

SEPTEMBER 2024

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

Darkness to Light
You've given
Matthew reason
to give thanks.

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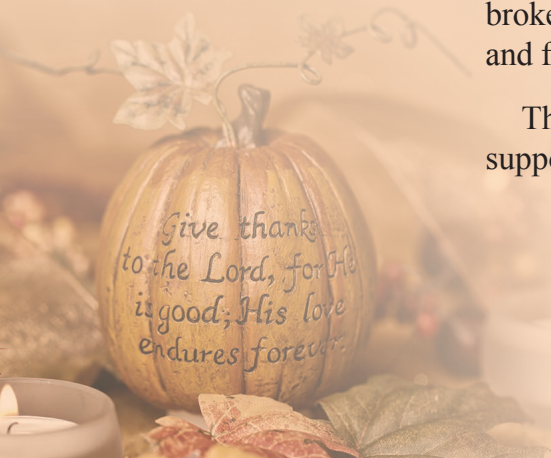
Page 4. Thank you for all you do!





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

***“Do not be
conformed to
this world, but
be transformed
by the renewal
of your mind ...”
- Romans 12:2 (ESV)***



TRANSFORMATION IS OUR MISSION

Dear Friend,

The title of our newsletter, *Transformed*, is very intentional. It's the most important work that is done here at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Obviously, we aspire to *rescue* hurting neighbors from dire circumstances by meeting their immediate needs. But rescue without transformation — deep, internal, spiritual metamorphosis — usually won't last.

Transformation is our mission.

The Apostle Paul felt the same way when he wrote to the believers in Rome. In a letter packed with sage advice and principles of abundant life, Paul urges his readers, “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind*” (Romans 12:2, ESV).

For many of the folks who walk through our doors, conforming to the world is a real struggle — and one that leads to poor choices. Many have made these poor choices themselves, while some of our guests are victims of *others* making those choices. And still, others are wrestling with mental illness, job loss and life-altering tragedies. But regardless of their circumstances, they *all* need the kind of spiritual transformation that lasts. (Indeed, we're *all* in need of it!)

This kind of transformation takes more than just providing food, clothing and shelter. It's helping people reframe the way they think so that they are more likely to embrace real, permanent change.

Our Bible-based programs are a catalyst to this transformation, but only God can change and renew someone's heart and mind. And, thanks to friends like you, broken souls can walk through our doors and discover the wonder, compassion and forgiveness of God — much like Matt did, whose story you'll read on page 3.

This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for the part you play in that process. Your support is helping to transform lives. Thank you!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

PLEASE HELP THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY THIS THANKSGIVING

No one should go hungry at any time of the year, but especially at Thanksgiving. Our neighbors who are homeless and hurting need you! Please sponsor a table this Thanksgiving and give them a reason to feel thankful!



MOVING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Thinking back, Matthew remembers his darkest and brightest moments both occurred in the same place — the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

He recalls that darkest moment at MRM when he was going through a brutal detox after a decade of addiction to heroin. Matthew was 40 pounds underweight, malnourished and dehydrated. Through days of withdrawal, including two visits to the emergency room, he writhed in pain and was wracked with nausea.

Unable to see it through, Matthew left MRM and returned to the drugs. “I was working at drug houses and panhandling and just whatever to get money. Then things got even worse.”

And things had already been bad for Matthew. Growing up, he was in and out of foster homes and moved around a lot. At age 15, he ran away and got involved with drugs. He was in and out of jail for years before coming to MRM.

But just two months after leaving MRM, he overdosed and woke up surrounded by paramedics who had just saved his life. *That’s it*, Matthew thought to himself. *I’m done*.

He returned to MRM, and this time he made it through detox. With his basic needs met — food, shelter and clothing — Matthew regained his strength and joined our New Journey program, with its emphasis on addiction recovery services, Biblical instruction, work therapy, adult education and Christian counseling. And soon, his darkness turned into light.

“It opened my eyes to a whole new world, knowing that Jesus died for me,” Matthew says. “It’s the only way to truly be forgiven, and then you can forgive

yourself for the things you’ve done. Being born again, I can live a new life. I don’t have any shame about where I came from, and I can just move forward.”

Today, thanks to your support, Matthew’s a new man — “a better person,” he says.

“The Milwaukee Rescue Mission saved my life,” he says. “Without them, I don’t think I’d be here anymore.”

As Matthew looks ahead to the Thanksgiving season, he’s grateful not just for his life, but for reason to celebrate. He’s looking forward to enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with other graduates from the program.

“The holidays used to mean nothing to me,” he says. “But now I can enjoy them. There’s something special about enjoying time and a meal with other people. I feel loved.”

Thank you for paving the way for lost and lonely people to find hope, transformation and the love of God at MRM — for giving them a seat at the table to give thanks!

“The Milwaukee Rescue Mission saved my life.”



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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.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Through God's grace and because of *you*, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is able to serve more than 27,000 meals every month to hungry men, women and children. This Thanksgiving season, your neighbors in need are grateful for your compassion ... and so are we!



"I am so grateful for all the donors who gave me this second chance when I needed it most, for showing me the love of Jesus ... and giving me the chance to get my life back on track."
- Shawnna

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

1 *Support MRM with your DAF*

A donor advised fund (DAF) is a great way to support the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. A DAF is like a charitable savings account. You give to a single fund and qualify for a tax deduction without immediately having to choose the charities you want to support. You then recommend grants to support MRM or other charitable organizations. To learn more, talk with your financial planner and call us at (414) 344-2211 or email us at legacy@milmission.org.

2 *Please Choose MRM via the United Way*

Does your workplace participate in the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County? If so, you can designate your gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Simply write our name and address where "Optional designated contribution" is mentioned on the United Way pledge form. This easy choice will help transform the lives of struggling men, women and children. Thank you!



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation