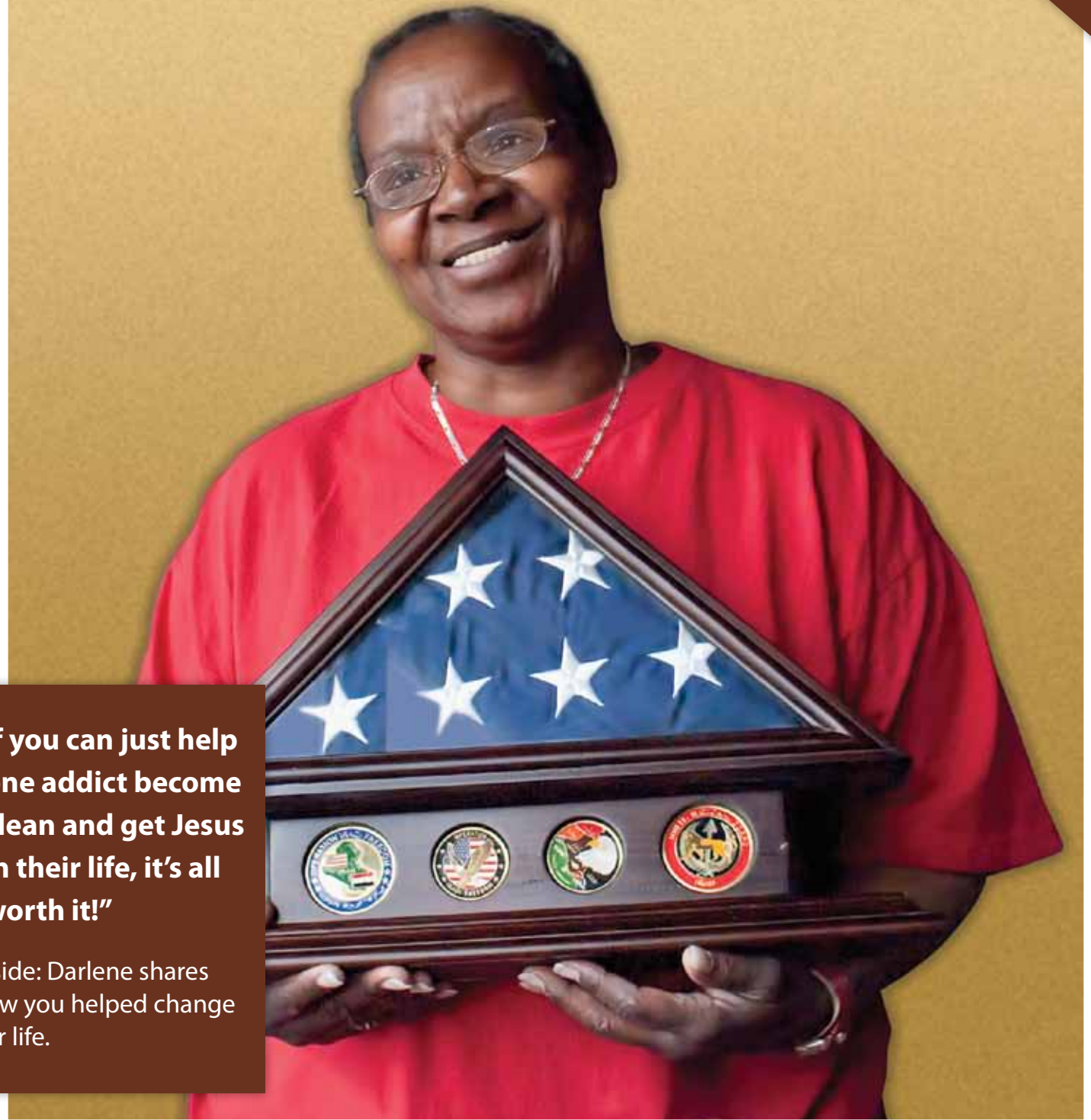


MEL TROTTER
Journal



“If you can just help one addict become clean and get Jesus in their life, it’s all worth it!”

Inside: Darlene shares how you helped change her life.

Stories of God’s Provision Through You!

2 She was a hurting hero

4 Thanksgiving is coming!

7 Ambassadors Program

Darlene saved a life in Vietnam... BUT BACK HOME, SHE WAS A HURTING HERO

My parents were both illiterate addicts. They lived the street life, or what we call here at Mel Trotter, "the worldly life." So my grandmother took me in because I was basically a mess.

I stayed in trouble as a kid...searching for affection and wanting my mom's attention. After college I joined the Air Force and went to Vietnam. The short of it is that I received the Purple Heart, which is basically for a life saved in the Vietnam War. The sergeant was wounded, and I carried her around until we were rescued. You won't find too many people who want to talk about that time, and I'm one of them.

When I got back home I was really sick—emotionally sick with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I didn't know what was wrong with me, feeling always like I was wearing my left shoe and I just didn't fit in. I don't know if you can understand this, but any time you've been in a war, you are basically loyal to the uniform. You don't know what you're really fighting, but you have to do some things that just don't rest in your soul. You look for a way out.



I didn't start using drugs right away, but eventually I was still having that void feeling. I started using in 1989, and didn't stop until 2010.

A brand-new life!

When I came to Mel Trotter I knew nothing about Jesus. They taught me what He wants. And teaching me that has turned my heart and made it softer. I'm a different person. I have a Father that I never had before. He never lies to me. He never manipulates me. He never deceives me.

"I have a Father that I never had before."

Now I'm in the Jump Start program, and have a brand-new apartment! Everything in it is new, right down to my toothbrush. It feels great to enjoy just the small, simple things.

I plan to stay here in Grand Rapids and give back as much as I can. If I could say one thing to the donors, it's that if you can just help one addict become clean and get Jesus in their life, it's all worth it. That's what has happened for me. Thank you!

Darlene, a decorated veteran, fought for her country's flag, but had lost her battle with addiction until you helped...

Planned giving... BAPTIZED WITH ONE ARM IN THE AIR!

Have you heard the amazing story about the baptism of the Gauls? In his introduction to *Giving to God*, author Mark Allan Powell begins with a compelling tale for Christian stewards to ponder. The Gauls,



Powell explains, were a warlike people who lived in ancient times. As the story goes, when a Gallic warrior became a Christian and was baptized, he would hold one arm high in the air as the missionary dunked him under the water. Why? When the next battle broke out, the warrior would yell, "This arm is not baptized!" Grabbing his weapon, he would ride off to destroy the enemy.

The lesson from this story? Everything we have belongs under the lordship of Christ. All of our finances, for example, belong to God, and so we need to plan now for who will be the next steward of those resources. That's why a growing number of ministry-minded Christians like you are creating or updating a Will. In addition to wanting to protect their families, they also want to honor God with a legacy gift to organizations such as Mel Trotter Ministries.

How can you better express God's plan for your life? For a FREE copy of our special bulletin, *Becoming the Person You Were Made To Be*, please contact Tim Swiney, Director of Development, at Mel Trotter Ministries, (616) 454-8249, ext. 268 or timswiney@meltrotter.org

Shopping with a cause... COMING SOON: MEL TROTTER'S 5TH STORE!

Everyone can appreciate a bargain these days, and bargains can be found at Mel Trotter Ministries' stores located throughout the Grand Rapids area. If you live in or near Jenison, we've got great news for you! Located at 7500 Cottonwood Drive (Suite D), our fifth store is scheduled to open in October.

In the meantime, you can find addresses and information about our four "up and running" stores by visiting our website at www.meltrotter.org. Every time you shop our stores, you help change lives! And if you have "gently used" belongings to donate, you'll help keep our stores stocked with great items for people who need them. Shopping with a cause...what a great idea!



READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE

www.meltrotter.org/storiesofhope.aspx

FALL IS COMING...MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Brown Bag Food Drive

Fall is coming, and many Grand Rapidians are hungry. Once again, Mel Trotter will join hands with the *Grand Rapids Press* and its readers to feed neighbors in need through our Brown Bag Food Drive. Look for the brown grocery bags and drop-off locations in the *Press* on October 20. The drive will run from October 18 through December 2. Past food donations have averaged over 48,500 pounds! (Will you



help set a new record?) All donations help feed the hungry, homeless and hurting through our Community Service Distribution Program.

We would like to extend a special thank-you for the support of our sponsors, Biggby Coffee and the *Grand Rapids Press*. For information about this year's Brown Bag Food Drive, call (616) 454-8249, ext. 266.



Turkey Drop

As you plan your Thanksgiving festivities, please consider sharing a Thanksgiving blessing with our less fortunate neighbors. Mel Trotter Ministries and our corporate sponsor, WOOD Radio, will be holding our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drop on November 16. You can be part of this meaningful community outreach by dropping off frozen turkeys from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Celebration Cinemas North and South. The turkeys will be used in our Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes. Last year, over 800 turkeys were donated. We're hoping for even more this year. For information, go to www.meltrotter.org or contact Rebecca Robertson at (616) 454-8249, ext. 266.



Steve Kelly, WOOD Radio weekday morning co-host



GREAT THANKSGIVING BANQUET

Just imagine...planning and preparing dinner for over 2,100 guests. That's how many meals we served last year at our Great Thanksgiving Banquet, thanks to the help of hundreds of caring volunteers who gave their time to help make it happen. "For us, this is a very, very special occasion" says Chico Daniels, Mel Trotter's President and CEO. "Once a year, we open the doors for the poor, the brokenhearted, the distressed and disturbed and hungry people of our city. And truly, if you don't have a friend in the world you can find one that day!"

On November 24, Mel Trotter Ministries will once again have the privilege of hosting our guests who will join the ranks of presidents as they enter the Steeple Ballroom at DeVos Place to feast on a traditional turkey dinner that will be prepared by



Mel Trotter's culinary staff in DeVos Place's state-of-the-art kitchen. As they dine, our guests will be entertained by groups from local churches and organizations. Thanksgiving food boxes will also be prepared and distributed to people who want to celebrate at home but can't afford the "fixin's" for a holiday meal.

The Great Thanksgiving Banquet is always a special event, but to make it happen, we must start getting ready *now*. If you would like to help or are interested in knowing more, call (616) 454-8249 or visit us online at www.meltrotter.org



HAPPY FEET!

As you know, the doors of Mel Trotter Ministries are always open to men, women and children who come to us seeking help. But did you know that we are also "seekers" of people who need help? Joining hands with businesses and organizations, we go out into the community to address the needs of fellow Grand Rapidians who are living on the edge of poverty and homelessness. For example...

Just last month, Mel Trotter partnered with the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association to distribute new shoes and socks to students in need in grades

K-8. This special Shoe

Giveaway is just one of many worthwhile

community services Mel Trotter provides...through

your caring support. Thanks for helping us send hundreds of kids back to school with happy feet!



PLEASE JOIN US

Join us for some exciting events at Mel Trotter Ministries this fall:

Brown Bag Food Drive:
October 18–December 2

A Walk In Their Shoes:
November 13–19

WOOD Radio Turkey Drop:
November 16

Holiday Food Box Giveaways:
November 21–22
December 19

Great Thanksgiving Banquet:
November 24

Go to www.meltrotter.org/events.aspx to find the latest about what's happening at Mel Trotter Ministries, and how you can get involved!

WE'RE JUST A CLICK AWAY

Through your support, you are a vital part of Mel Trotter Ministries! We want you to know what's happening and invite you to keep in touch with us through your favorite online social media sites. Connect with us any time at the following sites for up-to-date information about the work you support.

facebook

Find us on facebook:
Mel Trotter Ministries

You Tube

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:
Meltrottermin

twitter

Follow us on Twitter:
@meltrotter

tumblr.

View our blog at Tumblr:
<http://meltrotterministries.tumblr.com/>

flickr

Check out our photos on Flickr:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/meltrotterministries/>

BILL STARTED DRINKING AT 12 AND DIDN'T STOP UNTIL GOD BROUGHT HIM TO MEL TROTTER

My name is Bill, and I've learned that Satan works in very subtle ways. Alcohol was always primarily my demise. I started drinking around 12 or 13, just experimenting with friends on weekends. All throughout high school was like that.

Then one day I found a Bible tract on a lunch table. I read it and a wave came over me, this light came on, and I knew that this was just what I was looking for. I prayed the prayer at the end and accepted Jesus Christ into my life—it was a spiritual rebirth.

But the drinking didn't stop

I was still drinking alcohol on the weekends pretty heavily. I didn't realize that I had this hereditary predisposition to alcoholism and I was trying to fill this increasing void, instead of filling it with God. My drinking became very destructive. Then my father got very ill with cancer, and it was devastating. It just ripped me up inside, and between that and the pressures of work, I was in a huge tailspin.

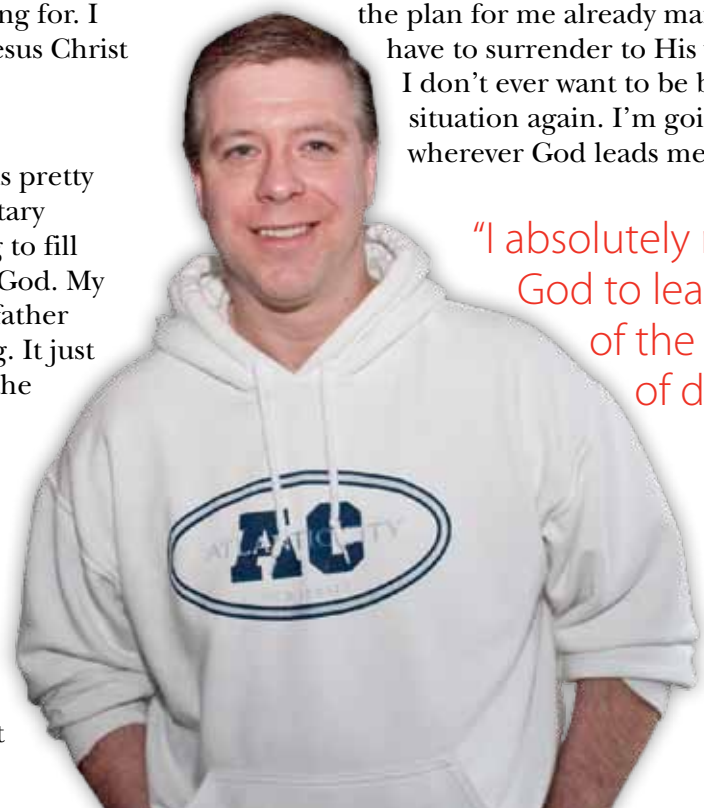
I got active in Alcoholics Anonymous and was finding a few months here and there of sobriety, followed by binge drinking...I knew I needed long-term help, so I called around until I found this program.

A new creation!

I've had nine months of sobriety. There is a big difference in going into a program that

is based on faith in God. I absolutely needed God to lead me out of the depths of despair. My favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Our journey is all about letting go and letting God. God has made it abundantly clear to me that He has the plan for me already marked out. I have to surrender to His will, because I don't ever want to be back in that situation again. I'm going to go wherever God leads me!



"I absolutely needed God to lead me out of the depths of despair."



NEED A TAX CREDIT?

The Michigan Income Tax Credit and a federal tax deduction are available to individuals and businesses that make a monetary donation to a food bank or homeless shelter, including Mel Trotter

Ministries. Individuals may claim 50 percent of contributions up to \$200. Couples may claim 50 percent of contributions up to \$400. And businesses can claim 50 percent of contributions up to \$10,000.

For example:

\$400 donation = \$200 Michigan Tax Credit

\$200 donation = \$100 Michigan Tax Credit

\$100 donation = \$ 50 Michigan Tax Credit

\$ 50 donation = \$ 25 Michigan Tax Credit

\$ 20 donation = \$ 10 Michigan Tax Credit

Consult with your tax advisor for details about claiming this tax benefit on your 2011 return.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS... AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Mel Trotter Ministries has a unique program designed to help strengthen our connections with other organizations to make our community stronger. The Ambassador Program is a networking tool for committed volunteers—Ambassador Representatives. Essentially opinion leaders, these reps serve as liaisons within their personal sphere of influence. For example, MTM Ambassadors:

- Encourage constituents to support Mel Trotter with goods, finances, services and volunteerism.
- Inform contacts of upcoming Mel Trotter events.
- Invite individuals and groups to the President's

Luncheon on Tuesdays to get to know Mel Trotter Ministries.

Ambassadors are typically recruited from churches, businesses and various organizations in the community. They must be organized, outgoing, easy to contact, good communicators, and ready for a one-year commitment.

If you are a Mel Trotter volunteer, you're a hero to us! If you have never experienced the joy of serving as a volunteer, perhaps the Ambassador Program is worth your prayerful consideration. For more information, contact Vince Desmond, vincedesmond@meltrotter.org or (616) 454-8249, ext. 226.



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for:

- Graduates to remain sober and continue to grow spiritually
- Jobs for program graduates and shelter guests
- Mentors to support and encourage Mel Trotter graduates
- Housing for women in our shelter
- Women in recovery to be set free from shame connected with their past

Please give praise for:

- Housing that has been secured by many moms
- Men and women are connecting with God and starting personal relationships with Him
- Volunteers who minister to our residents
- One resident's success in earning her GED in 2 months

HOPE BY THE NUMBERS

JANUARY–JULY 2011

See how your support has made a difference so far this year:



Meals served:
159,118



Nights of shelter provided: 45,911



Emergency food boxes provided: 1,519



Articles of clothing given: 3,335



Chapel attendance: 28,064



Dental visits: 327

Can you help?

SPECIAL FALL NEEDS

Shorter days, falling leaves and cooler nights are signs that winter weather is on the way. When our neighbors in need turn to us for help, we want to be ready. If you can provide any of the following items, we would be very grateful.

- Warm winter clothing
- Umbrellas
- Backpacks and school supplies

For a more complete list of items we need, please visit www.meltrotter.org/fillneed.aspx or call (616) 454-8249, ext. 266. Thank you!



A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM CHICO

MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES

Fall is coming. Trees are starting to turn colors and drop their leaves—and there is a noticeable, change in the weather. At Mel Trotter, this seasonal transition reminds us that our busiest season of ministry is also coming.

The sunshine and warmth of the summer months tend to give people on the streets a false sense of confidence. But now, they are thinking about the biting cold that will soon bring misery and can even be deadly. The chronically homeless “veterans” who have been with us before will return to secure a warm bed. Others, new victims of the severe economy, will come for the first time. I call this fall phenomenon “the great influx.” And knowing it is imminent, I am deeply grateful that fall is also the giving season—a time when caring friends dig deeper into their pockets in concern for those less fortunate.

As more people come **into** the Mission, we will also be planning to **reach out** to suffering souls in our community during the upcoming holidays. In this newsletter, you can read about some of the special programs your support makes possible—like our Great Thanksgiving Banquet, Brown Bag Food Drive and our annual Turkey Drop. We’d like you and other friends to know that we especially appreciate your generosity and involvement at this time. The donations and volunteerism that make our holiday ministries possible provide the nice “one-two punch” we need to keep going.

We also treasure your prayers. I have a special concern for the safety and well-being of our staff—especially those who work what we call the third shift. Workers on “graveyard” duty are faced very unique—and dangerous—challenges, since late night often brings in the drunk and disorderly. Please pray that we can adequately staff these shifts and that God will protect and empower the dedicated people who man them.

Despite the busyness and extra needs of fall, we welcome it with joy. We are already “giving thanks” here at Mel Trotter, and you are on our blessing list!

Your friend,
Chico Daniels, President & CEO



Rev. Chico Daniels
President & CEO

“Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you...have refreshed the hearts of the saints.”

—Philemon 1:7, NIV

OUR MISSION

To demonstrate the compassion of Jesus Christ toward the hungry, homeless and hurting of the Grand Rapids area.

19348

MY THANKSGIVING GIFT

YES, Chico, you have my support as Mel Trotter Ministries feeds and cares for Grand Rapids’ homeless and hungry people this fall season.

HERE’S MY GIFT OF:

- \$15 \$35 \$50 \$150 \$_____

Please complete this slip and return it to Mel Trotter Ministries with your generous Thanksgiving gift. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Please make your check payable to: Mel Trotter Ministries

Please send me a FREE copy of “Becoming the Person You Were Made To Be”

Donate online by credit card at <http://thanksgiving.meltrotter.org>

225 Commerce SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 454-8249 www.meltrotter.org

MEL TROTTER
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