

November 2023

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.



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THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Dear Friend,

It's Christmastime – “the most wonderful time of the year,” as the classic song reminds us. For many, the season is filled with festive lights and carols, warm-hearted gatherings and holiday cheer. But for most of our guests, their memories of the holidays are not so rosy.

For our neighbors who are struggling, sadly, there are no cozy nights by the fire — rather brutally cold nights on the streets. Many are victims of domestic violence, some struggle with addiction ... and still others have lost jobs, housing and all hope.

But there *is* hope — hope in the humble yet glorious birth of Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save us all from our sins. What a profound joy to share this Gospel message with the precious men, women and children who come to us in need!

Through the beautiful Christmas story, our neighbors in need discover a caring God who invites us to lead lives of hope and change, despite any circumstance of life. His love triumphs over every struggle, every mistake, every heartache — not only bearing the weight of one's past, but redeeming it and using it for good. And when we share this Good News of the born Savior with those we serve — when we see a glimmer of hope reappear in their weary eyes — truly that is the most wonderful time of the year.

As we prepare a joyous Christmas celebration for our guests, I am so grateful to those who make it all possible. Donors who provide gifts, toys and food; volunteers who help decorate, wrap presents and serve meals; friends who help make every neighbor feel welcome... what a blessing to see so many come together to make the holidays extra special for our guests!

By God's grace and through your generosity, our guests are able to experience a happy Christmas — some for the very first time — and know the hope of a Savior who loves them. Thank you for your compassionate support. Merry Christmas!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- John 1:14

Hope for the Holidays

Thank you for helping bring hope and healing to men, women and children who are struggling in our community this Christmas season!

FROM HOPELESSNESS TO HOPE IN GOD

By Steve

“I didn’t grow up with the aspiration of one day becoming an addict or a gang member — but that’s what I became. And now, after my time at MRM, I know that if it had not been for God’s love, mercy and grace, I would not be here today.

I had a rough life growing up. I was abused by a relative, starting when I was seven — and from that time on, everything went haywire. I joined a gang at the age of 12, trying to cover up my hurt with drugs, fights, stealing and other mischief... But it just made things worse. I went back and forth to jail from that time up until my 40s. It was terrible. I think if I’d continued on that path, I would have wound up dead or killing somebody.

A few years back, I was incarcerated in a federal prison. It was the height of the pandemic — restrictions were put in place, and all inmates were moved into single cells. For almost two years, I had no human contact. Meals were given through a sealed door with a slot carved out for the tray. The sink that I used for drinking water was the same sink that I used to bathe. I had lost all hope and wanted to die.

One night, my despair was so overwhelming, I began to cry. It was a gut-wrenching cry from a broken man to God for forgiveness. “There’s got to be

more to life than this,” I remember praying. *“Please save me.”*

I was still on my knees crying when I began to feel something lifted from me. In the emptiness of my heart there was suddenly hope, forgiveness and love. Two weeks later, the prison relaxed restrictions and I was invited to prison chapel. That was the day that I openly confessed Christ as my Lord and Savior — and that’s when things started to change.

At chapel the next week, I heard about the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and their substance abuse program. That was enough for me to buy a one-way ticket to Milwaukee when I was finally released. I had carried shame, guilt and painful secrets for so long — I knew it was destroying me. But coming to MRM, that’s when everything started to heal.

You see, they do more than just clothe and feed you here — they recognize that you have spiritual needs on top of physical needs. And they address both. In the men’s recovery program, I learned about addiction and how to develop new, constructive habits. We studied the Bible and prayed

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“Not only am I a recipient of God’s love and mercy, but I’m also a recipient of the donors’ generosity.”

THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS IS ENJOYED HERE BECAUSE OF YOU!

Last Year ...

- Because of your support, more than 300 special holiday food baskets were distributed to families of our students and program graduates, as well as those in need in our community!
- Your generosity helped us to serve a delicious and festive Christmas dinner to all the women and children in Joy House and men in our Safe Harbor programs!
- Men, women and children at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission received new hats, gloves and scarves to keep them warm in the elements — and they are so thankful for your kindness!
- Thanks to caring people like you, children in our programs and throughout our community joyfully received new toys, games and stuffed animals!



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6



By God's grace and your deep generosity, countless men, women and children can experience the joy of Christmas even as they struggle with being homeless, hungry and hurting. What a difference you are making during this holiday season — and always — by letting each one know they're dearly loved and not forgotten!



HELP PROVIDE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR KIDS IN NEED

Bless Struggling Children with New Toys and Christmas Cheer!

This Christmas season, we're looking to friends like you to help provide new, unwrapped presents for hundreds of kids in our community. Please bring toys and gift items for children through teens at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's Central Campus.

- * New toys for children (especially age 6-teen)
- * Watches & jewelry
- * Earbuds
- * Perfumes/cologne
- * Lotions
- * Soaps & loofahs
- * Women's robes & slippers
- * Authentic sports team attire (Packers, Bucks, etc.) — hats, sweatshirts, warm gear
- * Wallets
- * \$25 Amazon gift cards
- * Gift bags and tissue paper — we need enough for hundreds of gifts!

Where: Visitor's Lobby
830 N. 19th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

When: Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
by December 8

\$15-20 minimum value, please. For more information, call (414) 344-2211 or visit milmission.org/christmaslist.

Thank you for making the holidays special for men, women and children in need!



STOCK: THE PERFECT YEAR-END GIFT

3 Benefits of Giving Stock

If you're contemplating a year-end gift, consider giving appreciated stock to stretch the value and impact of your support. Not only will you further the important work of caring for our neighbors who struggle with addiction, homelessness and hunger, but you will also benefit from tremendous cost savings!

When you donate stock or other securities that you've owned for at least a year, you ...

- 1** Give in a substantial way without restricting your cash flow.
- 2** Receive a fair market value tax deduction at the time of your gift.
- 3** Avoid taxes you would have owed on the sale.

Giving stock is the perfect, cost-effective way to close out a year of generosity. You'll experience the peace of knowing you have accomplished the greatest good with your God-given resources.

To learn more about giving stock or other smart and powerful ways to support the mission of the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, contact us at legacy@milmission.org or call (414) 344-2211.

OTHER WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

If you're looking for a great way to help our neighbors who are struggling this holiday season, then consider the following:

Choose a gift from MRM's Christmas Gift Catalog.

You can make the season more meaningful by shopping through our 2023 Christmas Gift Catalog! Every gift you choose will help those who are in need this season and trying to rebuild their lives. Visit milmissiongiving.org to place your order!



If your employer matches gifts, they may double your donation.

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 milmission.org/employer-matching-gifts for a list of some businesses that offer a matching gift program.

2X the Impact

Sustainer Giving — give all year round!

Your monthly gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission will provide much-needed food, shelter, life-changing care and more for these precious souls all year long.



Go to milmission.org/ways-to-give to learn more about these and other simple, effective ways to help our neighbors in need.



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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.



FROM HOPELESSNESS TO HOPE IN GOD

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together. I began to grow in God's grace. I worked with a mentor, learning to become responsible and practice accountability — and I began to understand the importance of trust and encouragement in healthy relationships.

I truly believe that God provided MRM as a way for me and others to seek and find Him. Today I have a job, an apartment and a brand new life in Christ! God put me in a position where I could continue to grow, as well as encourage people — telling them my story and using it as an example to those who feel hopeless.

I thank God for MRM and the work they are doing in our community — and I thank God for you. Not only am I a recipient of God's love and mercy, but I'm also a recipient of the donors' generosity. Because of you, MRM is able to provide shelter, food and clothing in a safe environment for men, women and children ... and we are deeply grateful for your generosity and kindness.

Your love and willingness to give and help someone like me is amazing, especially during the holidays. **Thank you!**



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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

