

MAY 2025

transformed

God's love. Your help. Life restored.

**"I Knew There
Had to Be
Something Bigger"**

*How you helped Phil
renew his hope and
rebuild his life.*



More Than Meals

MATCHING CHALLENGE

**Your next gift will
DOUBLE in impact!**

Milwaukee Rescue Mission



FIRMLY PLANTED AND *Thriving*

Dear Friend,

When men, women and children walk through our doors, they often carry more than the weight of homelessness. Many have lost their sense of purpose, stability and hope. They need more than a meal or a place to sleep — they need a fresh start and a solid foundation for the future.

By God's grace, struggling souls are able to find that foundation at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Through safe shelter, nutritious meals, life-skills training, counseling and Christ-centered guidance, those in need can rebuild their lives. Beyond meeting immediate needs, our programs equip them with the tools to grow, heal and thrive.

Psalms 1 paints a picture of this kind of transformation:

"He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."

This is what we desire for every person who comes to MRM — to find stability, experience God's love and build a future filled with hope. Take Phil, for example (you'll read more of his story on page 3). When he arrived, his life was in crisis. But through our **New Journey** program, he found the strength and support to change. He studied God's Word, gained practical skills and today, he's helping others on their own path to renewal.

This kind of life change wouldn't be possible without you. Every meal, every night of shelter, every moment of guidance and encouragement — it's all made possible through your compassion and support.

Thank you for being a vital part of this mission. Together, we can help more people find the stability, hope and transformation they so desperately seek.

Dr. Patrick H. Vanderburgh, President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*"He is like a tree
planted by streams
of water that yields
its fruit in its
season, and its leaf
does not wither. In
all that he does, he
prosper."*

- Psalm 1:3 (ESV)

Double Your Impact

HELP OUR STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS!



More Than Meals
MATCHING CHALLENGE

Thanks to some generous friends of MRM, right now, your next gift will **DOUBLE** in impact through our **More Than Meals Matching Challenge**. Every gift received by May 31 will go twice as far to provide more meals, shelter, clothing and other resources, giving the opportunity for new life.

Give today at milmission.org/GiftMatch or scan here.



"I KNEW THERE HAD TO BE SOMETHING *Bigger*"

Phil's life was a downward spiral for nearly 30 years — addiction, prison, failed attempts at change. He spent more than half of his life behind bars, trapped in a cycle he couldn't escape.

But even in his darkest moments, a thought crept into his mind: *There has to be something bigger than this.*

That thought haunted him in drug houses, surrounded by people chasing their next high. It followed him into prison cells, where hope felt far out of reach. No matter how deep he fell, the idea never left him. And eventually, he decided to find out if it was true.

Hitting Rock Bottom

Looking back, Phil sees no signs from his childhood that could have predicted his struggles. He grew up in a loving home. His mother worked hard to provide for him and his siblings, setting an example of stability and responsibility.

"I lucked out," Phil says. "Mom was a hardworking, excellent mother. We had everything we needed."

But things changed after high school. His father was in and out of his life, and by his early twenties, Phil was drifting.
He started

experimenting with drugs — at first, just marijuana. Then, one night, he unknowingly smoked a joint laced with cocaine. From that moment, he was hooked. Drugs consumed his life, leading to crime, broken relationships and years in and out of prison.

He tried to change, but every attempt ended in failure.

In 2021, seeking a way out, Phil came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and joined **New Journey**, our residential addiction recovery program. He wanted to turn things around — but addiction's grip was still strong. He relapsed, violated his probation and was sent back to prison for 18 more months. That was his breaking point.

"There were so many times I could have died," Phil explains. "God, for whatever reason, stayed with me and kept me alive."

The day Phil was released, he came straight to MRM. "Coming back, I felt a huge weight lifted off of me. Nothing was going to stop me from staying in the program this time."

Determined to see real change, Phil committed fully to his recovery. He surrounded himself with support, dug into God's Word and gained the tools he needed for healthy living. Slowly but surely, he began to rebuild his life — this time on a foundation that wouldn't crumble.

Today, Phil has been sober for over a year. His faith is stronger than ever, and he's now working at MRM — ministering to other men walking the same difficult road he once traveled.

He knows his transformation wouldn't have been possible without the support of friends like you.

"Your donations are affecting people's lives in a way you can't imagine," he says. "And in a way I once couldn't imagine. Thank you!"



"I believe that God, for whatever reason, stayed with me and kept me alive."

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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.

Celebrating TRANSFORMATION!

Here at MRM, graduations are something to celebrate! Graduating from any of our programs is a great accomplishment for anyone in Safe Harbor, Joy House or Cross Trainers Academy — and it represents a lot of hard work, discipline and commitment. Your loving support helps make these accomplishments possible. Thank you!



New Journey grads are sober, stable and ready to thrive independently!



The culmination of hard work, perseverance and faith ... a Joy House graduation is great cause for celebration!



Cross Trainer Academy grads are ready to tackle the future!

SAVE THE DATE



18 HOLES for the HOMELESS

Our annual golf fundraiser will be held Sept. 8, 2025, at Bluemound Golf & Country Club. Funds raised through this event will provide life-transforming resources and care to those turning to MRM for refuge from their hardships. Please join us and help change lives!

Visit milmission.org/golf or scan here to learn more.



Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation