

September 2023

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

**"This year I
actually have
something to be
thankful for."**

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Milwaukee Rescue Mission



THANKSGIVING IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

Dear Friend,

I love the story of Thanksgiving. We celebrate the holiday every year, yet many people don't realize what a fascinating history it has in America — and how meaningful it is to us here at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

The winter before the first Thanksgiving, half the Pilgrims died. The next fall, Governor Bradford proclaimed a celebration of Thanksgiving — in the midst of tremendous suffering! President Lincoln declared a “Day of Thanks” as a national holiday in 1863 — in the middle of the Civil War!

Although many often think of Thanksgiving as a day of turkey and football, it's really a celebration of hope. And that's how we observe the holiday at MRM — with great joy and deep thanks because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ, even in times of crisis, hardship and suffering. Here at MRM, we celebrate and share this hope with the precious men, women, and children we serve — “[giving] thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)

Through God's grace and your support, those who are homeless, hungry and hurting have a reason to be thankful when they walk through our doors. As they sit down to a hot Thanksgiving meal at a warm and welcoming table, our guests forget the shame and hurt of their pasts, and realize they have another chance – a chance to experience happiness and wholeness in Christ.

I hope you know how grateful I am for your compassion towards our struggling neighbors! By God's grace and through your generosity, our hurting neighbors not only find refuge from their hardship when they come to MRM — but also encouragement, hope and a path toward life transformation.

Thank you for being a blessing. Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY, ESPECIALLY DURING THANKSGIVING

Will you sponsor a table to provide meals and care for our neighbors who are homeless, hungry and hurting this Thanksgiving? Your generosity will help give them a reason to feel thankful!



"I LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW"

"I grew up thinking I couldn't amount to anything. My father was abusive and my mother was a prostitute. It left a negative impact on my life."

Without parental guidance and love, it wasn't long until Samuel dropped out of school and joined a gang. "Instead of working, I chose the cowardly way out — selling drugs. Ultimately, I was arrested and sent to prison."

After being released from prison, Samuel returned to his old neighborhood, old friends ... and old habits. "I was doing things I knew were wrong, and I hit my lowest point — homeless and desperate. I had nowhere to turn and didn't value myself anymore. That's what led me to MRM."

With his basic needs met, Samuel realized, "I'm in a safe environment, one that allows me to focus and realize that there's nothing wrong with wanting a good life." He joined MRM's long-term recovery program, where he received the resources he needed to turn his life around.

"It's a program for guys that want to make a change in their life. They offer counseling, hold you accountable and teach you structure, which I needed. They help with furthering your education, taking care of past debts. They get you ready for the work force by giving you job training. It gives me pride."

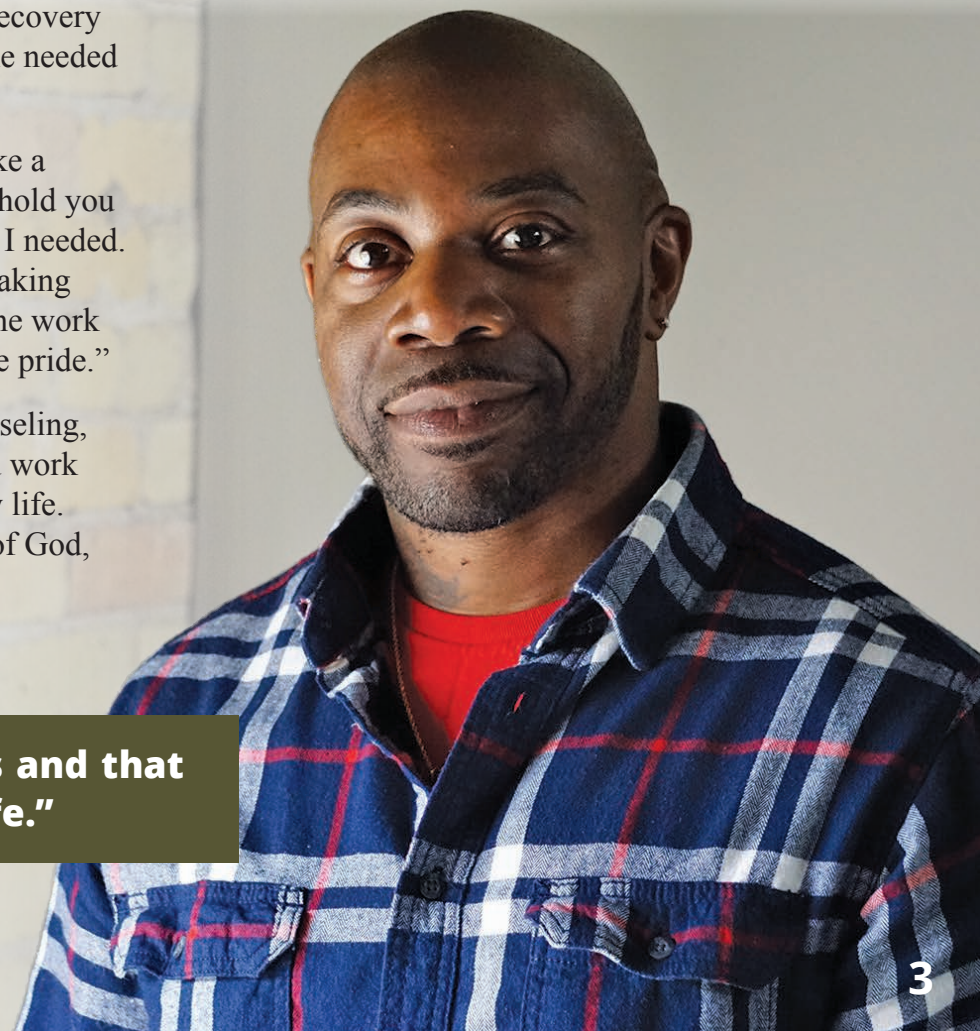
Through Bible classes and spiritual counseling, Samuel grew closer to God. "I've seen God work in others and that inspired me to change my life. He met me where I was at — and because of God,

I'm free from alcohol, free from marijuana and other controlled substances. I'm free from guilt and self-hatred."

Today, Samuel is sober, employed, clear-minded and looking forward to the future — including Thanksgiving. "This year I actually have something to be thankful for. It's not just about a plate of turkey. It's about being thankful for another year, for positive accomplishments, for sobriety and for the time others put into helping me."

By God's grace and through your generosity, Samuel is giving thanks for a transformed life — and for friends like you who've helped make it possible. "Thank you for caring about me, even though you don't know me. That's a beautiful thing. Thank you for loving me even before I could love myself!"

"I've seen God work in others and that inspired me to change my life."



Thank you for all you do!

Our hurting neighbors are so thankful for you and your compassion. Each month your generosity helps provide over 24,000 meals to hungry men, women and children at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission – and, this Thanksgiving, they're especially thankful for ...

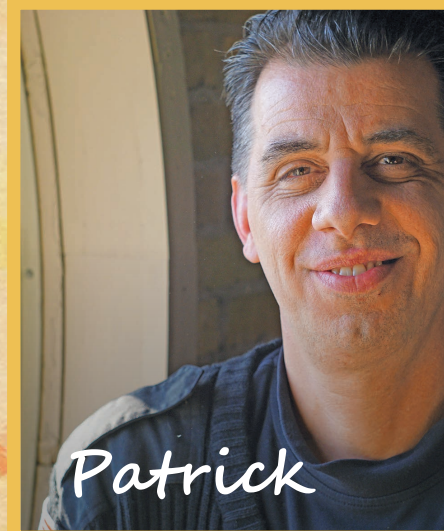
SECOND CHANCES

“Now, thanks to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, I'm learning who I really am in Christ. And I like who I am.”



SHELTER

“The people at MRM were very nice. They showed me love. They provided me with shelter. And the meals there were very good!”



PARENTING CLASSES

“I can talk with the staff here about my problems. They lift my spirit ... they've helped me get to where I am now.”





Berto

STABILITY

“I remember the days I didn't eat. And I'm grateful that you fed me.”



David

SOBRIETY

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

EDUCATION

“Since I've been here, that's all I've been given — love, support and help.”



Trinity

“JOY HOUSE BROUGHT ME BACK INTO THE LIGHT”

“I was in a dark place, and I had just lost my mom. Everything was just dark for me then.”

Paulette had moved to Milwaukee to fulfill her dream of going to culinary arts school and becoming a chef. But her dream unraveled when her living situation fell through, leaving her nowhere to go.

Then, Paulette’s mom passed away, bringing up old, buried memories — memories of neglect, troubled relationships and sexual abuse at the hands of a family member.

Depressed, angry and homeless, Paulette tried living in her car — but soon realized that wasn’t sustainable. That’s when she turned to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, where she found not only shelter, food and clothing in Joy House, our shelter for women and children ... but also the support she needed to address old wounds.

“I believe that I ended up here for a reason — it opened the door for me to get back on track with God. Losing my mom

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“I thank God for you, and that this place exists for women like me.”

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – JOIN OUR TEAM!



Do you want to make a difference in our community while building a meaningful career? Are you looking for a vocation that will help transform the hearts and souls of our hurting neighbors? Then consider joining the Milwaukee Rescue Mission team!

When you join our team at MRM, you’ll serve alongside other like-minded individuals who are passionate about doing God’s work. You’ll have a front row seat to seeing how God is transforming the lives of men, women and children in our community who are struggling with homelessness and hunger, and needing Christ in their lives.

MRM has many positions currently open, and we’re looking for talented people with a love for the Lord, empathy, compassion and a willingness to make a difference in the world.

Visit milmission.org/employment to learn more and get started on an application today!



MORE BANG THAN YOUR BUCK!

3 Gifts That Have Big Impact AND Reduce Your Taxes

Giving from your wallet is a great and familiar way to support the Milwaukee Rescue Mission — but there are other, cost-effective ways for you to give.

1. Appreciated Stock

If you have appreciated stock you've owned for at least a year, you can receive a double tax benefit by donating this stock to MRM. You will receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock, and you'll avoid paying capital gains tax.

2. Real Estate

Do you have real estate that's increased in value that you no longer need? Consider giving all or a portion of the property as a gift, prior to a sale. By doing so, you can bypass the capital gain and receive a charitable deduction.

3. Distributions From Your IRA

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make tax-free distributions from your IRA (individual retirement account), up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year. These gifts count toward your annual required minimum distribution, and none of the IRA distribution will be included in your adjusted gross income.

To learn more about smart and powerful ways you can support our struggling neighbors, contact us at (414) 344-2211 or legacy@milmission.org.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts With a Mission

You can choose from a number of ways to help neighbors, ways that are valuable and special to you, like honoring a loved one with your gift!

Visit our online catalog at milmissiongiving.org to make a life-changing gift.



Please Choose MRM — United Way

Did you know you can support MRM through your workplace? If the company where you're employed participates in the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, you can designate your gift to the **Milwaukee Rescue Mission (listed as #50625)**. In doing so, you will help transform the lives of men, women and children who are struggling with hunger and homelessness this fall and winter.



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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.

NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is suffering from addiction, hunger, homelessness or other hardship, please call us at (414) 344-2211 — we can help.

"JOY HOUSE BROUGHT ME BACK INTO THE LIGHT"



(continued from page 6)

was heartbreaking. Running into the issues I had with family was heartbreaking. But I feel like I had to come here to get my life back on track.”

Here, Paulette benefited from long-term care and resources like counseling, education, life-skills training and more.

“Joy House brought me back into the light from where I was. They gave me scriptures and gave me motivation to keep going and not to look at things like, ‘Woe is me,’ but do something about the situation in order for it to change. The first thing I had to do was get my life right with God. It was a domino effect after that,” Paulette explains.

“The more I attended class, the more I started reading my Bible ... things just turned around, and I started looking at things positively instead of negatively.”

Today, Paulette is optimistic about her future. She has her own apartment, feels closer to God and is reconnecting with family. And, she's still looking forward to culinary school.

To the generous donors who helped make her fresh start possible, Paulette says, “I thank God for you, and that this place exists for women like me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart; I'm truly grateful for everything!”



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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(414) 344-2211 | milmission.org

 CITYGATE NETWORK
MISSION MEMBER
Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation