

Voice of Calvary Ministries' Programs

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	2024 IMPACT
Parenthood Initiative	Providing parenting training, jobs skills training, and other social services to assist families in staying together and transition to self-sufficiency; established partnership with the MS Department of Human Services.	We assessed more than 193 families; we provided workforce training and certification to more than 65 participants; more than 21 graduates have jobs paying from \$40,000 to \$75,000 per year
VOCM Turning Point Housing	Assisting young adults who are aging out of Foster Care to attain stable housing, life skills training, job skills and other social services they need	We assisted 12 youth exiting out of foster care with housing assistance, utility assistance; educational assistance; and workforce development & life skills training
Delta Property Resident Services	Providing tenant services to 48 apartment complexes throughout the state, mostly in rural areas; connecting healthcare providers and other resources to tenants; established partnership with the MS Department of Health	We provided resident enrichment services to tenants living in 48 low income apartment complexes throughout the State
Navigate Housing	Providing rental assistance, utility payments and case management services to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness	We provided direct financial support to 58 households for housing and utilities assistance
HomeSaver Program	Working in partnership with the Mississippi Home Corporation to assist homeowners at risk of losing their homes; assist clients in completing the necessary paperwork and documentations	We provided foreclosure prevention services to more than 50 homeowners throughout the State
Homebuyer Education	Providing homebuyer education training and counseling for first-time homebuyers	We provided homebuyer education to more than 105 potential homebuyers
VOCM Food Pantry	Assisting those experiencing food insecurity with basic food and household items; work in partnership with the Mississippi Food Network	We served more than 500 households experiencing food insecurity

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”. (Isaiah 9:6)

☞ May God richly bless you and your family this Christmas Season ☞

Voice of Calvary Ministries 531 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39203
 Phone: 601-969-3088 Fax: 601-944-9571 - Website: www.vocm.org - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vocmms/>
 Margaret Johnson, President/CEO margaretjohnson@vocm.org



“Sowing Seeds of Hope Since 1975”

VOCM hosted a **Community Health Expo** at Reed's Park On Claiborne along with our partner MS Department of Health. Participants were able to access Health and Wellness information, make appointments and even receive health screenings on-site. Food trucks and a live DJ made this family event an enjoyable day for everyone.



OPEN HOUSE

Our Resident Enrichment Program sponsored a Grand Opening event for the newly renovated Richland Gardens. VOCM provides social services to the residents of this complex and 47 others across the state owned by Delta Property Management.



VOCM PROVIDES BACKPACKS to the children residing in the 48 complexes we work with. They get to pick out their backpacks full of school supplies relieving families of this burden at the beginning of the school year.



Changed Lives

The Making of Resilience: The Seid Mahbub's Story



Seid Mahbub came to the US in 2018 with dreams but needed to figure out how to make them come true. As a young man in a foreign land, he would encounter situations that would shake his will. Seid had spent three years in a group home, graduating from high school and having hopes for a better future. Hard work led him to his diploma, but his vocation seemed daunting. He wanted to attend community college, but the path would be challenging.

That's when Seid found Voice of Calvary Ministries (VOCM). The ministry's program gave him a breather – a way to combine work and education while paying rent, food, and other expenses. To Seid, this wasn't merely support; it was hope. With the ministry's help, Seid flourished academically and laid the foundation of his professional life. They didn't just give him financial support; they saw his promise. VOCM even financed Seid's initial toolbox and tools, which were the beginnings of his career as a mechanic.

Today, Seid is a full-time mechanic, thanks to his family's work ethic and dedication. He beams when describing VOCM and how vital their support was to his career. "Without them," Seid says, "I don't know where I would be today."

And that isn't the end of Seid's story. After completing his college degree, he plans to pursue his ultimate goal: starting his own auto repair business. So, right now, he's just focusing on learning, practicing what he can, and building the platform for his dream. Seid's is a tale of strength, gratitude, and community. Given the right resources and determination, it teaches us that the most daunting challenges can become a pathway toward a better tomorrow.

VOCM BRINGS GOOD NEWS - by Reverend Phil Reed & Mrs. Marcia Reed

Voice of Calvary Ministries (VOCM) has been Rebuilding Lives and Communities since 1975. It was 1974 when Rev. and Mrs. Perkins moved to Jackson, leaving the work in Mendenhall in the good hands of Dolphus Weary and Artis Fletcher. Several of the young people from Mendenhall were enrolled in what was then Jackson College in the west Jackson neighborhood where the Perkins family settled and they wanted to establish a base of support for them.

Along with the Perkins family came H and Terry Spees, their children and Herbert Jones. Also, some volunteers came to help set up the support base for Rev. Perkins' travel and teaching ministry all across the country. 1655 St. Charles became the hub of activity and was called The Center for Continuous Christian Community or the 4 C's Center.

During these early years the mission of VOCM was discussed, debated and determined to be what it continues to be today: *to help individuals and families reach their full potential in Christ spiritually, physically, economically and socially.* Luke 4:16-21 became the bedrock scripture on which to base the works of ministry that were built up to reach the neighborhood with hope and acts of service.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4: 18,19

The reconciliation, friendship and peer relationships demonstrated at VOCM between the mostly black and white, young and old, poor and not so poor staff members and church members at Voice of Calvary Fellowship was and is unique in our society. It became a witness to the Jackson community and people across the United States. Volunteers came from church groups, colleges and seminaries to experience the Christian love and gain understanding of the call to Christian Community Development that was and still is happening in west Jackson. The work isn't always easy but it is rewarding. Staff member Barbara Thornton often says, "I love my job!"

Phil came to Jackson in 1975 and I came in 1976. We are still here in Mississippi because we found Jesus working through His people on a daily basis to help those in need and bridge the racial divide so prevalent in our culture. Dr. John Perkins at 94 years old and Mrs. Vera Mae Perkins at 91 years old still live in the community and we are able to see and talk to them on a regular basis. Their love for community development is still strong. We are proud to say Voice of Calvary Ministries is going strong too and continues to bring good news to the poor.

What does it mean to bring good news? There is help and hope available. You don't have to remain in poverty. As current VOCM President Margaret Johnson says, "Your zip code shouldn't limit your possibilities." She continues the legacy of leading and guiding the staff and everyone they serve in a life dedicated to making a difference..

Changed Lives

Quincey Garner's Journey



Quincey Garner's journey was anything but ordinary. Born into a life of challenges, he grew up on the tough streets, where survival often outweighed dreams. Yet, even in those dark corners, a quiet voice within him whispered of a better path—a calling he didn't fully understand but couldn't ignore.

Determined to rewrite his story, Quincey made a life-changing decision to join Voice of Calvary Ministries (VOCM). It was there that he found not only guidance but also a newfound sense of purpose. Balancing his days as a full-time cook, Quincey enrolled in a parenting class offered by VOCM, inspired by his desire to be a steady and loving presence for his family. The course taught him more than just parenting strategies; it instilled hope, patience, and a deeper faith that carried him through the long hours at work and study.

Day by day, Quincey grew stronger in spirit and conviction, finding comfort in the teachings of the Lord. He realized that his struggles had never been in vain—they were a preparation for the blessings to come. With the support of VOCM and his unwavering belief in God's plan, Quincey completed the parenting class,

a testament to his perseverance and dedication to his family.

But the journey didn't end there. VOCM saw something remarkable in Quincey and helped him apply for a grant to attend a truck driving school. For the first time, the horizon stretched wide with possibility. The grant was approved, opening the door to a career that promised stability and growth.

Through every challenge, Quincey carried his faith as a compass. He worked tirelessly, leaning on prayer and determination to navigate each step. The streets that once defined his beginnings now served as a backdrop to his triumphs.

Today, Quincey is a living testimony to what faith, hard work, and compassionate support can achieve. His journey from the streets to a fulfilling career in truck driving with the help of VOCM and all its staff is a story of resilience and grace—a story of how a man, guided by the Lord, turned struggles into success.

↓ Please Return this Form With Your Tax Deductible Donation ↓

*"Sowing Seeds of Hope Since 1975
To People and Communities Reaching Their Full Potential in Christ"*



I want to help VOCM rebuild people to rebuild communities through the Gospel.

AP1224

Enclosed is my one-time gift monthly gift

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 Other _____

Name: _____

Address _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____