

the MESSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — *Together*

MARCH 2020

Restoring
Hope
70 for
Years



Thank you for welcoming neighbors like Ondron and equipping them with faith, skills and purpose for their future.



A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Seven decades of service in the name of Jesus

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

2 COR. 5:20A

Dear Friend,

If you do anything over the course of 70 years, it might naturally start to feel like a routine or “get old.”

But for the past seven decades, Carriage Town Ministries has engaged in a mission of which I’ll never tire -- witnessing God breathe new life into the hearts of men, women and children.

When Carriage Town Ministries began in 1950, Flint, Michigan and the surrounding area looked quite different than it does today. Thanks in part to the booming automobile industry, jobs were good and the housing market stable. But a strong economy doesn’t fill the void that exists when Jesus isn’t part of your life. In response to neighbors who found themselves in need of hope, Carriage Town Ministries opened its doors, welcoming guests (usually men at that time) with meals, shelter and the Gospel.

Every day for the past seventy years, God has spoken to folks seeking purpose, hope, and redemption -- and He has used ordinary vessels like you and me to deliver the message.

In this issue of *The Messenger*, you’ll read about one of those guests, Ondron, who suffered from medical issues and unsteady work after serving in the military. It’s been an honor to help him regain stable housing in his life, and he is deeply grateful for your generosity. On the following pages, you’ll also learn how the needs of guests have changed over the years and how your compassion has always risen to meet the challenge.

Thank you for the special role you have played in Carriage Town Ministries’ journey during these past 70 years.

Together, we’ve experienced many chapters in our history, and we are grateful for the Author whose steady hand fills each page with grace and redemption. His story never gets old.

Born and raised in Flint, Ondron felt at home because of your compassion

Just two years after Carriage Town Ministries opened in 1950, Ondron was born here in Flint. He remembers his time at Flint Northwestern High School before he decided to serve honorably in the Navy.

After being discharged, Ondron came back to Michigan, but his

health was in decline. Suffering from kidney failure, Ondron was put on dialysis to keep his body in balance. The physical pain led to emotional and spiritual pain, too.

“When I got sick, I became depressed,” Ondron shares.

His health made consistent work difficult, so Ondron scraped by as best he could. He shared apartments with friends and even came to Carriage Town Ministries for meals during especially hard times. Ondron hopped around from place to place, unable to find stable, long-term housing.

Earlier this year, his housing options literally dried up when Ondron’s landlord stopped paying the water bill even though Ondron was paying his rent. After his water was shut off, Ondron continued living without running water for another three months.

“I got tired of living in that hard situation,” says Ondron.

Thankfully, Ondron knew about the resources your generosity provides for neighbors in need. Even though he spent most of his life in Flint, your compassion truly made him feel at home at Carriage Town Ministries.

“They really listen and understand what you’re going through here,” Ondron says. “But that’s not all. I’m also more patient and not as quick to get a bad attitude.”

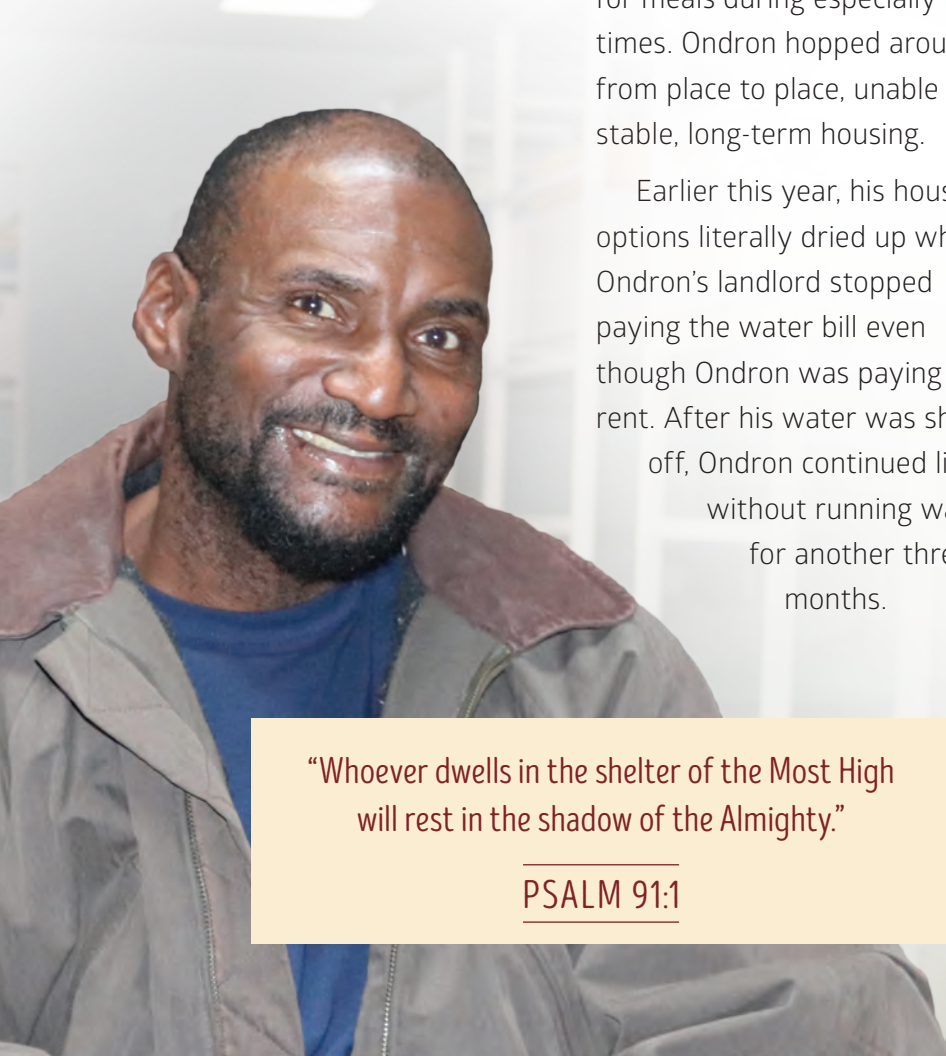
Because of the temporary housing you provided Ondron, he saved money and had time to look for a new place to live.

Today, Ondron is grateful for a new lease, not just on his own apartment, but on his life.

“I appreciate everything they’ve done for me,” Ondron expresses to friends like you! “I have no outstanding debts and am starting a new chapter in my life. You have really helped me a lot.”

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”

PSALM 91:1



Creating a Sense of Home

CELEBRATING
70 YEARS
OF COMPASSION

Over the past seventy years, Carriage Town Ministries has striven to follow Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25 of welcoming the stranger and providing a place for neighbors to rest.



In our early years, housing options were limited and usually meant temporary housing, mostly for men, until they got back on their feet. But the dorm rooms were cramped, dark and not necessarily inviting.



In 1988, we moved into our current location at 605 Garland Street. Handmade quilts from our volunteers helped create a much more inviting atmosphere.



In 1992, we moved into our Family Center that allowed us to serve the growing number of women and children in our community.



In recent years, we expanded the Family Center to allow for more space and specialized rooms like our "New Moms' Room".



Today, our Bassett Success House provides transitional living for guests who are working, living in community, and employed with jobs sufficient to pay rent and buy their own food. They live as family and are applying God's principles to support themselves and others. Praise God!

Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

Gifts received September 26, 2019 to January 31, 2020

An honor or memorial gift to Carriage Town Ministries is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member. Our deepest sympathies are with friends who have lost loved ones.

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name

of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

Carriage Town Ministries
P.O. Box 318
Flint, MI 48501

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card.

Thank you!

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Bake Fresh Friday is Back



We're eager to announce our upcoming 8th Annual Bake Fresh Friday on April 3, 2020, made possible by a generous gift from the Genesee Valley Rotary Club.

This year, the aroma of bread, cakes, and pies will descend upon Mott Community College. Instructors and students will work alongside our residents from morning until late afternoon, teaching and sharing tips about baked goods.

The new location will allow residents from Carriage Town Ministries to experience a college environment and talk with culinary arts professors about life in the food industry. All baked goods will go back to Carriage Town Ministries to delight our dinner guests in the days and months ahead.

Special thanks to Mott Community College and the Genesee Valley Rotary Club for their work in helping our guests reclaim productive skills and confidence!



Wise Stewardship Of Your Generous Donations



Carriage Town Ministries is committed to excellence in financial accountability. We've earned a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator for our transparency, with 85% of your dollars going directly to ministry. Thank you for your continued support!

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Our Mission

is to provide help, hope, and the Good News to our community through the skills and means of God's people and the transforming power of Christ's love.



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