

JANUARY 2025

ransformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.



**"God can
take your
broken pieces
and make
something
beautiful."
- Andy**

INSIDE

Page 2. A Place of Refuge

Page 3. A Brush with Death Was His Wake-Up Call

Page 3. Provide Shelter from the Storm

Page 4. Save These Important Dates!



Milwaukee Rescue Mission



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*“For you have
been a
stronghold to
the poor, a
stronghold to
the needy in his
distress, a
shelter from the
storm ...”*

- Isaiah 25:4 (ESV)

A PLACE OF *Refuge*

Dear Friend,

I don't need to tell you how cold it gets around here in the winter, especially overnight. Bone-chilling, teeth-chattering cold.

Most of us have winter coats and heated homes to ward off the frigid, dangerous temperatures. But what if you didn't have either? What if you actually had to spend a January night on the streets?

Andy, featured on page 3, had to do that more than once. But he eventually made his way to MRM, where he found those critical yet basic essentials of warm shelter and hot food. Praise God!

Which brings me to the theme of this month's newsletter: **Shelter from the Storm**. As a rescue mission, we aspire to be that place of refuge for neighbors in need. We're a literal refuge for homeless neighbors to get out of the cold — but we're also a *spiritual refuge* for souls in need of spiritual help.

I love this story of John Wesley, the 18th Century English preacher. Wesley was struggling with his faith when he went to a meeting at church. The speaker was reading from Romans when Wesley said “[I] felt my heart strangely warmed” as he fully grasped Christ's gift of grace, and that he was saved from his sins.

Strangely warmed. That's a good metaphor for the refuge we offer at MRM. For folks who've been struggling with things like addiction, poverty, domestic violence and hardship — some for years, even decades — to suddenly be in an environment of nurturing and safety can feel strange. But, through your support, we offer both a warm refuge from the cold, and the warmth of God's love.

I invite you to help us in that mission by becoming a monthly giver, ensuring our struggling neighbors can find shelter from the storm — and be “strangely warmed” — all year round. Learn more about Sustainer giving at the bottom of this page.

I am so grateful for your partnership. God's warmth and blessings to you!

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President

**HOW YOU CAN
GIVE HOPE ALL
Year-Round**

By becoming a monthly donor through our MRM Sustainer program, you can bring help, hope and healing to struggling men, women and children all year round! Your consistent giving will provide food, shelter and care to struggling neighbors seeking a brand-new start.



A Brush with Death WAS HIS WAKE-UP CALL



"I was drinking, using crystal meth and sleeping on the streets. That was my rock bottom. But somehow, I'm still here. I believe God has a purpose for me."

Andy grew up surrounded by hardship. Raised on Milwaukee's south side by a single mother, he never knew his father and endured years of abuse at home. "My mom always provided for me — food, shelter — but there was no peace," Andy recalls. "I was bullied at school, and when I came home, I got more of the same."

At 15, Andy ran away. The streets were harsh, but felt safer than the home he left behind. Before long, drugs and alcohol became his escape. "It started with peer pressure, but quickly became my way of coping," Andy admits. For years, addiction controlled his life, driving him into homelessness and despair.

"I've tried rehab over 20 times," Andy says. "I always said, 'This time will be different.' It never was." Things reached a breaking point last winter when Andy was hospitalized with a head injury so severe, he couldn't remember how he got hurt. All he knows is that he was found unconscious and on the verge of hypothermia, bleeding from his head and neck. "I shouldn't have survived, but I did. I knew then that God wasn't done with me yet."

Andy came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and joined our recovery program. "I was tired of running," he says. "I knew I needed help." Here, Andy found more than food and shelter — he found space to reflect and refocus.

Through counseling, daily Bible study and prayer, Andy reconnected with the faith he'd held onto since childhood. "I've learned that God is trustworthy. His love doesn't depend on how

(Continued on Page 4)

Please Provide **SHELTER** FROM THE *Storm*

With an estimated 1,000 men, women and children who are homeless every night in Milwaukee, it's vital that our neighbors in need have a safe, warm place to turn to escape the life-threatening elements — and to find hope for their souls!

Your support will provide meals, shelter, warm clothing and comprehensive recovery services for neighbors seeking refuge from the storms of life.



Please Give Today!



Online:
[milmission.org/
winternews](http://milmission.org/winternews) or
scan here

Phone: (414) 344-2211

Mail: Use enclosed
response form

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Patrick H. Vanderburgh

Chair

Mark Klug

Vice Chair

Matt Burow

Vice Chair

Eric J. Peter

Treasurer

Warren D. Pierson

Secretary

Bush Nielsen

Linda D. Caples

Rachel MacKinney

Roosevelt McKinney

Joycelyn Pernell-Henderson

Mark R. Pietrowiak

Rick Rinderle

Thorsten Wienss

Members Emeritus

Michael A. Andaloro

Philip A. Hardacre

Sherri N. Kasdorf

Carol Kuyers

Ervin W. Martens

Robert K. Mitchell

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.

A Brush with Death WAS HIS WAKE-UP CALL

(Continued from Page 3)

many times I've failed," Andy says. "That love is changing me from the inside out."

Today, Andy is rebuilding his life. He's sober, reconciling with his daughter and dreams of helping others trapped in addiction and homelessness. "I know what it's like to feel hopeless," Andy says. "But God's bigger than that. He's given me hope, and I want to share that with others."

Andy's story isn't finished. He's writing a new chapter — one filled with grace, purpose and the transformative power of God's love. "If you let Him, God can take your broken pieces and make something beautiful."

What God did for Andy was made possible through the support of friends like you... and there are many others like him who need your kindness. Thank you for caring!

"God's love doesn't depend on how many times I've failed. That love is changing me from the inside out."

SAVE THE DATE

FACES
OF
HOPE
Milwaukee Rescue Mission

Banquet and Silent Auction
April 30, 2025
at the Pfister Hotel

For more information, visit milmission.org/events.



18 HOLES for the
HOMELESS

Golf Outing Fundraiser
September 8, 2025
at Bluemound
Golf & Country Club



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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



journal sentinel



CITYGATE NETWORK
MISSION MEMBER
CERTIFIED

Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation