to watch over them.

Pray God encourage and strengthen our staff this coming year. Bless and encourage as well those who work on behalf of the



**Praise God for providing above and beyond expectation.** ICM was surprised a few months ago when a group in Pana decided to present ICM with this lovely "People Mover." This will come in especially handy after the expansion!

**Pray for a smooth expansion process** and for God to release the funds that will be needed. Pray that those who come to ICM looking for shelter will find it. That needs will be met and chaos calmed for however long

poor and infirm whose work is affected by  
state financial difficulties.

God honors us with the privilege of working  
on behalf of His kingdom.

Visit our Website

Inner City Mission | 217-525-3940 | [Email](#)

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