

Resurrection House

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW...

“You know, it’s hard enough to be homeless, but when you are legally blind in both eyes the difficulty in just surviving is multiplied by a number I can’t even fathom.”

Born and raised in Sarasota, Tim’s parents were bikers. As a result of little or no supervision and discipline, he had a self-described “bad” childhood. A school drop-out in the seventh grade, Tim worked hard as a landscaper.

Married at 14, he was able to buy his first house for \$32,000. A daughter was the result of the union that ended three years later.

“I was really messed up and began selling hard drugs,” Tim admitted. “This resulted in my being in and out of jail and finally I was sentenced to five years in prison. Even though I had a chance at early parole, I served the entire sentence. While there I earned my General Education Diploma,” he said proudly.

Following release, he began work as a brick layer in Cincinnati. Remarried, Tim stayed six years before deciding to return to Florida.

“I began restoring antiques until I began losing the sight in my right eye. The dust from laying concrete had caused styes on my eyes. In addition, a car hit me from behind and I went face-first through my car windshield.”

Unable to work because of his failing eyesight, Tim found himself on the streets of Sarasota. He was befriended by other homeless individuals who would literally take him by the arm and guide him to his destinations.

Into this seemingly hopeless situation came a volunteer counselor at Resurrection House who remembered the Mission Cataract USA program at the Center for Sight. With its mission to help eliminate blindness due to cataracts, surgeons at the Center for Sight perform free cataract surgery one day a year for those individuals without any insurance and below the national poverty level.

Joshua Kim, M.D. performed surgery on Tim for both eyes and the improvement in vision was dramatic and immediate. “Every night I pray and give thanks that I have my eyesight back!” Tim exclaimed. “I feel very fortunate to have this new lease on life and will ever be grateful to Dr. Kim and the Center for Sight.

“My former boss has talked to me about going back to work restoring antiques and I’ll be able to do landscaping for my uncle on the weekends.

In 1972, singer Johnny Nash had a smash hit with the song “I Can See Clearly Now”. One must believe that Tim will probably use this as his theme song for the rest of his life.

Editor’s Note: Since Tim had his surgery, we very seldom see him. Regaining his sight has enabled him to become a productive member of society. We are always excited when one of our clients moves to a self-sustaining lifestyle.

MISSION STATEMENT

Resurrection House is a faith-based resource center committed to the alleviation of the suffering of the homeless by offering physical, emotional and spiritual help and by serving as a bridge from despair to dignity.