

MARCH 2024

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

"Being here has taught me purpose and patience ... This place has changed me!"

- Andre

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Milwaukee Rescue Mission



JESUS CAME TO TRANSFORM US

Dear Friend,

It's been said: *Jesus didn't come to fix us, he came to transform us.* This profound truth never ceases to amaze me — especially at Eastertime!

What God does through Christ's life, death and resurrection ... it's so much more than a quick fix. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we all have *the hope of new life*. No more are broken souls defined by guilt and mistakes of the past. Through the resurrection of Christ, God takes our brokenness and makes us whole — He transforms lives! It is a privilege to share this hope with those we serve, and an honor to partner with you in this sacred work.

And this life-saving work is so important. As precious men, women and children turn to us for help, the challenges they are facing are certainly tough, even heartbreaking. Sometimes, they've made decisions that have led them down a bad path. Very often, these individuals have experienced such trauma and defeat that they feel nearly hopeless. Most who come through our doors share a similar feeling of despair — that life can't possibly get better.

Even still, we have this hope: that Christ is risen, and has come to give us new life! The beauty we bear witness to when we see people's lives transformed by the Gospel is powerful beyond words. It's inspirational! And we are honored to share their stories — like Shaquonna's on page six and Andre's on page three — with you, our partners in serving!

Thank you for helping to provide resources to hundreds of struggling neighbors and being a part of the life-changing work going on at MRM. Through God's grace and because you care for those who are hurting and homeless, our struggling neighbors have opportunity to experience life transformation. Happy Easter!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.”

- 2 Corinthians
5:14-15 (ESV)



We celebrate Easter because of Christ's resurrection. For those facing homelessness, hunger and hardship in our community, your loving support can help bring new life in Christ — *restoring* spirits, *renewing* strength and giving reason to *rejoice*. Please give generously!

BECAUSE OF YOUR KINDNESS, ANDRE IS CONTINUING ON THE PATH OF LIVING RIGHT

Andre was only ten years old when his mother brought drugs into the house. “Crack came into our lives because my mom started using it,” he remembers. School provided an escape for a while — but as he watched his mother sink deeper and deeper into addiction, eventually, it took hold of Andre’s life, too. At just 15 years old, he started smoking marijuana, drinking alcohol and selling drugs — only to be arrested and sent to prison a few years later.

After three years in prison, Andre moved in with an uncle who tried to steer him toward the right path. For the first time, Andre had a bright future ahead of him — he was sober, employed and attending classes at a junior college.

But drugs were all Andre had known his whole life. Even after his release from prison, he didn’t know how to escape his past — and returned to bad habits. “I went back to selling ... and that’s when I started using again. From that point, my life went downhill,” he remembers. “I couldn’t keep a job because I was always getting high. And when I did work, I spent my money on drugs instead of rent.” Over the years, Andre’s addiction cost him jobs, relationships, housing and all hope ... until, finally, he realized he needed to make a change.

Andre had been to MRM for a quick meal in the past, but this time, he joined our

long-term recovery program — receiving not only basic necessities, but the comprehensive care he needed to get sober and turn his life around. Through mentorship, counseling, addiction recovery support, education, job training and more, Andre found a fresh start. “Being here has taught me purpose and patience,” Andre says. “This place has changed me!”

Andre has also learned about God and the new life He offers through His Son, Jesus Christ. “I’ve always known that Jesus died for our sins ... but until now, I never really understood it. To learn what He actually went through for my sins, and the sins of everybody else ... That opened my eyes,” he explains. “Now, I read the Bible more, I pray more and continue on a path of living right.”

Thanks to you, Andre’s life is full of faith, health and hope — and he is so grateful for your generosity. “The people that donate ... I want to shake their hand and say, ‘Thank you! You are a godsend!’”



“Being here has taught me purpose and patience ... This place has changed me!”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT — YOU HELPED PROVIDE SO MUCH IN 2023



Easter is a special time to reflect on our Lord's sacrifice, celebrate His resurrection and thank Him for His steadfast love. Over the past year, we've experienced God's faithfulness as He brought us through great challenges — and you've been a key part of this journey! We are deeply grateful for the thousands of supporters who have given their time, talents and prayers to help our struggling neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. You truly resonate the compassion of Jesus Christ. May God bless you this Easter!

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



*Restoring Hope
through Basic Needs*

**You guys are really
doing a big job for families in
need. It's really appreciated
from me and my family!**
- Lorraine, Joy House guest

**I remember the days
I didn't eat. And I'm grateful
that you fed me.**
- David, Safe Harbor guest

*Renewing Lives
through Recovery*





Administration 8%
 Development 10%
 Programs 82%

2023 FINANCES

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| General & Capital Contributions | \$13,504,166..... | 50% |
| Legacies & Bequests | \$1,611,146..... | 6% |
| In-kind Contributions | \$4,758,437..... | 18% |
| Parental Choice Income | \$4,330,504..... | 16% |
| Investments | \$1,419,570..... | 5% |
| Events | \$385,573..... | 1% |
| Miscellaneous | \$1,174,092..... | 4% |
| Total | \$27,183,488..... | 100% |



324,014
 Meals
 Served



64,695
 Nights of
 Safe Lodging



78,463
 Items of
 Clothing



101
 Program
 Graduates



135
 Professions
 of Faith

“ I thank God for school because it’s giving me another chance. CTA is teaching me to be diligent!
 - Kamaria, 9th grader ”



24,096
 Hours of Adult Education
 & Job Training



487
 Students at Cross
 Trainers Academy



SHAQUONNA HAS PURPOSE AND IS NO LONGER RUNNING.....

Shaquonna was a runner. “I went into foster care when I was 13 and I ran away a lot. If I didn’t want to be somewhere and felt uncomfortable, I ran,” she admits.

She recalls her “crazy childhood”, one filled with poverty, abuse and turmoil. Running became Shaquonna’s solution to the hardships she experienced, dealing with things no child should ever have to face. “I can honestly say, I didn’t have any stability at all.”

Her first encounter with the Milwaukee Rescue Mission was as a child when, “Me, my mom and my brother actually stayed here,” she remembers. Years later, Shaquonna came back as a single mom who was expecting her first child. She desperately needed help. Sadly, she quickly left because she wasn’t ready to stop running and embrace a stable lifestyle.

Then, about a year ago Shaquonna was struggling with some serious problems, including harassment, homelessness and needing a safe place for her and her children to live. “I felt like God kept telling me, ‘Go to Joy House, go to Joy House!’”

Continued on Page 8



SAVE THE DATE

**FACES
OF
HOPE**
Milwaukee Rescue Mission

We hope you’ll join us for our annual Faces of Hope Banquet and Auction held on **Wednesday, May 8** at the **Pfister Hotel!** See milmission.org/banquet for more information about registration, our auction and sponsorship opportunities!



18 HOLES for the
HOMELESS

Our annual golf outing will take place on **August 26** at **Westmoor Country Club!** Visit milmission.org/golf to learn more!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Lives are being transformed every day here at MRM — thanks to our many volunteers! These faithful friends give thousands of volunteer hours each year to help change the lives of those who walk through our doors for help.



“ Giving of one’s time and energy to serve others ... it feels so rewarding to volunteer and know that you’re making an impact!
- Grace ”

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



IS IT TIME TO UPDATE YOUR WILL?

An updated will can help you proactively care for the needs of your loved ones and establish a legacy of generosity. It can also help:

- Minimize family disputes
- Protect your loved ones from unnecessary taxes and fees
- Establish guardianship for minor children
- Provide for loved ones with special needs
- Continue to support struggling men, women and children in our community through the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and other ministries close to your heart!

And, with an updated will you can help ensure your loved ones aren’t left vulnerable to uncertainty, chaos, wasted time and needless expenses. You also can bless and advance your favorite causes in a substantial way.

Ready to update your will while making a big impact? Contact us at (414) 344-2211 or legacy@milmission.org for more information!



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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.

SHAQUONNA HAS PURPOSE AND IS NO LONGER RUNNING

Continued from Page 6

Shaquonna admits, “Coming to Joy House was hard, but it got easier” with the help from counselors and her advocate. Her life began to transform, “Once I saw the schedule and how my kids were able to sleep. I could see the change in their attitude because of the environment. And I learned how much I could do when I got up early and stuck to a schedule.” Most of all, “MRM brought me closer to God.”

Your generosity has given Shaquonna stability for her family, she's found a job and “Now I'm moving into my own place,” She says with a big smile.

Thanks to you, Shaquonna is no longer running. Her life has stabilized and she is achieving what seemed impossible. “I didn't think I would be where I am today until I came here. They gave me hope, because I didn't have any hope before. They gave me courage and they made me understand that I am someone with a purpose.”

“They gave me hope, because I didn't have any hope before.”



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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