



**Ms. Tommy Tyler**

Imagine being homeless. Every day wondering if once again you will be able to call a place home. One day, you decide to change those circumstances and you are given an opportunity to receive help from the Panama City Rescue Mission (PCRM) in Panama City, Florida. Because of that everything becomes brighter, hope is restored, and finally you find yourself on a new path.

This is the story of how Ms. Tommy found herself at the PCRM Gateway Campus for Women and Children. She never imagined she would be homeless. Although she experienced much suffering and abuse during her childhood including alcoholic and depressed parents, teenage rape, contemplating suicide, becoming pregnant at 16, and married to an abusive husband at the age of 19. With no hope, she gave her heart to Jesus and accepted the gift of salvation.

Even though her heart changed, her marriage did not. Praying her life would change and believing it would, kept her in an unhealthy marriage for 37 years. One day, after all those years, Tommy decided to leave the marriage and divorce her husband. She moved from Miami to Walton County and became involved with Vision Church of Christian International. Having only a minimum wage job, she soon found handling money and making decisions on her own for the first time was difficult. Wanting to stay in the area and knowing she would need additional skills to provide a secure future for herself, she enrolled in college at FSU Panama City.

With help from FSU administrative leaders, Tommy obtained on-campus housing. However, there was a gap from her lease expiration to the time she could move on campus. She was homeless and living in her car while taking classes. FSU reached out to the PCRM and told us Tommy's story. She immediately came to the PCRM Gateway Campus for Women and Children where she was welcomed, had a safe place to stay, and was treated with care and kindness.

In the time Tommy spent at PCRM, she grew to love and impact all the residents and staff. Her attitude of gratitude was contagious, and everyone was supportive of Tommy's grand goal to pursue a college degree. She set an amazing example for everyone that it's never too late to change your life, set new goals, and dedicate your life to serving God and others.

Thanks to the generous support of our loyal donors, Ms. Tyler is on her way to a better life.

*Since 1973, the Panama City Rescue Mission has been committed to Christ-centered rescue, recovery, and restoration in an effort to break the destructive cycle of poverty and homelessness.*