

MARCH 2021

ransformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

**"God has made
me into a different
person. That old
person is gone;
now I'm alive
through Christ!"**

– Patrick

INSIDE

Page 2. How Christ is Bringing Renewal This Easter — Through YOU!

Page 3. Patrick is Rejoicing — Thanks to Your Generosity

Page 4. Your Impact — Then and Now

Page 7. How Your Support Gave Ashanti & Her Kids a New Beginning





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HOW CHRIST IS BRINGING RENEWAL THIS EASTER — THROUGH YOU!

Dear Friend,

Easter Sunday is like no other day on the calendar. This year, especially so.

A year ago, many were reeling from the impact of COVID-19. Buildings were shuttered, schools were closed, loved ones were separated by distance, masks and sickness.

And now, with over a year of the pandemic under our belts, many of us are still separated — from friends and family, and seemingly from certainty and hope.

But because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can never be separated from the real hope and joy of everlasting life in our risen Savior!

This is the best opportunity we have all year to tell our hurting neighbors about the resurrection of Christ and the hope we have in Him as believers — the hope that triumphs over shame, hardship and death, granting new life and new beginnings to those who need it most.

It's true that most of our homeless neighbors have an obvious physical need. They're hungry, so they need food. They're homeless, so they need safe shelter.

But it's also true that if genuine renewal is to take place, these precious souls need to look beyond their physical needs to the source of their brokenness. Whether it's addiction, domestic violence, or personal loss, the solution is always the same: surrendering to Christ and letting Him transform their lives.

In addition to sharing the message of Christ's sacrifice for us, we demonstrate his love by providing a meal — hoping to not only fill empty stomachs, but touch hearts yearning for restoration and renewal.

Thank you for helping reach hungry hearts with the message of hope this Easter — one precious life at a time.

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

— *Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*

THIS EASTER, YOU CAN PROVIDE HOPE!

After the trials and challenges of 2020, everyone's looking for hope — especially those living on the streets. Easter is a perfect time to demonstrate Christ's love by providing nourishment to struggling families and hungry individuals. Your help is critical! Please support those in need this Easter by visiting milmission.org/rejoice. **Thank you!**



PATRICK IS REJOICING — THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY

There was a time in Patrick's life when he was living a storybook existence.

After a rough patch in his teens, Patrick was celebrating sobriety, was active in his local church and was married to the woman he adored. Life was good and peaceful.

Then, after ten years of marriage, his wife unexpectedly left him — and his dream turned into a nightmare.

For a while, Patrick white-knuckled his way through each day to maintain his sobriety. But the more time went on, the more difficult it became to hide the embarrassment and disappointment brought on by “my broken heart.” Eventually, he “fell back into the bottle.”



“I felt like there was a tug-of-war going on for my soul,” he says.

Patrick's rock-bottom moment came after he was arrested for drunk driving and spent 30 days in jail. During that time, he prayed, “God, I need a place to go. A safe place where it's just you and me and my Bible. Lord ... just get me there.”

When he was released, he had no job, no place to live, and nobody to help him emerge from the hole he had dug for himself. That's how he ended up at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, enrolling in New Journey, our long-term recovery program for men.

Here, Patrick not only regained his sobriety but sensed God reshaping his future. “I knew God wanted me to start completely over. He melted me down into another person and I'm glad the person I used to be is dead.”

“I can hold my head up in the community now because people cared enough to help someone like me.” – Patrick

Today, Patrick's heart is full of gratitude for all the support he has received through the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. For staff, who patiently listened and offered him a shoulder to cry on. For his new friends, who provided encouragement and support. And for donors, who made it possible for him to be here and find the help he needed.

“Because of them, I'm not drinking and driving no more. I'm not being a menace to society,” he says. “I have my own place. My own vehicle. I'm even on good terms with my family again, which is itself a miracle.”

He adds, “I can hold my head up in the community now because people cared enough to help someone like me.”

This Easter, Patrick is rejoicing for the new life he's been given — and we are, too. Thank you for helping change lives!

YOUR IMPACT —



This Easter, we're celebrating that God has brought us through this past year ... together! Loving our neighbor is always God's will, and faithful ministry partners like you help do that by unselfishly giving of your time, your talents, and your treasures. While the past year looked a little different, neighbors in need were able to find healing and hope through our programs — because of you! Thank you for bringing hope to *the least, the last and the lost* in our community.

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS TO OUR HURTING NEIGHBORS THIS EASTER!



For women and children experiencing life-altering setbacks or traumas, Joy House offers relief. Through your help last year, many found safe shelter, nutritious meals, counseling, spiritual support and encouragement to rebuild their lives.

For men facing terrible personal crisis, Safe Harbor can help. Last year, we met the short-term emergency needs of hundreds of men, while helping them find long-term success and transformation through programs that include addiction recovery, spiritual guidance, job training, education and more.

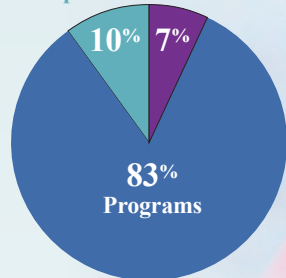


THEN AND NOW

2020 FINANCES

CONTRIBUTIONS	
\$12,512,810	51.5%
LEGACIES & BEQUESTS	
\$2,015,777	8.3%
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	
\$5,885,773	24.3%
CHOICE INCOME	
\$3,104,883	12.8%
INVESTMENTS	
\$360,381	1.5%
EVENTS	
\$238,725	1.0%
MISCELLANEOUS	
\$158,178	0.6%
TOTAL:	100%
\$24,276,527	

Development Administration



365,777
MEALS SERVED



33
PROGRAM
GRADUATES



111
PROFESSIONS
OF FAITH



45,020
ITEMS OF
CLOTHING



70,090
NIGHTS OF SAFE
LODGING

Equip strengthens families through education and resources to help them become stable physically, emotionally and spiritually. Through the generosity of friends like you, we were able to distribute thousands of food baskets, articles of clothing, PPE and hygiene items to neighbors who are struggling.



Cross Trainers Academy provides a Christ-centered education to nurture students who may be at-risk, including those who are or have been homeless. Your support last year helped students continue to learn and grow despite challenges brought on by the pandemic.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

After the year we've all just had, we are deeply grateful for the thousands of volunteers who have given of their time and talents to help struggling families and individuals throughout Milwaukee. From packing food boxes to serving meals, they have truly reflected the compassion of Jesus Christ! We could not have accomplished as much as we did without the kindness they showed to those in need. From all of us at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, thank you to our incredible volunteers — we hope to see you again soon!



“It’s incredible to see how a simple act of kindness can brighten someone’s life. – Evelyn”

“Making a difference through volunteering means so much. It’s not just a way to give back to those in need, but a way to be blessed by serving others! – Mike”

To learn more about how YOU can make an impact through volunteering at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, visit milmission.org/volunteer!

HOW YOUR SUPPORT GAVE ASHANTI & HER KIDS A NEW BEGINNING

One early morning last July, Ashanti was woken from a deep sleep by the sound of loud banging on her front door. It was the police, shouting for her to get her and her kids out because there was a fire in her apartment.

“It was crazy,” Ashanti remembers. “My poor baby was just crying and screaming. She didn’t know what was going on.”

Ashanti hoped she and her kids could crash at her mom’s house for a few days. But her mom was only renting a one-bedroom apartment — and there were six of them. They couldn’t stay.

Out of options, Ashanti spent what little money she had on a hotel for a few days, then contacted Joy House — our shelter for women and children.

What a relief, she remembers.

“I was so thankful that we had somewhere safe and dry to lay our heads,” Ashanti recalls. “And that we would have food every day, so I didn’t have to worry about going hungry.”

But food and shelter were just the beginning.

Through Joy House’s long-term recovery program, Ashanti has

been able to set goals for transitioning to a life of stability. She’s learned a lot from finance and parenting classes, and she’s grown closer to God. “I know everything is going to work out because God is in control,” she says.

Ashanti has also learned how important her attitude is when dealing with struggles. “I can’t let bad things ruin my life,” she says. “I’ve got five little sets of eyes watching me. I have to remain strong for them.”

To donors who made it possible to find restoration and hope in Joy House, Ashanti says, “I want to thank you a million times over. Not having to sleep on the streets is everything to me. What you’ve done for us is amazing.”

Your support meant a new start for Ashanti — and hundreds of others who come through our doors for help. Thank you for being so generous!

“Not having to sleep on the streets is everything to me. What you’ve done for us is amazing.” – Ashanti



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SAVE THE DATE



Instead of our in-person annual banquet, we hope you'll join us for our Faces of Hope E-Banquet next month! What's an E-Banquet, you ask? Find out at milmission.org/ebanquet!



Thursday, June 17



18 HOLES for the HOMELESS

Monday, August 30

WORK AT THE MILWAUKEE RESCUE MISSION!

There are many ways to share God's love with people in need. One way is to join our team at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission! If you want to use the gifts God has given you to share love and hope with others, check out our employment opportunities at: milmission.org/employment



If you or someone you know is in need, please contact us at (414) 344-2211 — we can help.

Have you remembered MRM in your estate plan?

For more information, visit: milmission.org/planned-giving

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.



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

830 N 19th St | Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 344-2211 | milmission.org



CITYGATE™ MISSION MEMBER
NETWORK

Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation