

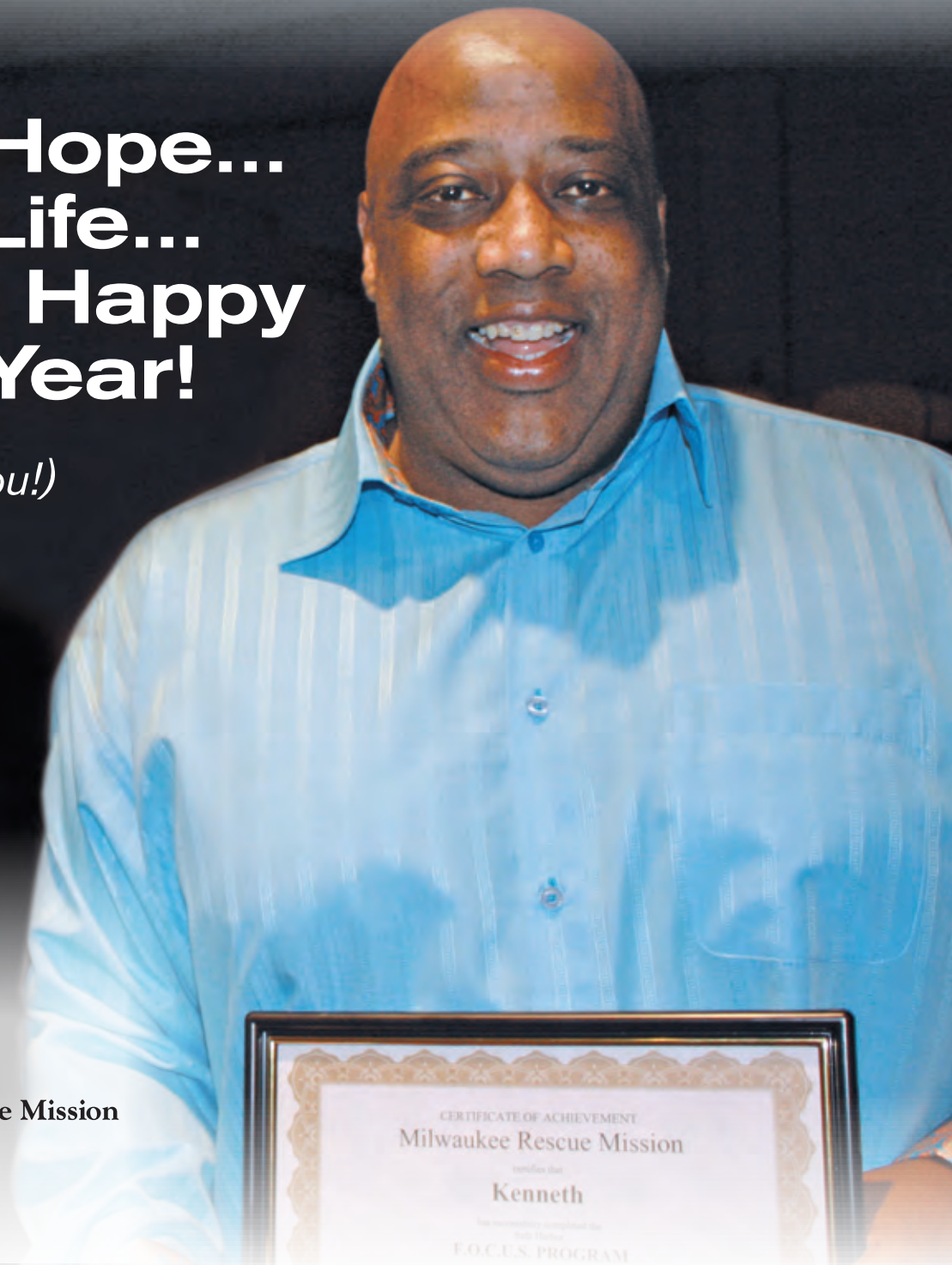
JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2011

SOUP *for your* **SOUL**

TRUE-LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!

**New Hope...
New Life...
and a Happy
New Year!**

(Thanks to you!)



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

Offering Hope for New Beginnings... and Happy New Years Ahead!



Rev. Patrick H. Vanderburgh
Executive Director

And we urge
you, brothers
and sisters, warn
those who are idle
and disruptive,
encourage the
disheartened,
help the weak,
be patient with
everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Like most people, I love waking up on New Year's Day and facing all the possibilities and opportunities awaiting me over the next 12 months. I like that sense of a new beginning each year.

But new years and new beginnings mean little to people who are homeless. The specialness most of us feel over the holidays is lost on most of them because their lives are often in such crisis they can't think past the pain of a new *day*, much less a new year. They don't have new hopes or dreams or opportunities — only old wounds and present realities.

But thanks to generous people like you, all that changes for many men, women and children who find their way to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Once we feed them a hot meal and they get a chance to sleep and relax in warm safety, hope is often reborn. In time, their sense of belonging grows, and suddenly they have *new* feelings of value and purpose, and new plans for their lives. And that is *their* New Year!

As we enter 2011, that is what excites me most about this new year. Perhaps as many as 5,000 individual — and precious — men, women, and children will seek a hot meal and a warm, safe bed here over the next 12 months. How many of them will then experience a new beginning in their lives? I can't wait to find out!

In this issue of *Soup for your Soul*, I hope you enjoy reading about Kenneth and Cora. Through the LifeSkills program in Safe Harbor, our men's shelter, your gifts have given Kenneth a brand-new beginning for his life ... and you've given new hope for a brighter future for Cora's three children, thanks to CrossTrainers Academy, where at-risk children receive a quality Christian education.

So *thank you* for all you do!

Partnering with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Vanderburgh'.

Patrick H. Vanderburgh
Executive Director

“If not for the **Milwaukee Rescue Mission**, I would be dead.”

by Kenneth

Some people think kids who end up homeless addicts grew up in bad families. Well, it happened to me and I had great Christian parents, went to good schools, and as long as I earned good grades, I got anything I wanted.

After I left home, I enjoyed a successful military career and my star was rising as a federal corrections officer — until I left my faith and values behind and crack came into the picture.

My philosophy was, I worked hard so I deserved to play hard. But God brought me down hard.

Hitting Rock Bottom

My wife separated from me, my career fell apart, I lost my home, and even my mother wouldn't let me live with her. She just said, “Son, until you get God in your life, it is not going to work.” But I didn't want to hear it.

I finally hit rock bottom in 2009, when I found myself living in a crack house. I'd been a college man, a fraternity man, a military man, and a federal corrections officer ... but now I was just a drug addict. And that hurt.

Doing All Things With Him

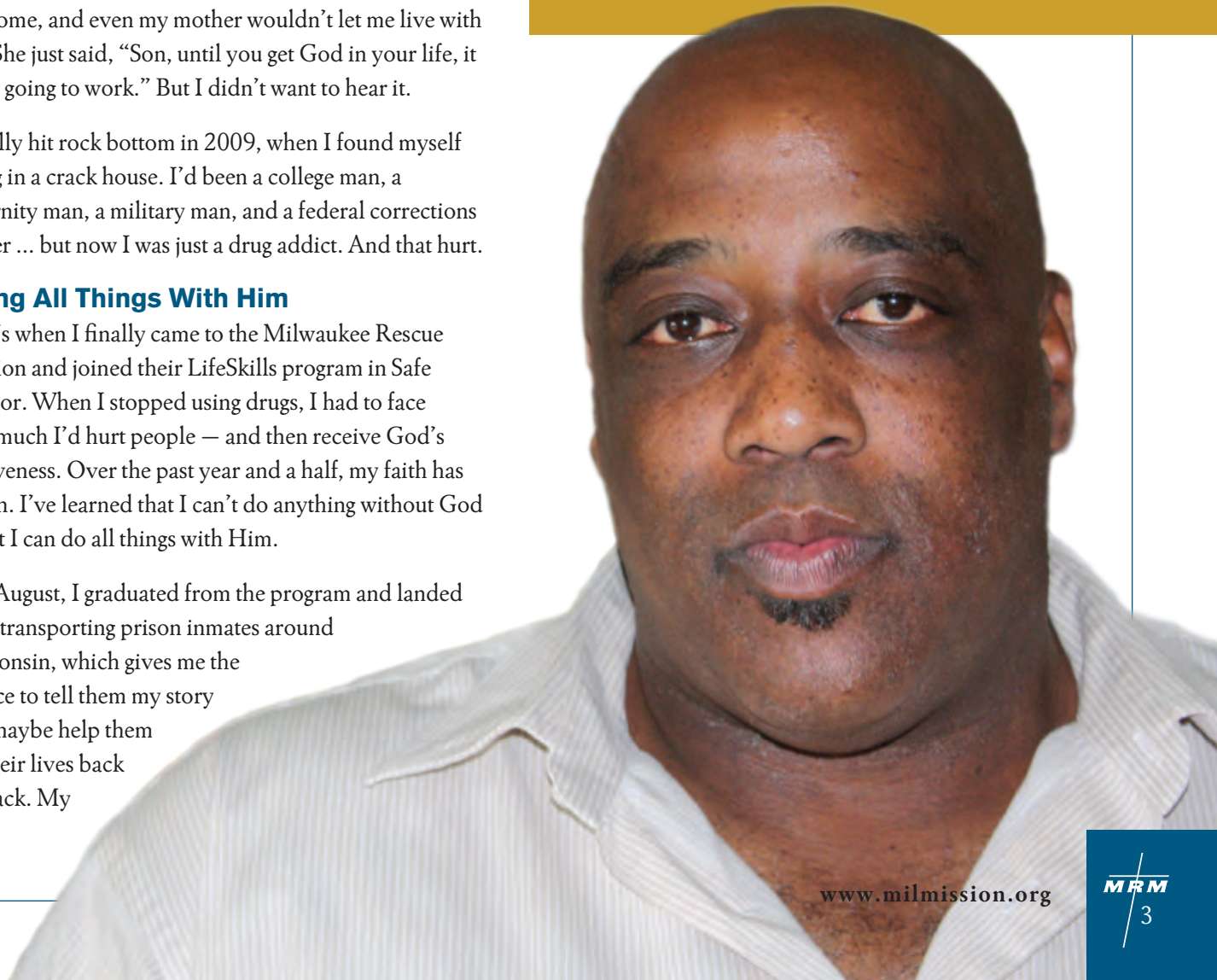
That's when I finally came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and joined their LifeSkills program in Safe Harbor. When I stopped using drugs, I had to face how much I'd hurt people — and then receive God's forgiveness. Over the past year and a half, my faith has grown. I've learned that I can't do anything without God — but I can do all things with Him.

Last August, I graduated from the program and landed a job transporting prison inmates around Wisconsin, which gives me the chance to tell them my story and maybe help them get their lives back on track. My

relationship with my mom has never been better, and I'm even reconciling with my wife.

But most important, if not for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, I would be dead. Simple as that. I used to wake up every day just to get high. That's not living, that's dying. Thanks to you, however, today I'm committed to being a Godly man the rest of my life.

“I used to wake up every day just to get high. That's not living, that's dying.”

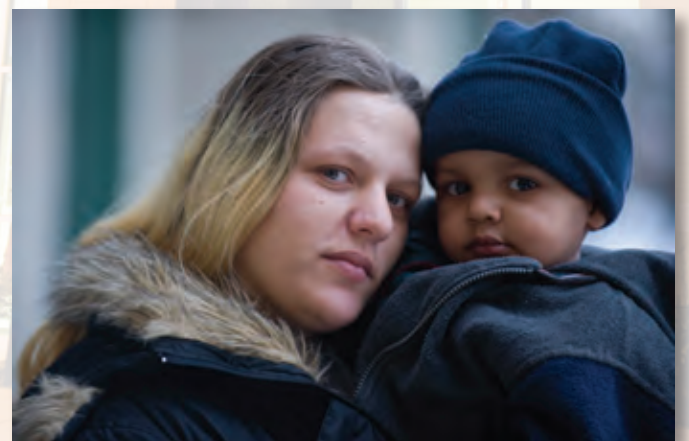


A New Year Should Never

Most people anticipate the New Year with hope and optimism. It's a symbolic "fresh start" – a chance to pursue goals with renewed vigor.

But not those who are homeless. With average winter temperatures dropping to the teens each night, the only resolution you'll find on Milwaukee's streets *is to survive another day*. Hypothermia, frostbite, colds, flu ... they can make life miserable – or deadly.

That's why thousands of homeless men, women, and children turn to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission for help during the cold winter months. And that's why your support is so critical this time of year ...

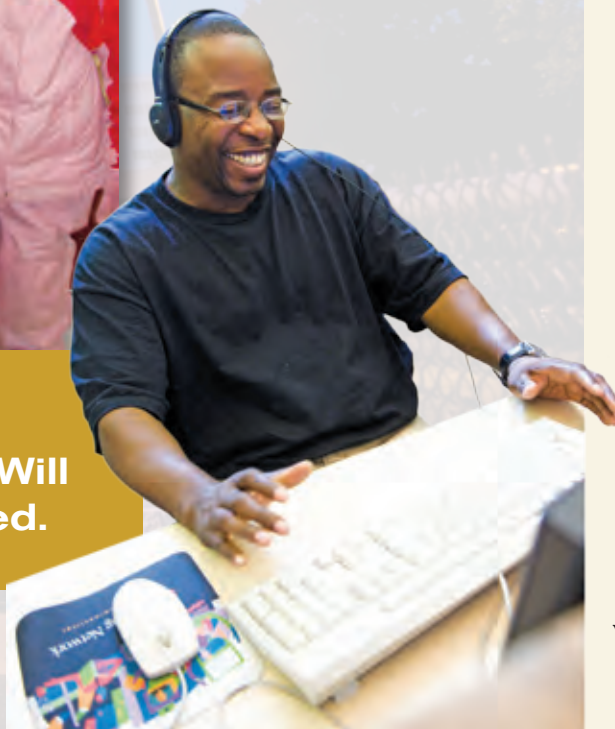


Start on the Streets

Freezing temperatures force our homeless neighbors to seek warm shelter and hot meals at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

Thanks to your support, they'll not only receive that comfort and care ... *they'll receive the compassion and hope they need to start life over.* They'll hear the Gospel and discover that God loves them. By His grace, they will be healed – learning to make healthier decisions and lead more productive lives.

Thank you for partnering with the Milwaukee Rescue Mission to make this transformative work possible.



Most Come to Escape the Brutal Cold. Many Will Leave Forever Changed.

WINTER Wish List

Some of our most urgent needs are listed here. If you can help, please drop off your donation Monday–Saturday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m., at our Kilbourn Ave. entrance.

- Juice
- Baby wipes*
- Diapers* (sizes 4, 5, 6)
- Pull-ups*
- Deodorant
- Hand lotion
- Pain relievers*
- Kleenex (box & pocket-sized)
- Cold & flu medicines* (non-alcoholic)
- Working wrist watches
- Thermometers (digital preferred)
- Small clock radios
- Underwear & socks (all sizes)*
- Scarves
- Paper plates
- Paper cups
- Napkins
- Lunch bags
- Plastic eating utensils



*Items especially needed.

Ministry highlights from 2010

- **249,920 meals served**

Every day of the year, hundreds of Milwaukee's struggling men, women, and children came to the Mission for nourishing, sustaining meals.

- **99,131 nights of shelter**

Our suffering neighbors were rescued from the streets and welcomed into our warm, safe shelter.

- **37,256 articles of clothing**

Clothing was distributed to help those struggling to get back on their feet, so they could stay warm, interview for work, attend school, etc. Many of the items were donated by friends like you!

- **15,432 counseling sessions**

People trapped in a downward cycle of poor decision-making were given compassionate, Christ-centered guidance to help them get on the right track.



Green Bay Packers Star James Jones Encourages Children at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission

What do you have in common with James Jones, star receiver for the Green Bay Packers, and his wife Tamika? *A passion to make life better for our least fortunate neighbors.*

For the past several years, James and Tamika Jones have come to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission to spend quality time with underprivileged children in our programs. Twice children from Joy House, our family shelter,

have even been invited to Lambeau Field to watch the Packers as their personal guests! One of the girls, Yanceiyah, said, "It was amazing ... I'm thankful to him for allowing me to go!"

While he's here at MRM, James also always encourages the children with his message of hope and purpose — of pursuing dreams and overcoming adversity.

That message is important to him, because it's the story of his life. Growing up, his mother struggled to care for him. They bounced from one homeless shelter to another, so Jones understands very well what the boys and girls here have been through — and what a powerful difference it makes when someone cares.

The entire team at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is grateful for the Jones' willingness to sacrifice their time to encourage our young, hurting neighbors!

"It was amazing ... I'm thankful to him for allowing me to go!"



Children from the Milwaukee Rescue Mission were invited to attend a Green Bay Packers game as James Jones' personal guests.

memorial & in honor of gifts

In memory of:

(gifts received from September 16, 2010, through November 30, 2010)

Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a special way to offer hope to the hurting in the name of a friend or family member.

Donald Albright
Colette Albright

Jean Barth
Joan Krueger

Husband, Gregg Bechel
Margaret Bechel

Bruce Bennett
Craig & Lois McGarry

Edward & Marion Bett
Daniel & Susan Bett

Grandfather, Alan Elliot Biehn
Charles Alan Henkel

Madeline Bilicki
Ken & Linda Bilicki

Angela's mother, Mary Ann Blaskowski
Steve & Angela Miller

Sean Burditt
Kevin Burditt

Sue Burns
Mark Kahn

Brandon Carriveau
Lisa Prost

Husband, David Chyla
Margaret Chyla

Judith Citowicz
William & Susan Masotti
Jan & Elizabeth Wrecza

Helen Clark
The Helen Clark Family

Ava Czynewski
Mike & Pat Bilello

Jeff Daese
Brian D. Winters

Robert & Norine Dalton
Carolyn Thomann

Katherine Drowek
Jennifer Soika
Mary Schuler
Barbara Boles

Cheryl Dreyer
Paul Fuller

Viola Evridge
Jim & Marilyn Lehrer
Thomas & Patricia Downing

Jason Fanning
Patti & Raymond Staiduhar

Father, Leonard Forecki
Jim Forecki

Gerald Foster
James & Karen Pieper

Gerald L. (Gerry) Foster
Dale & Susan Bakken

Son, John I. Foulks, II
John & Kay Foulks

Grandson, Jesse Ryan Gamache
Margaret Bechel
Margaret Chyla

Milton Gecker
Bryan Bruttig

Ralph Giesfeldt
Susan Floy

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John's father
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Our Lord Jesus Christ
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Pam's dad
Pam & Duane Riedl

Richard
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Mom
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Marge Zuelke
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(gifts received from September 16, 2010, through November 30, 2010)

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Thomas Adams

Dad, Joseph Butch
Kathleen Butch

Eric Christensen
Charles Penner

Sandra Christensen
Charles Penner

Irene Eagan
Tom & Marie Woehlike
The Kim Family
Lavon Olander

Wendy Ellwein
Kimara Winters

Father Paul Floss
Juliet Kersten

Paul Fredricks
Susan Fredricks

Father Jerry Herda
Juliet Kersten

Paul & Teresa Jennings
Elizabeth Wagner

David McGreevy
Robert Cords

Ann Miller
Charles Penner

Ellen Mirkos
Charles Penner

Gary Mirkos
Charles Penner

Bob & Jane Mitchell
Peter & Margaret Tanguay

"Happy 40th, Sara!"
"4-ever US"

Beloved Mothers
Keith J. McLean

Jesus
Scott Binner
Steve

Little Community Church in Christ
Betty Russell

Neil & Cindy
Denny & Sue Henriksen

Northwestern Mutual Comm 35 Group
Mary Froehlich

Pastor Rob, Fox River Christian Church, Waukesha
Bonnie Romanowich

Special Friends
Keith McLean

Tom
Mary Jo Randall

Janet & Thomas Peronto
Colleen & Randy Stowell

R. Prostek
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Eagle Scout Clayton Zortman
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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:

Milwaukee Rescue Mission
830 N. 19th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233
Or donate online at www.milmission.org

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card. Please be sure to include their address.

The names published above represent gifts to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission greater than or equal to \$25.

CrossTrainers Academy:

Giving Her Kids a Better Chance



As a student, Cora struggled from 1st grade on because of learning disabilities.

“I always felt lost,” Cora, 28, recalls. “And with 25 other kids in my class, the teachers never had the time to help me or explain things to me. I want my kids to have a different experience. “

So when the Milwaukee Rescue Mission opened CrossTrainers Academy in 2006 to educate at-risk children in low-income homes, like Cora’s, she quickly enrolled her oldest child, Shalonda, in 1st grade. Today, all three of her children — ages 6, 8, and 10 — attend school at CTA.

“I want to show my kids to never give up on school.”

One-On-One Care

“I like CrossTrainers because the classrooms are small enough that my kids get all the one-on-one attention they need,” Cora says. “I like that (the teachers) are Christians. I believe faith has everything to do with success.”

But the main thing Cora loves about

the school is that the teachers care. Cora recalls when she separated from her kids’ father, Shalonda started acting up at school — getting angry, crying, talking back.

“Shalonda’s teacher didn’t ignore her or brush her aside,” Cora says. “She took the time to listen and pray with her. And she’d call me at home, and we’d talk about how to improve her behavior. She even took time to pray with me!”

College Dreams

Cora’s goal is to see her kids get the education she didn’t get. “I want my kids to learn everything they possibly can, even if it means being smarter than their mom. My dream is to see all of them graduate from college. That’s my dream.”

Seeing her kids succeed has even encouraged Cora to return to school. She is currently enrolled at Milwaukee Area Technical College, where she’s studying social work. “We all sit around the table every night and do our homework together,” Cora says. “I want to show my kids to never give up on school. If they see me in school, maybe they’ll want to continue in the future.

“I thank God every day that my kids get this chance to go to a school like CrossTrainers.”

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