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For Immediate Release

Contact: Rev. Billy E. Fox
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Rescue Mission's Addiction Recovery Program is 2005 Acton Institute Samaritan Award Honoree

*Mission to Hold Program Graduation and Phase Advancement
Acknowledgement Wednesday*

Panama City Rescue Mission's Addiction Recovery Program was one of ten programs in the nation recognized by the Acton Institute as an honoree for the 2005 Samaritan Award for outstanding private, voluntary charitable service.

The Mission's residential treatment program in downtown Panama City serves men and women of all ages who have made unwise decisions, leading life down rough roads.

Executive Director Rev. Billy E. Fox said, "when these men and women are ready to choose a new life, we have the tools to help them."

These men and women learn that their choices have consequences, but they do have the power to choose better for their futures, Fox said. In this Christian-based 5-stage program of recovery the students commit to becoming disciples of Jesus. They undergo a self-paced program with self-set goals.

Each student gets a job description and must report for fulltime work around the Mission, Fox said. This provides the necessary *safe* environment for evaluation of the student's performance.

The goal, Fox said, through compassion and gentle correction, is to improve each person's sense of integrity, responsibility and commitment.

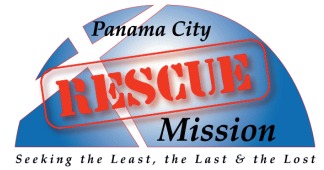
Wednesday several students will be acknowledged for their completion of the program or their advancement to the next phase.

The Samaritan Guide is the Acton Institute's online directory of more than 600 private charities. Users of the guide can access detailed information about each of them at www.samaritanguide.org.

The Panama City Rescue Mission joins these other honorees in the 2005 Samaritan Award program: Lives Under Construction Boys' Ranch, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Washington City Mission, Washington, Pa; Promise of Hope, Inc., Dudley, Ga.; Hearts of Christ Youth Outreach Ministry, Memphis, Tenn.; Citizens for Community Values of Memphis, Memphis, Tenn.; Good Shepherd Shelter of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.; Samaritan Inns, Inc., Washington, D.C.; Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, St. Paul, Minn.; and Knox County Christian Women's Job Corps, Knoxville, Tenn.

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The Center said honorees will be awarded various consultation services to assist them in the delivery of effective programming. Formal presentation of the 2005 Samaritan Awards will be made in Washington in early 2006.

“The Samaritan Award is based on several criteria, including financial stewardship, evaluation of results, and the incorporation of faith into programming. The evaluation of Samaritan Award candidates draws its overall philosophy from the seven principles of effective compassion formulated by Dr. Marvin Olasky, senior fellow at the Acton Institute and author of *The Tragedy of American Compassion*,” Acton Institute Web site.

*For more on the Acton Institute, please visit www.acton.org. Please contact **John Couretas** at (616) 454-3080 or at jcouretas@acton.org for more information about the Samaritan Award.*

*To make arrangements to cover the Program Graduation and Acknowledgement, please call **Amanda Bawn** at (850) 215-9007 by Tuesday November 15th at 4 pm.*

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