

Ray and Paula Raines

Ray and Paula Raines, originally from Pennsylvania, had been serving the Delaware County community for 30 years helping those dealing with hunger, homelessness, abuse and addiction under the umbrella of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. They both retired from their executive leadership roles with Muncie Mission Ministries in 2014.

In May of 2016, they were contacted by a board member of the Grant County Rescue Mission in Marion shortly after an investigation revealed multiple acts of mismanagement within the local organization. They were in search of new leadership to bring order to the disorder.

“My wife and I have nearly 49 years of experience, and we wanted to assist to get them back on track again.”

Ray accepted the role of interim director, and his wife took on human resources and office management responsibilities. Ray said during the 6-7 months they served the Marion/Grant County charity, they got facilities up to code for safety and health, and many other violations were rectified. Paula worked with the board to correct HR violations, hired an accountant and donor & human relations coordinator, and reestablished connections with the nationwide Association of Gospel Rescue Missions.

Ray reported after their interim tenure, “With the changes put in place, new staff and organized practices, we have high hopes for this organization.”

Ray and Paula volunteered the first two weeks before accepting payment for their temporary services. They also dedicated an average of 50-60 hours per week to the local organization for the Marion/Grant County community.

Ray was asked why he stepped into the role. Reflecting back, he said “It has to do with the clients. I hate for them to be neglected. (The malpractice) affects those clients who are very precious to us. It was a horrible circumstance, and we felt a passion to get things going again.”

Grant County Rescue Mission Board President, Janet Pearson, said, “The Lord brought Ray and Paula Raines to the Rescue Mission, using their many years of expertise in assisting the board and the folks that we serve. One thing they did was help restore trust in our community. Ray helped restore the maintenance of the main building and recruited volunteers to assist the mission. Paula’s experience in human resources was a help in hiring new staff to replace the few that had resigned. We are thankful for their commitment and leadership in the transition.”