



# Soup for your Soul

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“I’m a better man because of you!”



**Dr. Patrick H. Vanderburgh**  
President

**"Do not be afraid.  
I bring you good  
news that will  
cause great joy  
for all the people."**

— Luke 2:10 (NIV)



# A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

Dear Friend,

I love Christmas at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. I call it "organized bedlam" — fun, loud and a little chaotic, but in the best possible sense ... like watching children excitedly tear into their presents.

I don't expect that Christmas cheer to change much this year. We may still be wearing masks and practicing social distancing, but **not even COVID-19 can dampen the joy of the season.**

What I do expect *will* change is the number of families coming for help. The local economy — especially the service industry — has been hammered by the loss of jobs due to the pandemic. Countless families are facing homelessness and hunger for the very first time, having lost so much because of circumstances largely out of their control. And yet, hope remains.

That's what Christmas at MRM is all about.

We always aspire to see lives changed. Often, that begins by meeting someone's immediate needs — usually food and shelter. While Christmas toys may not be as critical, they do help struggling families look beyond their circumstances to feel comfort and joy and a sense of community during the holidays.

**Still, the most important message we'll deliver  
this Christmas is the message of the Gospel.**

For the precious souls who walk through our doors, it's often a hot meal and a warm bed that begins their road to recovery — but it's God who walks with them every step of the way, working everything for their good. We want everyone who walks through these doors to know that Jesus loves them. Jesus, whose birth in a manger, death on the cross and resurrection from the dead gave us the promise of eternal life in Heaven. All because of His great compassion for us! That's a powerful message of hope, especially in these uncertain times.

And in these uncertain times, you are helping to share this hope. You are helping to transform lives! As you gather with family and friends to celebrate Christmas this year, please know that many of our neighbors have new hope and a future because of your kindness.

**Thank you for helping fill the hearts of those in need during the holidays with the peace and joy of the season! May God bless you this Christmas!**

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.  
President



# TERRY FOUND A SECOND CHANCE



**Years of alcoholism, drug addiction and anger nearly cost Terry everything.**

What started as the casual drink in Terry's youth spiraled into alcoholism in adulthood. For a while, he managed to make things work—he met the love of his life, Taneka, and they started a family. But then, Terry's drinking and drugs became too much. He and Taneka separated, and eventually, Terry found himself homeless—for six years.

When Terry was on the streets, every day was a struggle. Once, muggers took a gift card he'd been saving to buy a bike for his daughter. When he told Taneka, she assumed he just "drank the money away." Terry said, "I felt like a failure as a dad."

Christmas was especially tough.

"Two years ago, I spent Christmas all alone, feeling sorry for myself," he recalls. "I just kept telling myself, 'I can never get anything right. I just keep messing things up.'"

But, Terry's life turned around when he came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission for help. Here, he found the care and resources he needed to overcome his addiction and get his life on track—and, he rediscovered his faith.

**"Not being on drugs, I am a totally different person, the one that God created me to be." – Terry**

"I've learned a lot about God since being here," he says. "I've learned that even if you make wrong decisions, He has the ability to change things." Terry learned even more about God's life-transforming love after contracting COVID-19.

The virus hit Terry—hard. He was put on a ventilator twice. For 46 days, doctors weren't sure if he would live. But during that time, Taneka's heart was softened. She had seen glimpses of Terry's transformation, and wanted to encourage him through his illness. Every day, the nurses would tell him, "Taneka called today. She says she loves you, and the kids love you."



Terry & Taneka are grateful for you.

**Terry's now making the most of the second chance you helped provide.**



Today, Terry is drug-free, thankful to be on the road to recovery from the virus, grateful to God that he's been able to reconnect with his family—and looks forward to celebrating Christmas with them this year.

"I want to thank God for showing me His mercy and grace in giving me a second chance!" To MRM donors, he says, "thank you for changing my life, helping me to find God again, and making it possible to be reunited with my wife and kids."

"I'm a better man because of you!"



# WITH YOUR HELP, KIDS WILL HAVE CHRISTMAS JOY THIS YEAR!

**Thank you for making this year's Christmas bright for kids in need!**

Each year, MRM staff and volunteers turn the gym at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission into a "Christmas Store" with trees, lights and garland — and thousands of new toys earmarked for children associated with MRM's Joy House, Safe Harbor and Cross Trainers Academy.

Generous donations from the community make it possible for struggling parents to come to the Christmas Store and shop for their kids, **free of charge.**

After selecting up to three presents for each of their children, it's off to the wrapping station where

moms and dads can be spotted wrapping the perfect gifts they have picked out for their children.

Especially after a year like this, many parents struggle to provide basic needs, let alone Christmas presents. **So allowing parents to choose specific gifts for their children is a way to help give their kids a Christmas to remember!**

**The Milwaukee Rescue Mission's Christmas Store has been an overwhelming success because of the generosity of friends like you.** Thank you for making this year's Christmas brighter for kids in need!



## Our Christmas Wish List

This Christmas season, we're counting on friends like you to help provide new, unwrapped gifts for hundreds of children in our community. Please drop off or mail toys and gift items for infants through teens at MRM-Main Campus.

- ☐ New toys for children (infants to teens)
- ☐ Watches & jewelry
- ☐ Perfumes/cologne
- ☐ Lotions
- ☐ Soaps & loofahs
- ☐ Women's robes & slippers
- ☐ Authentic sports team attire (Packers, Bucks, etc.) — hats, sweatshirts, warm gear
- ☐ Wallets
- ☐ Gift cards
- ☐ Wrapping paper, gift bags and tissue paper—we need enough to wrap hundreds of gifts!

**Where:** 830 N. 19th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
**When:** Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. by December 9  
**\$10 minimum value, please.**  
**For more information, call (414) 344-2211**



**Thank you for doing all you can to make the holidays brighter for our neighbors in need!**



# LAST CHRISTMAS WAS MERRY AND BRIGHT, THANKS TO YOU!



You can make this Christmas as bright as last year's.



Children had toys, games and stuffed animals to unwrap on Christmas morning, thanks to your generosity!



Your kindness supplied folks who came through our doors for help with hats, gloves and scarves — just what they needed as temperatures plummeted.



Guests at Joy House and Safe Harbor enjoyed delicious holiday meals because of your support.



Because you gave, hundreds of local families were filled with cheer and gratitude as they received holiday food baskets.



# THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO SHOW KINDNESS THIS YEAR!

Still looking for the perfect way to help our struggling neighbors this Christmas? Consider the following ...

## Give a Gift That Will Change a Life



Make the season more memorable by shopping through our 2020 Christmas Gift Catalog. Every item you choose will offer help to struggling men, women and children in desperate need.

Visit [www.milmissiongiving.org](http://www.milmissiongiving.org)

## Make 2x the Impact

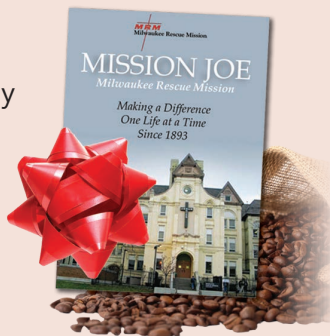


Ask your employer if they have a charitable matching gift program. It can make your gift go TWICE as far in helping our hurting neighbors!

Visit [www.milmission.org/employer-matching-gifts](http://www.milmission.org/employer-matching-gifts) for a list of some businesses that offer a matching gift program.

## Give the Perfect Morning Pick-Me-Up

Share a bag of "Mission Joe" Coffee with family and friends. One-pound bags (\$10) and Mission Mugs (\$5) are available in our visitors' lobby, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## What Could Be Easier?



Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and **0.5%** of your purchase price will be donated to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission when you choose us as your charity of choice.





# 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.

Juan Arciniega	Jesse Ryan Gamache	Brian Lash	Norm, Joyce and Diane	Vera
Thomas and Merle Bardowski	Theodora Grdeles-Dupies	Shirley Laska	Eileen Nowak	Mildred Starz
James Berezowitz	Charles Gartner	Joeseeph Le Roy	Russell and Joyce Glassow	Florence Steen
Leopoldo Bernal	Kevin A. Gibson, Sr	Helen Lee	Paul Ostrander	Cynthia (Cindy) Stenz
Betty Bernatz Knoebel	Donald Gnewikow	Charles (Chuck) Lenz	Mom and Dad	My Sister
Daniel D. Bett	Howard Gnewikow	Bill Leusink	Josephine (Josie) Perso	Helen Tarasinski
Badri Prasad Bhandari	Mr and Mrs Charles Goetsch	Ken Luedtke	Gino Pezzin	Breonna Taylor
Mike Boivin	Theodora Grdeles-Dupies	Jackie Macaulay	Valerie Rabiego	John (Jack) Thiesen
Michael D. Butler, Sr	Kathleen (Kathy) Gregovich	Rita Mago	Nancy Rank	Art Tomczak
John Byhre	Hugh (Buzz) Hagaman	David Matteson	Elizabeth Rawlinson-Berna	Angela Tortorice
Connie J. Cain	Greyson Hartje	Maria A. McCutchin	Bob Rebisch	Kay Tummonds
David P. Chyla	Chuck Herbst	Ray McKee	Jose Ribares	Annie Vander Linden
Dale L. Courtney	Thomas Herrick	Barbara (Bobbi) McLean	Jim Rich	Don Vanderventer
Joseph (Joe) Cull	DJ Holly	Itzak	Frances Richard	Gil and Dorothy Volz
Michael Curran	Janet (Jan) Holter	Andy Mett	Ben Ritter	Lee Wackman
Lost souls	Arlene M. Jackson	Marianne Miller	Majorie Robinson	Rhonda Wagner
Pamela (Pam) Deja	Helen Johnson	Donald Moede	Ronald Romanowich	My nurse and friend, Janice
Bud Derksen	Steve Johnstone	Allen Moore	Joseph (Joe) Rondeau	Ervin Walz
Patricia Elliott	Kent Kaliebe	Bill and Vera Muir	Edward Sadowski	John and Lois Wehrley
Lucille Faust	Mae Karbash	Rich Mullins	Jerome Pogodzinski and Angela Sauro	Moritz Weinmann
Andy Feiring	Erika H. Knemeyer-Babic	Donald Nasgowitz	Andrew (Andy) Schneider	Fred and Eleanor Wertz
Mary Fenelon	Michael Krieger	Stephen (Steve) Neubauer	Krishana Sharma	Rose Wierzbinski
Mitchell Fischer	Robert and Dorothy Kruger	Lillian A Neumyer	Vicky Shirah	Todd Wold
Gene Fliss	Raj Kumar	Clary Nielsen	William Simerl	Eric Zagorski
Rosemary Fuhr	My father	John and Marian Nikolai	Bernardo Soto	Brenda Zbytniewski
		William Nohr		Jane Ziemer

**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!

Jenny Adamo-Brian	LaNell Gill's Birthday	Walter Laughrin	My grandson, Tyler
Matthew Agen	Essential Workers	Jesus	Tim Tracy
Cathy Anderson	James and Gwen O'Brien	Our Country	All Catholic Priests
Jim and Lorraine Bahr	God's Amazing Grace	Novoa Kids	
Jessie D. Carpiaux	Lisa Kiley	Khris Middleton	
Karen Cooley's Birthday	My Lord and Savior, Jesus	LegacyOne Consulting LLC	

## MY GIFT TO HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

Please designate my gift in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

OR in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this slip along with your gift and the enclosed remit.

The names published on this page represent gifts to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, received from August 1 through September 30, 2020, greater than or equal to \$25.

[milmission.org](http://milmission.org)



# FINDING HOPE IN HER DARKEST HOUR



Danielle

For years, Danielle and her son, Jordan, were practically inseparable from her mother.

"It was just the three of us since the day Jordan was born 10 years ago," Danielle says. "We shared an apartment and everything."

So when her mom died unexpectedly, Danielle fell

into a deep depression. She says, "I didn't blame God, but I blamed everyone else: the firefighters, the paramedics, the hospital staff."

**"I felt lost ... broken ... I didn't know how I was going to move on."**

Sometimes, Danielle would lean on Jordan, who would try to cheer her up. "Don't worry mama; Nana is still watching over us," he would say.

And for a short time, it worked. But then the overwhelming feelings of sadness and fear would creep back in to crush her spirit. She began to miss work because of her depression, and eventually she lost her job. She could no longer afford her apartment and didn't know what to do.

That's when a social worker at her son's school told her about Joy House.

It was here in Joy House that Danielle found not only safe shelter and nutritious meals for herself and her son, but encouragement and reminders of God's transforming love for them.

"I was really hungry and thirsty to get close to God again, and MRM has helped me to do that!" Danielle says. "It has made me hopeful for the future. I now have a much more positive attitude, instead of always being mad at the world. Now, I'm letting God be my rock and my foundation!"

"It was definitely God who sent me here," she says. "This was just what I needed, and it's been a blessing."

**Thank you for helping women like Danielle find purpose in life again, giving them joy for the present — and hope for the future!**

If you know someone in need, please contact us — we're here to help.

## 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](http://milmission.org/employment)



830 N 19th St | Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 344-2211 | [www.milmission.org](http://www.milmission.org)

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



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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.