

MAY 2024

# transformed

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

**When Robert  
hit rock bottom,  
you helped him  
find hope.**

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Milwaukee Rescue Mission



# CELEBRATE! WHY WE MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Dear Friend,

Years ago, a mom and her little girl arrived at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, in desperate need of shelter. The moment the girl said, “It’s my fifth birthday today,” was heartbreaking — heartbreaking that she was spending her birthday in a homeless shelter. The next day, our staff threw a big party, with cake and gifts, the works. Her mom said it was the best birthday her daughter ever had. That has stuck with me. We know those who come through our doors were created in God’s image, having value and a purpose. That’s why we celebrate birthdays at MRM. But our celebrating doesn’t end there!

We find **hope** around every corner here, evidence of God’s work in the lives of men, women and children who come through our doors looking for a fresh start. We find **new life** in every room, people whose lives have been transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. We find **growth** and **achievement**, as those who come to MRM work hard to accomplish the goals and objectives of the programs you help make possible ... goals that represent giant steps toward restoration.

In this issue of Transformed, you can read about Robert, who hit rock bottom and lost all self-worth before coming to MRM and finding a fresh start and new life. On page 6, you’ll meet Heaven, a teen girl who was devastated by the death of her father, but found peace and joy inside our walls.

I hope you’ll be encouraged by these stories and know how grateful we are for your continued compassion for those who turn to MRM for help and a hopeful future!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.  
President

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*“Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!”*

*- Psalm 95:2 ESV*

## MORE THAN MEALS MATCHING CHALLENGE



### More Than Meals MATCHING CHALLENGE

Your support means so much to men, women and children in our community who are facing homelessness, hunger and other unimaginable struggles. Right now, you have an incredible opportunity to help give them hope and the chance for new life. Through our **More Than Meals Matching Challenge**, *your next gift will DOUBLE in impact!* You see, thanks to generous friends of MRM, every gift received by May 31 will go twice as far to provide more meals, shelter, clothing ... and to open the door to life transformation through our long-term recovery programs.

**Give today at [milmission.org/GiftMatch](http://milmission.org/GiftMatch). Thank you!**



# “YOU’VE HELPED ME FEEL HUMAN AGAIN”

Sometimes you’ve got to hit rock bottom before you can look up. At least that’s what happened to Robert. He’d made a lot of poor choices along the way — substance abuse, anger issues — and spent some time in jail. “But I didn’t care at the time,” he says. “Not even about going to jail.”

For Robert, rock bottom didn’t come behind bars, but in a “dungeon” of another kind — a basement floor. Robert was homeless at the time, and a friend let him crash in his basement, where Robert slept on a mattress on the floor. He took stock of his situation and had a revelation:

“It was degrading,” he says. “It was shameful, because I knew my actions had gotten me there.”

Once he admitted that to himself, Robert made the best decision he’d made in a long time: He came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

## Finding His Worth

Robert grew up in a troubled home with a single mom and an abusive dad who spent time in prison and was rarely around. Robert’s mom struggled with alcohol and drugs, “but she did her best,” he says. “I was taught to go to work, get a good job, be on time, finish school. Things were kind of rough growing up, but I still had a fun childhood.”

He says his later poor choices were entirely his own: “The decisions I made in life had nothing to do with my childhood.” Those decisions, he says, put him “on the road to destruction.” He was angry. He was depressed. And at times, he thought about suicide.


“I thought I was no good,” Robert says. “I thought I was trash.”

By the time he walked through our doors, he was ready to do whatever it took to turn his life around. He dove into our New Journey program, which helps men break free from their addictions. He says the love and support of our staff, combined with a spiritual awakening, has been life changing.

“I’m growing closer to Jesus every day,” he says. “I’m not the best with words, but I can see it working on me. I can see my mind healing. I feel human again, knowing I have worth. God says, ‘You’re forgiven.’ Now I can look at myself in the mirror and feel peace. God gives me hope.”

And he thanks you for your part in helping him find that hope!

“I’m amazed that there’s people out there that want me to do better, people that don’t even know me,” he says. “They’ve taught me the true definition of compassion. Thank you!”



**“Now I can look at myself in the mirror and feel peace. God gives me hope.”**



# CELEBRATING TRANSFORMATION!

Drop by the Milwaukee Rescue Mission any day, and there's a good chance you'll find a lot of joy. Because we're always finding reasons to celebrate around here ... starting with the transformations that take place every day when a guest finds new life in Christ. We are always celebrating the achievements of those we are called to serve — and those who YOU help to secure a bright future. Sobriety, graduation, employment, housing ... It's incredible to see what God is doing through YOUR support to help the precious men, women and children reach these and so many other milestones.



**With your support, we celebrate the transformative work of Christ and rejoice in His goodness and faithfulness!**



**Honor Roll students at Cross Trainers Academy celebrate the satisfaction of a job well done because of hard work and focus on their studies.**



**By graduation, MRM guests will be sober, stable and ready to move forward in life.**



**Families can celebrate graduation. When one life is transformed, it often changes relationships for the better.**





**Sobriety comes one day at a time, and milestones are causes for meaningful celebration.**



**We make birthdays special to celebrate every individual.**



**Upon graduation, students and program participants are well prepared for a vocational program or college education.**



**n together.  
n changes all  
er.**

Scripture calls us to “make a joyful noise” (Psalm 95:2) when we celebrate God’s good gifts, and those gifts are on full display at MRM. Struggling neighbors come through our doors and find love, grace and new life. **That’s plenty of reason to celebrate ... and your gifts help make it all possible. Thank you!**



# WHEN PEACE CAME TO HEAVEN

## HOW YOUR KINDNESS HELPED A GIRL AND HER MOM

The death of a loved one can devastate a family, especially a child. That's just what happened to Heaven when she lost her father. Heaven and her mom, Kila, ended up homeless, bouncing from place to place. They even slept outside when they didn't know where else they could turn.

When they came to Joy House, our shelter for women and children, they were weighted heavily by grief and sadness. Heaven hardly spoke to anyone. She constantly wore a hood covering her head and face, and when she would speak, she did so in a small child's voice.

After some time of nurturing and encouragement from God's Word, things began to change. Heaven began to gradually warm up to staff and started enjoying the youth activities, especially Bible study, Scripture memorization and Family Fun Night. In time, Heaven began confidently using her voice again, equipped with Scripture hidden in her heart.

Heaven and Kila both gave their lives to Christ at MRM. Kila had never known God's great love for her, but when she heard the Gospel, she embraced it. While in our program, Kila took the risk of opening up about her pain, and learning about herself and the hope she had in Christ.

*(Continued on Page 8)*



## SAVE THE DATE



## 18 HOLES for the HOMELESS

Our annual golf fundraiser, "18 Holes for the Homeless," will take place on **August 26, 2024**, at **Westmoor Country Club**. Golf with us, and you'll help struggling neighbors by raising awareness and funds to care for those who come to MRM for help and hope. **We hope you'll join us — visit [milmission.org/golf](http://milmission.org/golf) to register and learn more!**



## IS IT TIME FOR A DONOR-ADVISED FUND?

More and more supporters give to MRM through a donor-advised fund (DAF).

Like a “charitable giving account,” a DAF allows you to give cash, stock and other appreciated assets into a single account. From there, you can recommend grant distributions to MRM.

*Here are four reasons DAFs are so popular:*

- 1. Receive an immediate tax deduction at the time of your gift.** Trying to beat the clock for end-of-the-year giving? As long as your gift is deposited by December 31, you can claim credit on this year’s taxes. Later, you can advise how to distribute the funds.
- 2. Choose the timing of your distributions.** Whenever you feel compelled to give, you can promptly direct funds to address real-time ministry needs.
- 3. Save time when giving stock, real estate, business interests or commodities.** Your donor-advised fund administrator will handle the liquidation of appreciated assets that you’d like to convert into cash for ministry.
- 4. Streamline your giving and record-keeping** by gifting all cash, stock or other appreciated assets into a single account from which you’ll receive one charitable receipt.

Is it time for you to consider a donor-advised fund? To learn more, call Tim Reinecke at (414) 344-2211 or email [legacy@milmission.org](mailto:legacy@milmission.org).

## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE



### Corporate Sponsorship

Your company can help struggling neighbors by sponsoring events, capital projects, daily meals and other critical care. Visit [milmission.org/sponsorship](http://milmission.org/sponsorship) to learn more.



### Employer Matching Gifts

If your employer has a matching gift program, your donations to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission could double or even triple! Check with your company to see if MRM is on their list of charities. Visit [milmission.org/employer-matching-gifts](http://milmission.org/employer-matching-gifts) to learn more.

Go to [milmission.org/ways-to-give](http://milmission.org/ways-to-give) to learn more about these and other simple, effective ways to help our neighbors in need.



## MATCHING CHALLENGE DEADLINE: MAY 31

Don’t forget to meet the deadline for our *More Than Meals* Matching Challenge, where your next your gift will **DOUBLE** in impact! Go to [milmission.org/GiftMatch](http://milmission.org/GiftMatch), or use this QR code:





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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.



## WHEN PEACE CAME TO HEAVEN

*(Continued from Page 6)*

Kila graduated from the program, ready to tackle independent living again, facing the future with hope and confidence — a complete turnaround from the day when she first arrived at MRM. The family has moved into their own apartment, where they plan to continue their own family fun night and studying the Bible together.

God has transformed their lives. Thanks to friends like you, they found joy again.

**Your compassionate support makes stories like this possible. Thank you!**

## A GREAT PLACE TO WORK!



The Milwaukee Rescue Mission has been named a Top Workplace for 2024 in Milwaukee and Southeast Wisconsin by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Looking for a great place to work where you can have impact on people's lives today ... and for eternity? Come join us!

Visit [milmission.org/employment-opportunities](https://milmission.org/employment-opportunities) for more information.



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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