Gracious God, the willingness to give is a sign of life.
Thank you for the faithful stewards of Guiding Light, who have given their time, talents and their financial resources, because we know that this pleases you.
With thankfulness, they have given in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness, they have given in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness, they have given in commitment to you.
Their generosity has simply made a difference in so many men’s lives;
With patience, they have given in faithfulness and joy.
In all these things, Lord, make us wise in using them. Make those
us, and be your love within us.
We thank you for the gift of life, for your protection and our surroundings.
We thank you for your mercies and for your loving care.
We thank you for all good things.
And yet, dear Lord, let us not forget that you are the author and giver.
Lives that have been forever altered, changed, and greatly improved.
That generosity has simply made a difference in so many men’s lives;
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Gracious God, the willingness to give is a sign of life.

Prayer of Gratitude

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

PRAYER.

FAITHFUL IN AFFLICTION

PATIENT IN HOPE.

BE JOYFUL.

He must become greater, I must become less.

Rev. Nancy Claus, Board Chaplain
What an honor it is to be part of this wonderful ministry at this exciting time. Everyone loves playing for a winning team, with energy and excitement and the thrill of making an impact.

Guiding light has been greased with many hands, big hearts and a clear passion for the glory of God and the coming of God’s Kingdom. Making men’s lives better is our calling and our challenge—changing the course of each life to reflect God’s love.

As our shareholder partners, we want you to fully see the difference you are making in men’s lives. As our stakeholder partners, we want you to fully see the difference you are making in our community. Thank you for being part of this amazing family and this community.

This annual report charts the impact your donations have made on guiding the course of each life to reflect God’s love.

Edward Postma, Board Chair, Consultant
John Harrington, Board 1st Vice-Chair, Harrington & Associates
Harvey Koning, Board 2nd Vice-Chair, Vennam LLP
John Dice, Board Treasurer
Andy Ochman, ALarge Executive Committee, Welcome Home Remodeling, LLC
Reva Thompson, Board Secretary, Thompson & Associates
Rev. Nancy Claus, Board Member, South Harbor Church
Sherwin Robinson, Board Member, South Harbor Church
Elizabeth Bovard Strong, Director, Builders Exchange of Michigan
Rev. Tim Wilson, Director, South Harbor Church
Dawn Durman, Director, Homestead Realty
Roy Hung, President, Board Chair, Builder Group
Robert DeYoung, Director, Home Remodeling, LLC
Peter Albertini, Board Secretary, Albertini Realty Group
Brad Mathis, Director, Rockford Construction
Andy Ochman, President, Board Chair, Welcome Home Remodeling, LLC
Edward Postma, Board Chair, Consultant

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Once he was accepted into Guiding Light, Russell entered the four-month Back to Work program. He began saving 75 percent of his net pay, and Guiding Light staff began helping him enroll in courses in time management, budgeting, personal change, and spiritual direction. Russell rediscovered a faith that helps him through hard times. He reconnected with his two sons. He hopes to become a shift manager. Some guys might get jobs in less than a week, and some guys might take a month. Guiding Light was there with him.

"Everyone comes in with a story," said spiritual director Larry Slager. "We start with their story. How did you choose to come here? How has addiction affected your life?"

Russell, for housing. Guiding Light was there with him. "We help the men with the first months, rent, if they qualify, and we also offer any realistic goal. Some day he hopes to have a bigger home.

Russell is building his life together. He feels strong. And grateful. He praises Guiding Light for enabling him to make a positive impact in the community.
Our Mission

Through the guiding light of God’s spirit, Guiding Light partners with individuals to fulfill their God-given potential through rescue, recovery and re-engagement in the community.

Guiding Light is committed to being trustworthy stewards of your donations. Like our doors, our books are open — with regularly updated financial and other performance indicators published on our website. We proudly hold GuideStar’s Platinum designation.
Victor’s immigrant parents expected a lot of their bright and talented son. Victor exceeded those expectations.

Victor was transforming. Classes and good grades were no longer as important. His drinking escalated. He smoked pot every day. When he arrived at Grand Valley State University, with a full-ride scholarship, his friends deserted him. He lost his scholarship and dropped out.

The summer after his sophomore year, Victor tried marijuana for the first time. By autumn, he was in an unending ocean of three heroes. He dropped out of college.

Victor’s immigrant parents expected a lot of their bright and talented son.
And my mom said, “you’re too tender.”

Things occurred at a time when they were too perfect to be coincidental. My official four months ended Christmas Eve.

“Things occurred at a time when they were too perfect to be coincidental. My official four months ended Christmas Eve,” said Victor.

Victor had always resisted entering a program due to money issues. But Guiding Light, which is supported entirely by the generosity of donors, is more open, more honest with people. He got their honesty in return. He soon realized he could no longer be someone other than who he really was.

Today, Victor measures the impact of the program this way: “You could take him back.”

Today, Victor is transformed. He believes he needs to talk about his time at Guiding Light, an experience he believes was guided by God.

“Things occurred at a time when they were too perfect to be coincidental. My official four months ended Christmas Eve,” said Victor.

Today, Victor works. Attends AA meetings. Goes to church. And on the whole, he’s very open, more honest with people. He got their honesty in return. He soon realized he could no longer be someone other than who he really was.

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18 spiritual enrichment sessions each week
5 spiritual directors
187,483 meals served
23,725 nights of shelter
$5,422,981 value of volunteer time
21,352 volunteer hours
Guiding Light Works.org/events
Learn more and view our event calendar at:

COMMUNITY MEAL
CHRISTMAS
12,20
11,22
THANKSGIVING
UPDATE LUNCHEON
AUGUST MINISTRY
ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
BUILDERS EXCHANGE
BLOCK PARTY & OPEN HOUSE
UKNOWSummer
MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH
GUIDING LIGHT RECOVERY
UPDATE LUNCHEON
APRIL MINISTRY
ESTEER LUNCHEON
GUIDING LIGHT RECOVERY
07,27
06,20
05,09
04,22
04,05

There are many ways to engage with Guiding Light and the men we serve. Please take note of our events in the year ahead.

About our storied history at Guiding Light Works.org/about

Founded in 1929, Guiding Light has been committed to supporting grand Rapids for over 90 years. Learn more.
Has it been more than three years since you last reviewed your will?

TIME

Have state or federal tax laws changed since you last reviewed your will?

TAX LAW

Have you or those listed in your will moved?

LOCATION

Have you changed the beneficiaries on your insurance policies or retirement assets?

Have you bought or sold property?

Have you bought or sold a business?

Has your estate experienced a significant increase or decrease in value?

Have you recently filed for or are you planning to file a tax return?

ASSETS

Do you have new business ventures?

Has your employer or income level changed?

CAREER

Has your children recently married, remarried or divorced?

FAMILY

Have you and/or your children recently married, remarried or divorced?

CHARITABLE RELATIONSHIPS

Are you concerned about the financial health of your church?

Have you or your loved ones experienced a significant change in their health?

Have you experienced the death of someone dear to you?

Do you need to determine a trusted guardian for your children?

Have you gained family members either through birth, adoption or marriage?

Has your children recently married, remarried or divorced?

REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR WILL
Questions About Anything?
Contact Steena McDermott for more information. You can always remember Guiding Light in your will or estate plan.

Will:
Guiding Light is a straightforward process. For more information, contact Steena McDermott at (616) 451-0236 or visit GuidingLightWerks.org. Did you know that you can contribute stock to Guiding Light? It’s a straightforward process. Our Accounting Assistant would be happy to help you with this deduction from your debit or credit card or directly from your bank.

Stock Gifts:
On a straightforward process. For more information, contact Starla McDermott at (616) 451-0236 for stock.

Bread & Life Sustaining Donor:
This form allows you to make secure contributions by debit or credit.

Online Giving:
Please mail to P.O. Box 703, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. Please make check payable to Guiding Light.

Check or Cash:
Monthly, quarterly, or one time. It’s easy to make contributions to fulfill your personal philanthropic goals. Choose the way that works best for you. You can give weekly, monthly, quarterly, or one time.

Online Giving:
Questions About Anything?
Contact Steena McDermott for more information. You can always remember Guiding Light in your will or estate plan.

Will:
Guiding Light is a straightforward process. For more information, contact Steena McDermott at (616) 451-0236 or visit GuidingLightWerks.org. Did you know that you can contribute stock to Guiding Light? It’s a straightforward process. Our Accounting Assistant would be happy to help you with this deduction from your debit or credit card or directly from your bank.

Stock Gifts:
On a straightforward process. For more information, contact Starla McDermott at (616) 451-0236 for stock.

Bread & Life Sustaining Donor:
This form allows you to make secure contributions by debit or credit.

Online Giving:
Please mail to P.O. Box 703, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. Please make check payable to Guiding Light.

Check or Cash:
Monthly, quarterly, or one time. It’s easy to make contributions to fulfill your personal philanthropic goals. Choose the way that works best for you. You can give weekly, monthly, quarterly, or one time.
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 NKV