



May 2022

# MISSION *Messenger*

## A BETTER MAN

YOUR SUPPORT GAVE ANTHONY  
A CHANCE TO START OVER





# A DIFFERENT LIFE

## Life could have been so different for Anthony.

If he'd had a stable home life as a child... If he had two loving parents that helped him stay in school and envision a positive future for his life.

But Anthony (see his story on the next page) had none of that.

The truth is that life just isn't fair. Not everyone has the same support and healthy start in life.

**Out of the hundreds of people who enter our doors at the Grant County Rescue Mission each week, every soul has experienced some hidden trauma, usually in childhood, that devastated them.**

Most had no stable, loving support system to help them overcome abuse, loss, grief and fear. So they coped as best they

could, often numbing their pain in addictions or hardened hearts.

**In darkness like this, your love shines so brightly! In the face of so much loss, simple acts of kindness – a good meal, a hot shower, and a safe bed – can bring a hurting person to tears.**

Stories like Anthony's are why I'm so grateful, beyond words, for your financial support, your volunteer hours, and your loving prayers for all of us at the Grant County Rescue Mission.

**Anthony is proof that what people need is just a chance to experience true love – God's**



**Rick Berberea**  
Executive Director

unconditional forgiveness and grace – at their point of need.

Because of your support, our Mission is a special place of light and love in Grant County, perhaps the only place where anyone is welcomed with open arms, day or night, to find refuge in their time of crisis.

Because you care and give, Anthony's life, and countless more lives, are being completely transformed from loneliness to love, from pain to healing, and from despair to hope.

Thank you for making a different life possible!

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# A BETTER MAN

## YOUR SUPPORT GAVE ANTHONY A CHANCE TO START OVER

“I had a lot of dark demons in me,” says Anthony. At 34 years old, Anthony had spent most of his years living a street life of drug houses, parties and hustling to support his habits.

But Anthony hadn’t always been in such darkness.

As a child, Anthony treasured being raised by his grandparents. He has fond memories of making biscuits and gravy with his grandmother and helping her feed the birds. He remembers his grandfather setting an example of working hard to provide for his family.

But an ache of loss and loneliness left Anthony without direction as a teenager. Both of his grandparents died within a year. An uncle took Anthony in, but was a bad influence and let Anthony do whatever he wanted. Anthony dropped out of school, made money on the side, and dove headlong into a life of late nights at bars and casinos. He was always drinking. Often on drugs. And always angry inside.

**One night, while doing drugs with friends, a girl in the group overdosed. Anthony watched in disbelief as no one did anything to help her.**

“All they did was dig in her pocket. They took her money, took her stuff, and they left her. And that woke me,” he says. “That could have been me.”

That moment, Anthony decided to change his life and get help. “Deep down, I thought I was happy, but I wasn’t happy,” he says. “I spent all my money to keep luxury and keep friends



Anthony loves helping in our kitchen. “I enjoy helping people with meals, where they can sit down and eat peacefully. Because I’ve been there. They know that everything is okay in here.”

around. But when I chose to stop that lifestyle, I had nobody. I had turned my back on my family. I had hurt so many people.”

As soon as he stepped inside the Grant County Rescue Mission, Anthony knew he was in the right place. “Being here made me realize that I don’t have to be around all of that evilness. For the longest time, I didn’t know who God was, until I walked into this building.”

**“This place is teaching me how to become a man, a better person,” says Anthony. “And God, I’m really knowing who He is now.”**

Now Anthony wants to be the positive role model he didn’t have growing up. “I’m fighting for the ones that are behind bars and on the street, to show them a better way,” he says. “I don’t need to be rich or famous. I want to fix up a home. I want a woman to come home to and be loved. I want to be that uncle who is there for my nieces and nephews and give them a life so they’re not alone like I was.”



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