



September 2020 Newsletter

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK:

"Economics and Homelessness"

At the Panama City Rescue Mission, our vision is to become a widely recognized primary gathering place for gospel-centered life-transformation by providing the inspiration and services that will stimulate effective collaboration without compromise and uphold personal development within community as the clear and compelling pathway out of recurring crisis. As followers of Jesus, we are about helping people with Rescue, Redemption, Rehabilitation, and Re-Assimilation.

As the Pandemic continues to challenge everyone, it's important to look at our values while evaluating and moving with a changing world. Today, nearly six months after COVID-19 prompted a nationwide economic shutdown, millions of Americans can't pay their rent. In August alone nearly 25 million were unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic. The U.S. economy shrank by a stunning 9.5 percent from April through June. By comparison, the last quarter was more than three times as bad as any quarter in U.S. economic history since World War II. The Census Bureau's survey of American households shows that today 26.5 percent of U.S. families are reporting housing insecurity, meaning they already have missed a rent or mortgage payment and/or expect to be unable to meet the next one.

What does all this mean for the people in our area? In Bay County, the unemployment rate is near the National average of 8 percent, yet is double the same time in 2019. In April 2020, the Fed estimated that 40 percent of those earning less than \$40,000 were out of jobs, and they also happen to be the same people who need affordable housing. Even though temporarily on hold, the pending eviction train wreck continues to gain momentum. Study after study indicates that no county in the US has enough affordable housing to meet the needs of their residents. In our area it's even more significant, as just two short years ago we were hit with the devastating effects of Hurricane Michael. As we navigate the upcoming waves of adversity, more than ever we need to effectively collaborate within our community to provide a systematic approach and creative solutions.

The Panama City Rescue Mission and the Bethel Village Women and Children's Shelter is tracking Outcomes in the Area of Economics and Housing. The four-outcome approach to providing inspiration and services to people in desperate situations of human suffering begins with helping people believe that **With God, All Things Are Possible**. As we see ourselves as God sees us, hope springs from hopelessness and the gospel-powered life-transformation process begins. A positive mental attitude replaces negative thoughts, and optimism about our circumstances improves dramatically. With time and assistance providing everything from counseling and case management to employment, as well as the resources available through collaboration with strategic community partners, human flourishing emerges to replace suffering. Hope and joy replace discouragement and despair. Everything begins with sharing the all-powerful good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since 1973, the Panama City Rescue Mission has been committed to Christ-centered rescue, recovery, and restoration in an effort to break the destructive cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Thank you and God Bless,

Stephen Fett

President/CEO

Please feel free to contact Stephen Fett at (850) 381-2976 or sfett@pcrmission.org with any questions.