

MAY 2021

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

See How You Helped Justine and Her Girls During the Pandemic

INSIDE

- Page 2. Transformation Begins with Hope – and You
- Page 3. No Job and No Place to Stay
- Page 4. Graduation and Transformation!
- Page 7. “I’ve got a brand-new life now”





TRANSFORMATION BEGINS WITH HOPE — AND YOU

Every day, I have the privilege of seeing how your support is impacting lives here at MRM. It’s not just the hearty meals and welcoming shelter you help provide but the hope you help offer someone who is lost. When struggling souls are treated with dignity and they hear the message that God loves them... then true transformation begins!

You are a partner in that transformation, because your support offers so much more than nourishing meals to struggling single moms and their children. Through parenting and life skills classes, spiritual guidance and other education, *they can learn how to rebuild their lives* and secure a bright future for their children.

And **you are a partner in transformation** for the man struggling with homelessness because of job loss, mental illness or substance abuse. Your kindness offers more than just a place to lay his head — by God’s grace, it offers him the opportunity to find wholeness, peace and a fresh start.

And for those who feel lost after experiencing severe trauma, **you are a partner in their transformation**. Through counseling and care, they are reminded of *God’s great love* for them, finding healing and hope to replace their brokenness and despair.

So many of the precious men, women and children who come through our doors arrive with dashed hopes and growing fears — but here, they find the love of Jesus, the only source of lasting change.

As you read through this issue of *Transformed*, please know how grateful we are for the real hope you help provide — and the transformations you’ve helped make possible for people like Justine and Terry.

Through God’s grace, you offer hope to hurting souls — thank you!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh,
D.Min., President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

– *Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)*

MORE THAN MEALS MATCHING CHALLENGE

Want to do even more to help our homeless and hungry neighbors in these difficult times? Donate towards our *More Than Meals* Matching Challenge, and your gift doubles in impact! That means every gift received by May 31 will go twice as far — not only in providing meals and care, but in opening the door to life transformation through our long-term recovery programs. **So many men, women and children right here in Milwaukee are hurting and need immediate help. You can offer them hope and the chance for new life! Please give today at milmission.org/morethanmeals. Thank you!**



More Than Meals
MATCHING CHALLENGE

NO JOB AND NO PLACE TO STAY

Until your support let this single mom know she wasn't alone

Raising kids is tough enough, much less as a single mom during a pandemic.

Like so many others in our community, Justine and her kids faced many challenges last year. Then, the unimaginable happened. Justine lost her job, and the family was evicted from their home.

Losing her job and her home was difficult — but in the midst of the uncertainty of the pandemic, it was especially trying. “I was sad, disappointed, and a little angry,” she admits. In her heart, though, Justine knew she had no time to feel sorry for herself. She needed to find a place for her and the girls to stay — and quickly.



Out of options, Justine brought her family to Joy House, our shelter for women and children. Here, they found a roof over their heads, three meals a day, education and counseling ... They found *refuge* and *peace* from their anxieties, thanks to the support of friends like you. And it wasn't long before Justine realized that this care means more than shelter and meals — it means the chance to begin rebuilding their lives.

Justine says being at Joy House didn't just provide her family with a safe place to stay, but it also helped her learn how to become a better parent. She set goals for herself, which included looking for work, finding another apartment and getting her kids back in school.

“Being here has definitely opened my eyes to things I should be doing differently,” Justine says. “Like setting boundaries and being more patient.” She says she wants to “put God first in everything I do, and then raise my kids the best way I know how. I want them to know that we can do all things through Him — and that tough times don't last.”

“Being here has definitely opened my eyes to things I should be doing differently.”
– Justine

Today, Justine has already accomplished some of her goals and is working on the next— she has a job, and just graduated from our Renew program in Joy House. As she looks forward to moving into a place of her own, she says she'll always remember the way MRM staff treated her family. “They were always so kind to us,” she remembers. “This is a beautiful place that really opened my eyes.”

And to friends like you who made it possible for her family to be here, she says, **“Thank you. I am more grateful than words can express!”**

Never forget that Justine — and hundreds of others — are living new lives today because friends like you care!

GRADUATION AND

Through education, men, women and children

For young scholars at our K4-12th grade school, Cross Trainers Academy, and for those turning their lives around in our Safe Harbor and Joy House recovery programs, **graduation isn't the end. It's just the beginning of a new life and a transformed soul — a celebration of knowing that anything is possible through Him!**

Many of those who come to us have struggled through great crises — addiction, domestic abuse, job loss, shattered relationships, brokenness and great need. When they enter our programs, they come to learn that with your support and with Christ in their lives, they have a foundation for building a better tomorrow, knowing that God goes with them every step of the way.

Just look at all you've helped them accomplish by simply opening your heart ...



“ I feel like Cross Trainers Academy has encouraged me and prepared me. Now, I've got more to do, a lot more I can accomplish!” — Demetriania

“ I'm excited to graduate! I want to go into psychology, but I'm also interested in opening my own art studio. CTA has helped guide me! I want to thank you because I've been here for a while, since K4; thank you for everything you've done for us!” — Montyeira

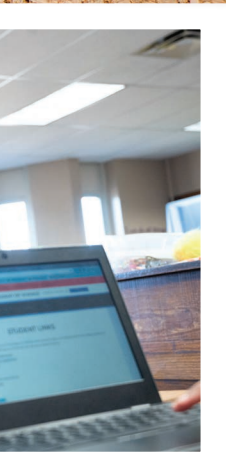
**BEHIND THESE JOYFUL SMILES AND NEW HOPE FOR
THANK YOU FOR BEING A PARTNER**

TRANSFORMATION!

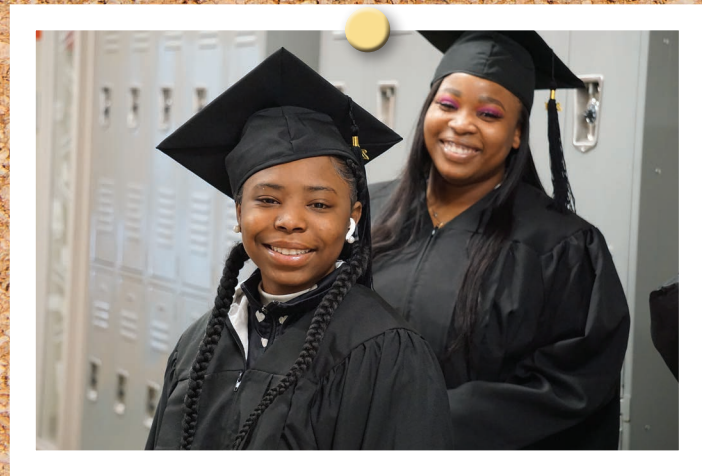
Children have a new path and fresh start.



“ I’m receiving spiritual guidance, help in my recovery from substance abuse and a new chance at life. Thank God for MRM and thank God for you and your generosity!” — Josh



“ The meals and a bed have been great, but for me, the most important part is the spiritual, emotional help. They brought me closer to God. Now they’re even helping me go back to college.” — Alicia



THE FUTURE IS YOUR COMPASSION AND SUPPORT.
BE THERE IN THESE TRANSFORMATIONS!

SAVE THE DATE



Join us for our most EXTREME event yet! Go **Over The Edge** with MRM to help those who are homeless, hungry and hurting in Milwaukee. This peer-to-peer fundraising and rappelling experience will take place **June 17, 2021** at **Hilton Milwaukee City Center**. We hope you'll take a leap of faith with us to help fight poverty in Milwaukee!



Calling all golfers! Our annual golf outing, **18 Holes for the Homeless**, will take place on **August 30, 2021** at **Westmoor Country Club**! Your participation will help provide care to struggling neighbors by raising awareness and funds to help those who come through our doors for refuge. We hope to share this beautiful day with you!

Visit milmission.org/events to register and learn more!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY — TOGETHER!

Whether it's a family who struggles to put food on the table or a neighbor who's just one bad break away from losing hope, many in the community are still reeling from the impact of the pandemic.

But, thanks to incredible donors, volunteers, partners and friends like you, MRM has been able to rise to the challenge of meeting our community's continued needs for food and care. Getting creative with drive-through meals, grocery deliveries, coat giveaways and hygiene item distributions, hurting neighbors have found not only help in the present—but hope for the future!



"I'VE GOT A BRAND-NEW LIFE NOW"

How you helped Terry find new purpose

"I should have been dead a long time ago," Terry says. "I came to realize God's been keeping me around for a long time. So, it was just time for me to give it back to him and make my life stronger than it was."

Terry's life transformation has been decades in the making. Since 1995, he dealt with one tragedy after another — the loss of his beloved wife, followed by his sister. And then, his mother a few years after that. Faced with unimaginable loss and sorrow, he began "running the streets" as an escape. He turned to drugs over and over to numb the pain, living in abandoned houses and letting "the devil control me."

Terry tried to get sober but says it was always for other people, never for himself. Even after landing in prison for five years, he gave in to the darkness — picking drugs back up the day he got out. "It was the worst thing I ever did in my life after being clean over five years when I was in prison."

But God had a better plan for Terry and wasn't going to give up on him. By God's grace through the compassion of friends like you, Terry would not only get another chance — he would also find a purpose and a new reason to live.

And it started when Terry enrolled in the New Journey program at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

Terry says he expected to come to MRM for food and a shower, then go right back out on the streets. But here, he found so much more than meals and a bed. He found a new future full of hope — thanks to the support you helped provide that offers life-changing resources like counseling, Bible study, job-training skills and more.

Terry knows he had to put in the hard work himself, but says that friends like you made his second chance possible.

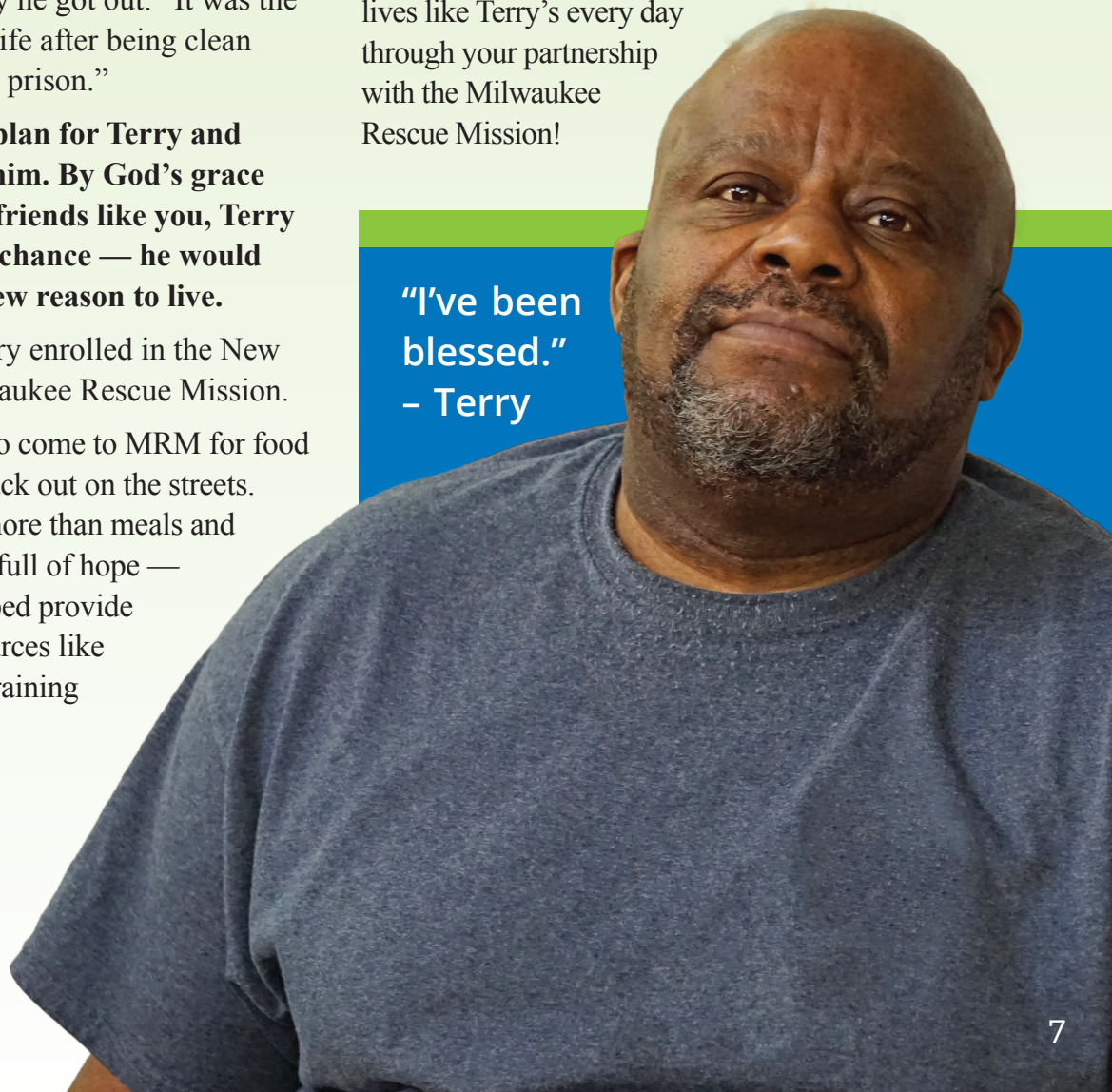
"I just appreciate that you all didn't turn your back on me like a lot of people have done," he explains.

In some ways, Terry says life at 62 years old is as good as it's ever been. He's no longer ashamed of himself and says he's strong. And now, he's looking forward to living his life faithfully and reconnecting with his daughter — who he says has always been there, rooting for him.

"I know now there is a God, and I've been blessed," he says.

Terry proves that even the deepest, darkest shadows are no match for the powerful, everlasting light of Jesus Christ. Through God's love, it's never too late to change your outlook — or your life. Thank you for helping to transform lives like Terry's every day through your partnership with the Milwaukee Rescue Mission!

**"I've been blessed."
- Terry**



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INCREASE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY THROUGH PLANNED GIFTS

Planned gifts are smart and powerful ways to increase the impact of your giving to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission — often while benefiting your family, too.

By understanding the available options — whether it's through a stock donation or including MRM in your will — you can multiply the end results of your generosity in ways that are simple, flexible, cost-effective and powerful.

MRM partners with Barnabas Foundation to offer complimentary planning services and assistance with non-cash gifts. Since 1976, Barnabas Foundation has helped thousands of individuals and families give more effectively to the ministries close to their hearts. They'll help you accomplish the greatest good with your generosity through tax-wise charitable giving.



To learn more and discover smart and powerful ways you can increase the impact of your generosity, please call Rick Mayer at 414-935-0206 or email rick.mayer@milmission.org. Thank you for your partnership!

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

40
YEARS

We celebrate Barb Vanderburgh, Vice President of Advancement here at MRM, for dedicating 40 years of her life to helping those who are hurting in our community!

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**
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