

January 2024

# transformed

*God's love. Your help. Life restored.*



**A New  
Year Brings  
New Hope**

**INSIDE**

Page 2. Looking for Hope in the New Year

Page 3. Coming Here Gave Me New Life!

Milwaukee Rescue Mission





# LOOKING FOR HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR

Dear Friend,

I love the new year! Whether it’s rung in with celebration or a simple flip of the calendar page, the arrival of January represents a new beginning and a fresh start.

But for hurting men, women and children facing homelessness, hunger and hardship, the new year can be especially difficult. As winter stretches into another month, snowbanks build, the nights grow colder ... and the challenges of poverty, addiction, mental health and abuse can seem frozen in place.

For these precious souls, there’s never a good time to be homeless. But this is the time of year when our neighbors most urgently need shelter from winter’s storms — and the storms of life.

At the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, this refuge starts with the safety and warmth of a clean bed and the nourishment of a hot meal. As we meet these basic but critical needs, hearts are comforted ... and our guests realize they are safe. Through counseling, education, personal connection and prayer, we help struggling men and women discover and understand the root causes of their homelessness — addressing hardships so they can not only develop the skills needed to overcome them, but to flourish in spite of them.

Most importantly, we share the love of Jesus Christ, the only One who can truly provide a second chance and a fresh start. Broken men overcome addiction and reconcile with loved ones. Women in crisis find renewed hope after escaping abuse and domestic violence. Children see a bright new future, brimming with potential.

Through God’s mercy and through your support, lives are renewed, spirits are revived ... and our guests find new beginnings. You’ll see a wonderful example of this in Christina’s story on page 3.

Thank you for your help in making transformation possible for our guests. May God bless you in 2024!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.  
President

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

*- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)*

## MONTHLY GIVING MAKES A YEAR-ROUND IMPACT

By becoming an MRM Sustainer, you can make an ongoing impact on struggling men, women and children as they seek life transformation and a brighter future. Please provide much-needed food, shelter and care for our struggling neighbors all year long!



# COMING HERE GAVE ME NEW LIFE!

Looking back, Christina remembers a childhood of neglect, abuse and brokenness — leaving her with painful memories and deep despair. “My stepfather was an alcoholic and very abusive,” she explains. Because of that, “I had major depression, post-traumatic stress and bad anxiety for a long time.”

Christina left home at just 16 years old. “I went on my own, but I’d lost my self-esteem. I fell into a pattern of letting everybody walk all over me, including the men I dated.” She got by for a while, but life took a bad turn when Christina faced a medical emergency during the birth of her younger daughter.

“I went through a lot when I had her. They had to do an emergency hysterectomy, and I ended up losing a kidney over it. So, mentally, emotionally, physically ... I was drained.”

The hospital bills started to pile up. Then, her car broke down. As if things couldn’t get any worse, she and her children were evicted from their apartment soon after.

Homeless, weary and defeated, Christina and her kids tried living in a relative’s enclosed patio for a few months. But it was the middle of winter in the Midwest — and the living situation quickly became unsafe for her family.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**“For me, this place gave me a lot of strength, a lot of courage and it has made me a lot happier.”**



## PLEASE GIVE WARM, SAFE SHELTER AND LIFE-TRANSFORMING HELP THIS WINTER

In Milwaukee, there are an estimated 1,000 men, women and children who are homeless every night.

Many of these precious men, women and children are coming through our doors this season, facing not only winter storms, but the “storms of life” — poverty and rising prices, addiction, illness and other heartbreaking crises.

That’s why we launched our **Shelter from the Storm Winter 2024 Fund** to help men, women and children in urgent need in our community.

Please consider making a generous gift today. Your support will provide critical meals, shelter, warm clothing and comprehensive recovery services for our struggling neighbors — and will make a life-changing difference!

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## COMING HERE GAVE ME NEW LIFE!

*(Continued from page 3)*



“We were sleeping on a porch, it was very cold out ... and I knew things had to change.”

At one of her lowest points, a friend encouraged her to contact the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. She called Joy House, our shelter for women and children, and arrived with her kids later that same day.

Here, Christina’s family received basic needs — food, shelter and clothing — and found the long-term care they needed to make a fresh start. “The classes are teaching me how to cope with past traumas,” she says. “And now, my relationship with God is a lot stronger. We have everything we need!”

Thanks to God’s grace and your kindness, Christina and her children have found stability for the first time in years. “I think this new year will bring a lot of good ... New beginnings for us all!” Her daughters are flourishing in church and in school, and Christina plans to pursue a career in healthcare.

“This place has been amazing since the day I got here. Had we not come here, we wouldn’t have the tools needed to move forward in our life,” she explains. Thinking about the donors who are helping make her fresh start possible, she says, “You are helping not just my family, but other families in the future. I’m very thankful — I really am!”

## 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.**

## SAVE THE DATE

**FACES  
OF  
HOPE**  
Milwaukee Rescue Mission

**May 8, 2024  
at the Pfister Hotel**



**18 HOLES** for  
the  
**HOMELESS**

**August 26, 2024  
at Westmoor Country Club**

**For more information, visit [milmission.org/events](https://milmission.org/events).**



**Milwaukee Rescue Mission**

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



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