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Our Guests Want to
Thank You for All You Do!

Fall is a Season
of Thanksgiving
at the Milwaukee
Rescue Mission—
Thanks to Friends
Like YOU!





Dr. Patrick H. Vanderburgh
President

**"...give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus."**

**—1 Thessalonians 5:18
(NIV)**



IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

Dear Friend,

In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul wrote: "...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Notice that he didn't say *for* all circumstances, but *in* all circumstances.

So far, 2020 has been a year of fear, anger, upheaval and overwhelming uncertainty. We've seen a terrible pandemic sicken and even take the lives of friends and family. We've seen neighbors lose jobs and income. And we've all come face to face with deep social turmoil and distress.

Yet give thanks *in* all circumstances. And in the midst of all our challenging circumstances today, God's faithfulness and grace is at work all around us.

God has blessed the Milwaukee Rescue Mission with an incredible staff, who courageously—every day—set their own worries aside and roll up their sleeves to serve our neighbors devastated by homelessness. Each day, I've witnessed hurting men, women and children give their lives to God and experience new life in Him. I've watched in awe as God has begun to heal deep divisions and brought reconciliation to many.

And, of course, I thank God for the extraordinary generosity and faithful support of friends like you. When our students at Cross Trainers Academy needed iPads and Chromebooks to study from home during the pandemic, many of you stepped up to provide them. Even in times of economic hardship, kind folks like you have continued to care about those we serve through donations and food drives. No matter how tough our circumstances get, compassionate friends like you continue to step up through your gifts, prayers and notes of encouragement—and we are so grateful.

So, this fall, as we begin our journey to Thanksgiving, we thank God for shepherding us through this difficult year, and we thank YOU for walking alongside us! May God bless you this season, and may the gift of his amazing grace encourage us all to give thanks—in all circumstances!

Sincerely,

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

BERTO, CHILD OF GOD

A family move can be difficult enough when you're a kid. But moving from his childhood home in Puerto Rico to the huge metropolis of Chicago proved to be a bigger challenge to Berto than he could have ever imagined.

"It all started when my family moved to Chicago," Berto says. "I was 7, and I had a really rough time. It was culture shock. It felt like a slap in the face. I grew really shy and socially awkward. I started drinking at 12. Suddenly, I was a different person, more outgoing, funny, sociable. Then, I didn't stop drinking. It became my security blanket. I couldn't function in public when I was sober. I didn't know who I was sober."

Over the years, drinking cost him friends, family, jobs, his apartment and finally his health. "I wanted to stop," he says. "Every day, I went to the liquor store and, before I walked in, I started to gag because I wanted to stop so bad. But I just couldn't. Then I ended up in the hospital, bleeding and dehydrated because of alcohol. Someone asked me if I wanted help, and I finally said, 'yes.'"

Berto came to MRM and completely surrendered his life to Jesus. "It was hard," he says. "I carried that blanket of alcohol all my life. I prayed to God for help before, but I could never give up that blanket. This time, God said, 'Give it to me.' I didn't think I could do it, but I did. I gave up everything, 100%, to God."

Berto has been sober for 10 months, and he's learning more about God's deep love for him. "Now, thanks to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, I'm learning who I really am in Christ. And I like who I am. Please tell the donors



"I didn't think I could do it, but I did. I gave up everything, 100%, to God."

how much they mean to me. They made this all possible. I wouldn't be here without them."

OUR GUESTS WANT TO Thank



Thanks to you, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission serves more than 25,388 meals every month to hungry men, women and children!



Up to 420 hurting people who are homeless have safe shelter every night because YOU care!



There are 25 women unaccompanied by dependent children currently being served in Joy House's Door of Hope.



Women and children in Joy House can breathe a sigh of relief and feel safe—many for the first time. Thank you!



Our Equip community outreach program is strengthening families who appreciate the chance you're giving them to thrive.



During the pandemic, you've helped provide over 13,320 hygiene items to neighbors in need!



Hope often starts with a hot, nutritious meal. After a challenging summer for so many of our neighbors in Milwaukee, more hungry men, women and children are turning to us for help every day.

you FOR ALL YOU DO!



You're helping men overcome addictions in our New Journey residential recovery program!



Almost 400 kids attending Cross Trainers Academy, our K4-12th grade school, are grateful for the education and spiritual support they receive!



In just the first few months of the pandemic, your support enabled us to distribute 129 food baskets to hungry neighbors—and counting!



Please give today!

“In one of the darkest spots of my life, you brought me back to the light. You really did give me the chance to start over.”

—Alesha



“I have a new life no one can ever take away from me.

That's what your support did for me. You saved my life. Thank you!” —James



“I want the donors to know that I'm so grateful for their support when I needed it most. I don't know where I'd be without Joy House!”

—Shaquonna





JUST \$2.04 PROVIDES A THANKSGIVING MEAL TO A HUNGRY NEIGHBOR!

After a summer of job losses, fear and many other overwhelming challenges, more of our struggling neighbors are turning to MRM for help every day. Many are experiencing homelessness for the first time. More men come to escape the elements, hurting single moms and their children come seeking shelter and hope, and all the students at Cross Trainers Academy depend on us to provide them with hot, nutritious meals.

It doesn't cost much. Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and generous donations from local markets, **each meal we serve still costs only \$2.04.** Your gift today will provide precious men, women and children with hot meals, safe shelter, hope—and the love of Jesus Christ—throughout the weeks ahead.

So please send the most generous gift you can today. Thank you!



Please Choose MRM

If you are an employee of one of the many private organizations that participate in the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, you can support MRM by giving through your workplace. By designating your gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (listed as #50625), you will help transform the lives of men, women and children struggling with hunger and homelessness this fall and winter.

Family Food Basket Wish List

- \$20.00 Pick & Save gift cards
- Cans of cranberry sauce
- Boxes of instant potatoes
- Jars of turkey gravy
- Boxed stuffing mix
- Canned vegetables (corn or green beans)
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
- Boxed cake mix or brownie mix
- Canisters of frosting
- Applesauce
- Jello or pudding mix
- Packages of ramen noodles
- Peanut butter
- Jam/jelly
- Cans of soup, ravioli, SpaghettiOs,® etc.
- Kid-friendly snacks (fun fruits, raisins, crackers and cheese, granola bars, etc.)
- Oatmeal
- Boxed cereal
- Pancake mix/syrup
- Pop-Tarts®

To find out about our other needs, please visit www.milmission.org/itemsofneed, or call us at (414) 344-2211.



MEMORIAL & IN HONOR OF GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF: Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost a loved one. A memorial gift to MRM is a special way to offer hope to the hurting in the name of a friend or family member.

Margilea Abel	Howard Gnewikow	Joeseeph Le Roy	Ronald Romanowich
Sounderrajan Allappakam	Pieter Yates Godfrey	Jim and Elaine Livingston	Joseph (Joe) Rondeau
Virginia (Ginny) Arvold	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goetsch	Jackie Macaulay	Liz Schmitt
Anthony Bakeris	Baby Nugget Johnston	Audry Mally	Wallace Schmitz
Erich Berger	Kathleen Gregovich	Daniel Mathson	Bonnie Schoeppel
Leopoldo Bernal	David J. Haas	Dr. Ahmed Mbalia	Margaret Rose Schrader
Mike Boivin	Ralph Haase	Bill McGrane	Ronald Scott
Somesh Bose	Robert W. Harley	Maurie Mc Nally	Daniel Sellers
Ann Bukowski	Chuck Herbst	Jeff Meyer	Bob Slater
Elaine Burden	Ileana and Gheorghe	Jerome and Ruth Meyer	Gloria Small
David P. Chyla	Waldemar Hesselbein	Gerald (Jerry) Michalowski	Bernardo Soto
Marion Conradt	Andrew F. Hetzel	Eddo and Erna	Norman W. Speerbrecher
Carla Cowie	Shirley Hoffman	Mary Ann Mitchell	Daniel F. Stengel
Perry Crawford III	Chuck and Helen, Noel and Carol	Eileen Mooers	Arthur Streich
Lost souls	Jeffrey Jaeger	James Morgan	Jim Svitak
Luke Deprey	Todd Justman	Bill and Vera Muir	Louis Szep
Lila Desert	Norbert Kaczorowski	Donald Nasgowitz	Helen Tarasinski
Mother, Catherine Donald	Gerald Kardach	Steve Neubauer	Rosemary J. Ternes
Bill Doyle	Joseph A. Kardach	John L. Nikolai	Dominic Vallone
Charles (Chuck) Ertl, Sr.	Beverly Kohl	William Nohr	Don Vanderventer
Lucille Faust	Georgia Koterba	Eileen Nowak	Gene and Emma Verret
Andrew H. Ferber	Robert and Dorothy Kruger	Russell and Joyce Glassow	Gil Volz
Mitchell Fischer	Mary Anne Krull	Bill O'Neil, Jr.	Ann Wadlund
Charles Flickinger	Roberta and Betty	Jean M. Ott	Mom
Evarista Flores	Susan (Sue) Kultgen	Gino Pezzin	John Wehrley
George Floyd	Ted Lamparski	Christine Pirrung	Moritz Weinmann
Fernando	Tim Lasch	Frances Richard	Adrian M. Welters
Jesse Ryan Gamache		Ben Ritter	Nick and Florence Zylman

IN HONOR OF: A gift to MRM is a great way both to provide hope and to remember a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion!

The Anderson Family	Paul Gonzales 80th Birthday	Giovanni Knutson	Ed Rivard's Birthday
Mark Best's 85th Birthday	Lester Green	Rachel Kruse	The Black Community
Daniel Brennan	Michael Groblewski	Kate Melbye's Graduation	Larry Schutz for Father's Day
Cynthia Brey's Birthday	Mary F. Hayes	Melanie Mendez	Evan Seymer
Stuart Briscoe	Chuck Herbst	My brother, Steve M.	Henri Shein's 25th Birthday
Joseph Cieminski	All the Veterans	Linda and Richard's Birthday	Andrew Toles
Ron Fedder	The LORD Jesus Christ	My dad, Otto - Happy Father's Day	Patrick Vanderburgh
Don Galster	Anna Klein Ninneman	Our Lord and Our God	Seth Vincent

The names published on this page represent gifts to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, received from June 1 through July 31, 2020, greater than or equal to \$25.

www.milmission.org

SURROUNDED BY LOVE



When Lavonna first came to Joy House three months ago, the young mother felt defeated and lost. She desperately wanted a better life for herself and her kids, but she had no idea what to do.

"I grew up in a family with a lot of challenges," Lavonna says. "I never got much support from anyone. I had a baby when I was 15, dropped out of school, and was completely on my own. And I've been on my own ever since."

Lavonna seemed to be getting by on her own until a year ago when she lost her job. Then, last spring, she lost her apartment. Having run out of options, she came to Joy House.

"I really needed to figure out how to make my life work, so I'd never be in this

position again," she says. "But how do I do that? I have children who need me. I never graduated from high school. I don't know anything about how to live like an adult. I mean, where do I even start?"

"They helped me get on the right path with God."

Thanks to Joy House—and YOUR support—Lavonna gained valuable life skills, through budgeting and parenting classes, and by learning how to set and maintain goals. She started studying for her GED, and next plans to attend

college to study nursing. Lavonna says she has a long way to go, but she is thankful for Joy House staff who continue to walk with her and guide her every step of the way.

"They helped me get on the right path with God," she says. "God is helping me get through all this, and he'll never leave me nor forsake me."

"I've been surrounded by so much love here, and knowing that donors make all this possible is such a blessing. It helps me stay positive and determined to keep going. I'm so thankful!"

Work at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission!

Have you ever thought of joining the team at MRM? Check out our employment opportunities at milmission.org/employment



► **Have you remembered MRM in your estate plan?**

Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing God's love by caring for those who are poor in body, mind and spirit, to see lives transformed through Christ to hope, joy and lasting productivity.