

MARCH 2025

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

**How you helped
Timothy break
free from anger
and find peace.**

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Milwaukee Rescue Mission



LAZARUS AND *Our Mission*

Dear Friend,

When thinking about Bible passages at Easter time, many typically turn to the resurrection of Jesus. But this Easter, I'm also thinking about another resurrection — when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, as told in John 11.

Lazarus had already been dead for days when Jesus arrived in Bethany. I love the conversation between Jesus and Martha that takes place before the miracle. Jesus assures her, *"Your brother will rise again."* Martha thinks Jesus means *"in the resurrection on the last day."* Jesus could have responded, *"No, Martha, I mean today,"* but said something else entirely:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Yes, Martha did believe. And you may know the rest of the story: Jesus shouts, *"Lazarus, come out."* Wonder of wonders, *he does* — back from the dead!

Lazarus could be a metaphor for just about anyone who walks through our doors seeking help. On the surface, many of them may seem too deep in their addiction, trauma, illness or hardship to turn things around. But when they come through our doors and learn about Jesus' love for them, they find hope. Basic needs are met, hearts are comforted and struggling people find new life and fresh starts. They're like living resurrection stories in themselves.

Our Easter theme centers on three words: *Restore. Renew. Rejoice.* Christ's resurrection makes it all possible. And your support provides the means for those transformed lives.

That's our calling, to point every "Lazarus" we meet to the One who restores and renews.

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min.
President



Easter means resurrection and new life. For neighbors facing homelessness, hunger and hardship, your compassionate support can help bring new life in Christ — *restoring* spirits, *renewing* strength and giving reason to *rejoice*. Please give generously! Thank you!



Because Of Your Kindness, **TIMOTHY** **OVERCAME HIS ANGER AND FOUND PEACE**

Some days, Timothy looks back at his old self and shakes his head in disbelief.

“I was angry all the time,” he says. “I even yelled at homeless people. ‘What’s wrong with you? Get a job!’”

Timothy’s anger didn’t develop overnight. Raised in a military family, he spent his early years constantly moving — and the instability took its toll. *“I hated that life,”* Timothy remembers. *“My dad was a Navy SEAL, so we lived all over — the Philippines, Okinawa, San Diego. Dad was always gone, so it was just me, my mom and my brother. We were so isolated.”* Timothy begged to live with his grandparents in Chicago, which his parents eventually allowed.

“My grandparents were great,” Timothy says. *“But they were old and didn’t have rules.”* The lack of structure was disastrous. *“I didn’t know anything about drugs or alcohol before. But in Chicago, I had my first beer at 12. Soon after, I started smoking pot daily.”*

The anger and rebellion that began in those years shaped the next four decades — and Timothy’s addiction to marijuana spiraled. By the time he was an adult, he needed it just to function. *“I worked as a sous chef, but I’d sneak off the job to smoke. Eventually, my boss said, ‘You’re a great worker, but we can’t tolerate this anymore.’ They let me go.”*

Timothy lost his apartment, and it wasn’t long after that he wore out his welcome sleeping on friends’ couches. Homeless, desperate and hopeless, Timothy lugged his suitcase to a bus stop. Suddenly, he noticed a woman beside him, who asked if he was okay.

Timothy opened up about his situation. The woman listened intently, then mentioned MRM. *“They’ll help you,”* she said. He looked down at his phone to search for directions, and when he looked up to thank her, she was gone. Timothy doesn’t know who she was, but believes God crossed their paths for a reason.

That day, Timothy walked through our doors, thinking he’d hit rock bottom. But conversations with our team buoyed his spirit. One said, *“You know God loves you, right? And he has a plan for you.”* In time, Timothy started to believe it. He joined our recovery program, gave his life to the Lord and has been sober now for almost a year — his longest stretch since childhood. Today, he works in our kitchen, using his culinary talents to serve others.

“I asked God to forgive me for the way I treated people before,” he says. *“Now I say to them, ‘You know God loves you, right? He has a plan for you.’”*

Timothy’s transformation is indeed due to the Lord, but it couldn’t have happened without supporters like you. To you, Timothy says thank you!



Timothy says your support has been life-changing!

LOOK AT ALL THE GOOD *You Did in 2024!*

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



*Restoring Help
Through Basic Needs*

“I want to thank the donors, because they made sure that my child will not have to go through the same turmoil that I went through.” - Shamika

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



*Renewing Lives
Through Recovery*



*Rejoicing in Fresh
Starts and New Life!*

“The people at MRM and Cross Trainers Academy are more than teachers or even friends. They’re like family. It’s hard to do this life alone. Now I feel like I don’t have to.” - Cassandra

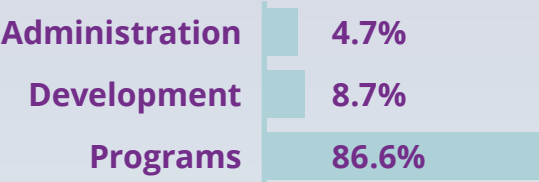
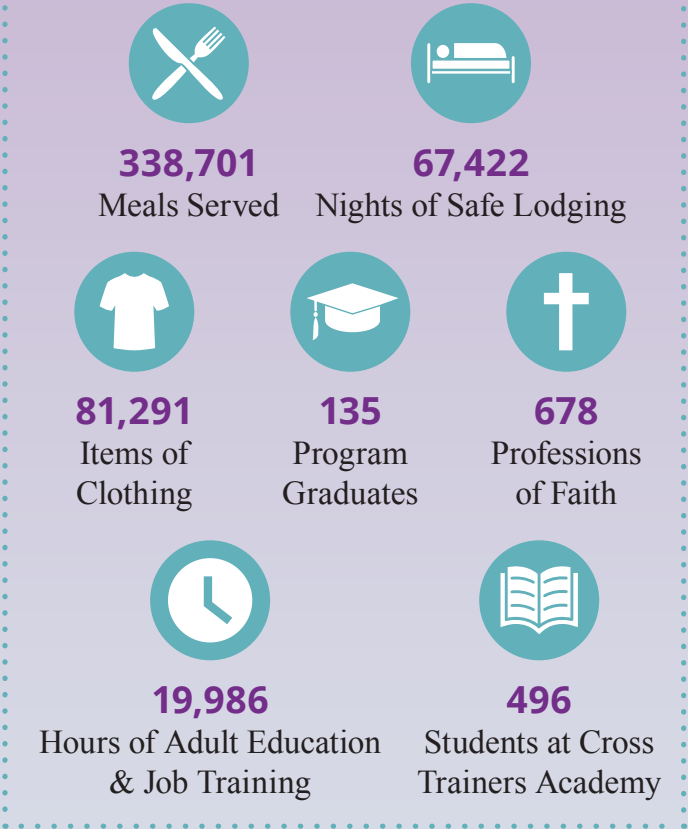


The three words above are our theme for this Easter. Simple words, but with profound significance. Because of Christ's life, death and resurrection, *restoration*, *renewal* and *rejoicing* are possible! We can be made new. Broken souls can be made whole again. Through God's grace and thanks to your love and support, those *miracles happen here every single day*. We are so grateful for your generosity ... and your compassion toward struggling neighbors in need of a fresh start.

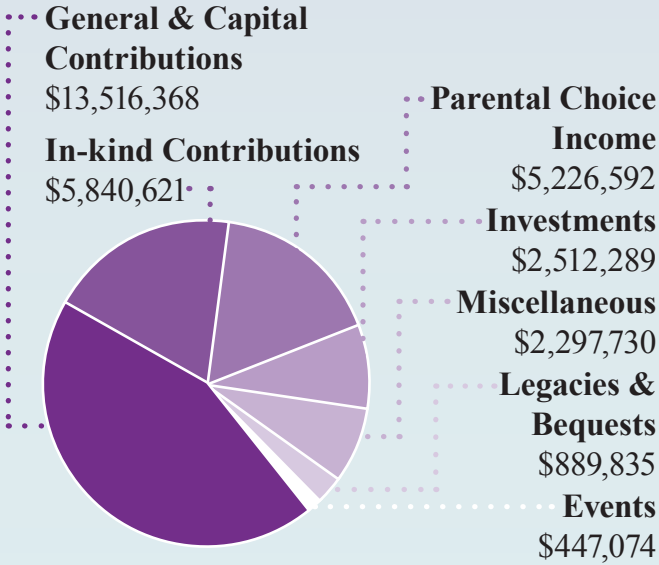
God bless you this Easter!



WHERE Your Giving IS GOING



2024 FINANCES



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!



VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

MRM's work simply would not get done without our many volunteers, who put in thousands of hours every year. Because of these faithful servants, those who walk through our doors are finding new life and reason for hope and joy! Thank you, volunteers!



I have been able to volunteer at MRM for several years — even as a senior citizen! They have great programs to help men and women to get a new start on life in the name of Jesus. - Mark



To learn more about how YOU can make an impact through volunteering at MRM, visit milmission.org/volunteer!

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO a Life Together

Your kindness gave each of them a fresh start. But that was only the beginning.

Nobody goes to a homeless shelter to find a life partner. But for LeRoy and Shameca, that's exactly how things turned out — even though they didn't start that way.

Shameca had a difficult childhood. *"It left me with a lot of scars on my heart,"* she remembers. To cope, she turned to alcohol. Tough situations left her homeless on several occasions, and she ended up coming to MRM three different times for help.

The first two times, Shameca says she wasn't ready to do the hard work of making changes. But the third time, she was ready. *"I surrendered my life to God, and opened myself up for Him to do what He had to do in my heart. I stayed focused on those things."*

LeRoy, meanwhile, had come to Milwaukee from Indianapolis in 2020 to rekindle a relationship with his father, who had been mostly absent during LeRoy's childhood. His dad initially welcomed his son into his home, but things soured after a while. Heartbroken, LeRoy turned to drugs and alcohol to numb his pain — and when his dad moved away, LeRoy had nowhere to go. Facing homelessness and addiction, he came to MRM and joined our recovery program.

Once both LeRoy and Shameca turned their lives around — independently, before their relationship began — they joined our staff. And that's when the sparks began to kindle.



LeRoy was a cook in the kitchen, and Shameca was a preschool teacher. He served her meals, smiling, and she smiled back. They made small talk. And then their conversations went deeper — about life things, spiritual things, eternal things.

LeRoy ended up attending Shameca's church, and they rode to Bible study together. *"I saw what a godly woman she was,"* he says, *"and I started falling in love with her."*

Shameca feels the same: *"When I saw that he had a heart for God, that he was thirsty for the Lord, I just knew. Like, 'Lord, yes, he's the one.'"*

(Continued on Page 8)

SAVE THE Date

**FACES
OF
HOPE**
Milwaukee Rescue Mission

Please join us for our annual **Faces of Hope Banquet and Auction** on Wednesday, April 30 at the Pfister Hotel! See milmission.org/banquet for more information about registration, our auction and sponsorship opportunities — or scan the code to learn more.



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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.

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO a Life Together *(Continued from Page 7)*

LeRoy and Shameca were married last year — and just celebrated their six-month anniversary on Valentine's Day. They still can't believe how God brought them together, but they know He has been with them every step of the way — in good times and in bad.

Today, LeRoy and Shameca are excited about the future. They're saving up to buy a home, and look forward to growing their family.

Both are thankful to MRM for helping them restore their lives and find each other — which they know wouldn't be possible without your support.

"I'm grateful there are people out there who care," says Shameca. "Without donors, there wouldn't be me and LeRoy!"

"To know that donors are supporting MRM is incredible," adds

LeRoy. "Sometimes I think, How is all this possible?

Then I remind myself that through Christ, anything is possible."

Thank you for helping our struggling neighbors find new life and a fresh start!



Thanks to you, LeRoy and Shameca found new life ... and eventually, each other!



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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CITYGATE NETWORK
MISSION MEMBER
CERTIFIED

Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation