



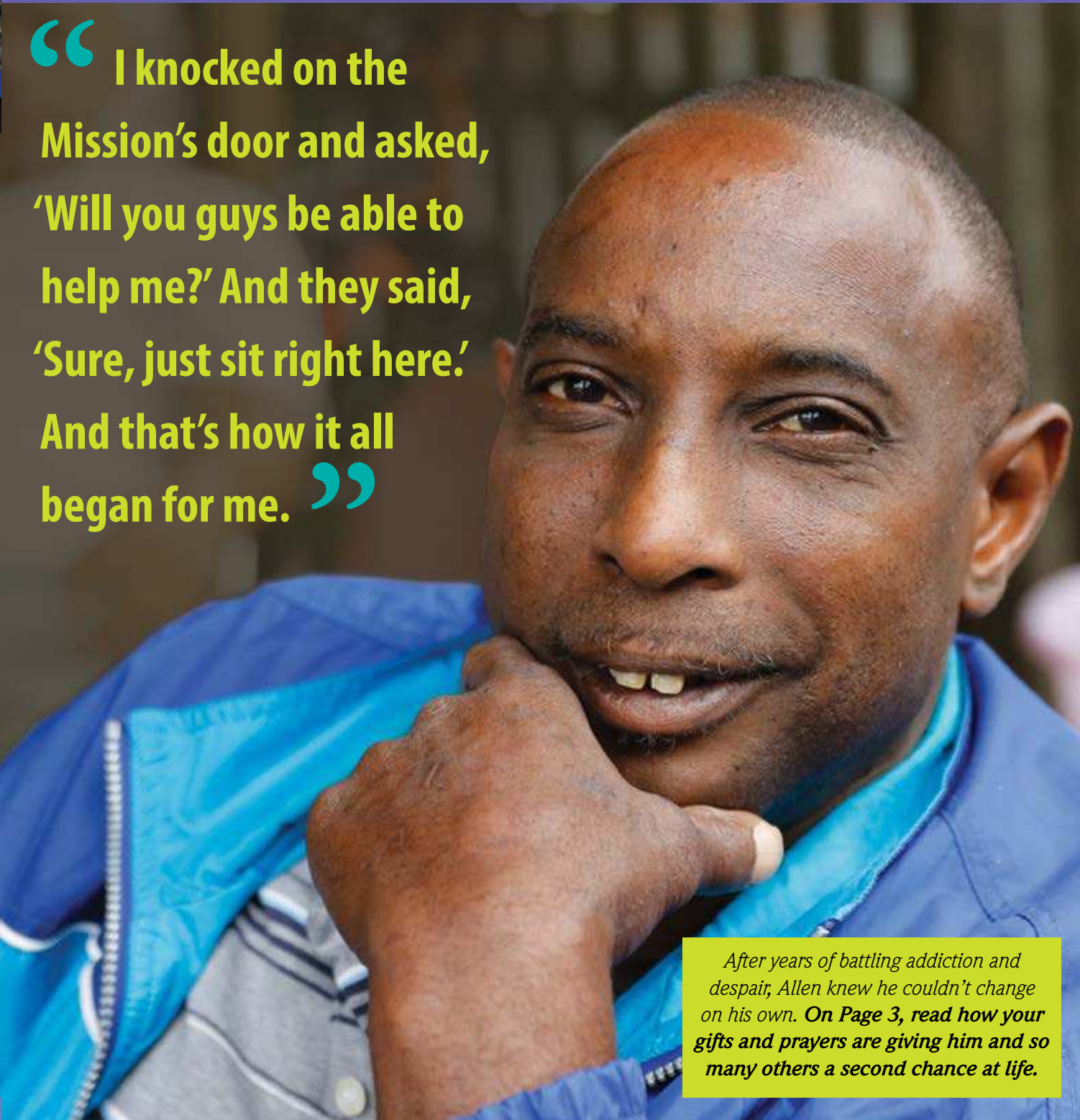
RESCUE MISSION

Spring 2018

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

“ I knocked on the Mission’s door and asked, ‘Will you guys be able to help me?’ And they said, ‘Sure, just sit right here.’ And that’s how it all began for me. ”



After years of battling addiction and despair, Allen knew he couldn’t change on his own. On Page 3, read how your gifts and prayers are giving him and so many others a second chance at life.

BridgeportRescueMission.org

SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Get Connected ...

Dear Friend,

It's terrible to feel like you're out of chances in life.

And that's why those who come to Bridgeport Rescue Mission are often frustrated, disheartened... and frightened. All other options are gone. There's no one and nowhere to turn for help.


They come with heavy hearts... and often without hope that anything will ever change. But here, they learn the good news of Easter – that a new life is possible!

It's an Easter message of hope we share all year long. Because of God's love, there are no last chances. He loves us through second, third and all the extra chances we need.

Your support helps share that grace-filled approach with those who are homeless, hungry, abused and addicted: Loving them so they feel safe. Giving them compassion so they feel valued. Restoring their dignity so they can hold their heads high. That's what a new life looks like here at Bridgeport Rescue Mission!

Thank you for creating a refuge of help and hope this Easter and beyond for individuals like Allen (*read his story on Page 3*).

In His Service,



Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director



Executive Director Terry Wilcox is grateful for the support of ministry friends and partners who bring Easter hope to men, women and children who are struggling every day of the year.



Bridgeport Rescue Mission

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BridgeportRescueMission.org

Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director

Donna Romano
Director of Communications

All stories and photos in this newsletter are of students and guests at Bridgeport Rescue Mission.



Fighting Poverty
from the Inside Out
and Serving the
Hurting and Homeless
of Coastal
Fairfield County

Mobile Kitchens Expand Vital Outreach

A welcome sight for struggling families and individuals, the Mission's two Mobile Kitchens make weekly visits to impoverished neighborhoods in Bridgeport and South Norwalk. Each truck is operated by a group of caring volunteers who provide nourishing meals, encouraging words and uplifting prayer for men, women and children who are hungry – in so many ways – but unable to come to our dining room on our main campus. The Mobile Kitchens touch the lives of thousands of individuals each year, allowing volunteers to assess their needs and offer additional guidance and resources through the Mission's comprehensive programs.

To meet the growing need, the Mission recently expanded this outreach, adding a stop in Bridgeport's North End. Volunteers are needed to drive the Mobile Kitchens and to serve meals and provide compassion to those in need of food and hope. If you'd like to help, contact Patti Law, Community Relations Manager, at PLaw@BridgeportRescueMission.org or (203) 333-4087, ext. 118.



A Second Chance

and the opportunity to share it with others

When Allen was 4 years old, his father was killed in a car accident that left his mother severely disabled. “It was tough growing up,” he recalls. **“By the time I was 16, I had learned to numb my feelings by drinking and smoking marijuana.”**

He later married, but his destructive behaviors prevented him from being responsible for his family. He and his wife separated and he returned home to care for his ailing mother. When it became necessary to place her in a nursing home, he fell apart.

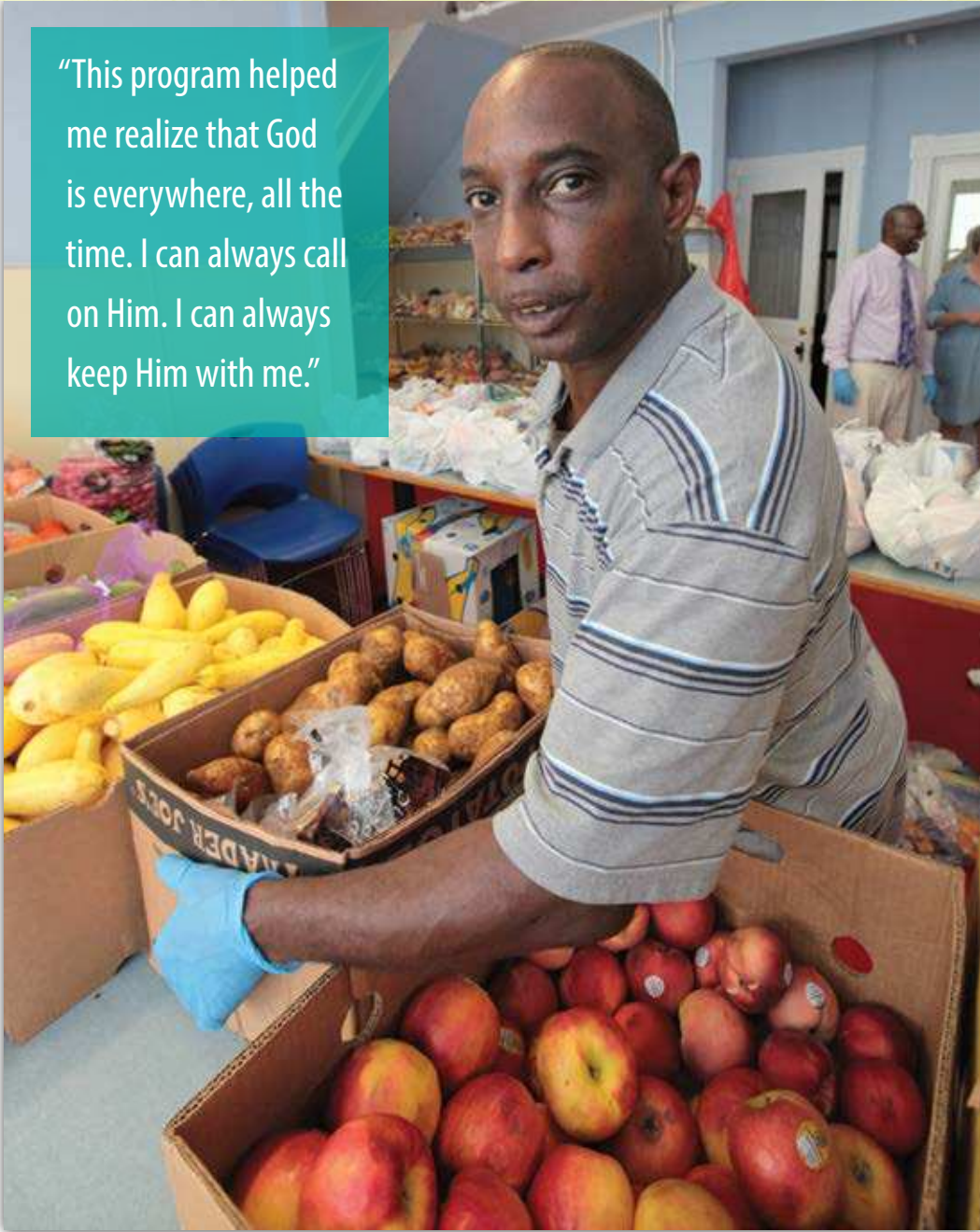
“I felt I had lost the most important ladies in my life,” Allen shares. As his addiction and despair escalated, his life spiraled downhill, leaving him virtually homeless. **“I knew if I stayed like this I was going to die,”** he explains. He called shelters and treatment facilities asking for help... until someone suggested Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

Allen joined our New Life Program and was empowered by our faith-based curriculum to embrace personal growth and change. “For a lot of us, our emotional maturity is low due to the drugs and alcohol,” he explains. “The courses help us look at our childlike behaviors and to grow up and mature.”

Allen’s grateful for your gifts, which have given him and others this life-changing opportunity. **“Without the people who give to the Mission, we wouldn’t have a second chance,”** he says. He explains that your giving also allowed him, and allows program residents like him, to share those second chances with others while assisting with the Mission’s many outreaches.

“The Mission has a homeless shelter... a food pantry and Mobile Kitchens... and offers clothing,” he explains. “So everything people donate to the Mission is passed on to someone else.”

For Allen, his growing and deepening relationship with God has given him hope for a future of joy and meaning. “Until I got to the Mission, my use for God was more on rainy days. Today, I acknowledge His presence... I thank Him... **and I will continue to study His Word so the change in my life is permanent.**”



“This program helped me realize that God is everywhere, all the time. I can always call on Him. I can always keep Him with me.”

Your gift this Easter season – and your continued compassion and generosity – give people like Allen the help and hope they need to turn their lives around. God bless you.

Monthly Giving Makes Hope Happen All Year Round

Along with other Mission donors, **our Monthly Giving Partners play a crucial role in providing the comprehensive programs and services described on this page**, bringing hope to our neighbors in need. It's as easy as A, B, C to provide this critical, ongoing care:

- **It's Automatic** – We'll set up your recurring monthly gift; no remembering dates required.
- **It's a Blessing** – Our administrative costs are reduced by your automatic giving, blessing more Mission guests with every dollar you donate.
- **It's Convenient** – Control how much you give through our secure giving platform.

If you're not already a **Monthly Giving Partner**, we encourage you to become part of this vital group. Simply complete the back of the enclosed reply card or visit BridgeportRescueMission.org.



Monthly gifts of \$15, \$25, \$35 or more provide a predictable stream of income to help the Mission meet expenses averaging over \$291,000 each month.



Food

Three meals each day – seven days a week – are served in our dining room to Mission residents, emergency shelter guests and community members who can't make it to our dining room, while our Mobile Kitchens distribute food to hungry adults and children in impoverished neighborhoods. Pantry Bags are provided weekly for families struggling to make ends meet, and thousands of turkeys and Thanksgiving fixings bags are distributed during our annual **Great ThanksGiving Project**.

Clothing

The blessing of clean clothing helps restore the dignity of hurting men, women and children. Gently used shirts, pants and coats – and garments that are appropriate for interviews or other important events – are given free of charge to those in our care and in our community through our Blessing Rooms and at our daily Mobile Kitchen stops.

Shelter

Men, women and mothers with children find clean, safe beds in a faith-based environment. After their essential needs are met – food, showers and clothing – they're offered the guidance and resources they need to overcome temporary challenges, or to take the next steps toward long-term transformation.

Addiction Recovery

Through our New Life Program, men and women seeking to overcome addiction and other life challenges are empowered with the tools to transform their lives. Through spiritual guidance, life-skills training, adult education and supportive housing, they become stable and contributing members of the community.

Supportive Housing for Men and Women

The Supportive Housing Program provides graduates of our New Life Program with housing, case management and in-house apprenticeship positions to assist them in their transition to independent living. Residents are asked to pay a sliding fee based on their income or are assigned projects at the Mission until employment is secured.



**Your Gifts
Made an Impact**

January – December 2017



550,000 Meals provided



37,960 Nights of shelter provided



15,000 Coats and items of clothing distributed



91 Individuals in residential life recovery

Thank You

for the
Holidays



*Turkeys for holiday meals...
Bedtime bags for children...
Sweet treats for those in our care...
Comfy blankets for needy families...
Coats to keep people warm...*

For all this and more, we thank the scores of Mission donors, volunteers and generous partners who made our annual holiday outreach possible.

We're especially grateful for the holiday and year-round support of these corporate partners:

Gold Partners

Affinion Group
BizMark
G.E. Capital
Penske Automotive
PrimeLine

Bronze Partners

Anholt Services (USA), Inc.
Bank of America
R.D. Scinto, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank

Silver Partners

Barrow Street Advisors
People's United Bank
Reed Exhibitions

Copper Partners

Arbour Lane Capital
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder
Newtown Savings Bank
Northeast Private
Client Group
Sikorsky
Tauck

**Have you seen our new and improved website?
Visit today to learn more about how your gifts
bring hope to hurting people through the
Mission's comprehensive programs and services.
BridgeportRescueMission.org**



Please clip and share with others.

Partner with us!

Join with the Mission and other kind-hearted friends to bring hope to our neighbors in need.

Clean Your Closets for Coats



Your donation of winter wear will help us provide the thousands of coats we distribute to our less-fortunate neighbors during the holiday season. We're starting now to collect new and gently used coats, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves – for adults and children of all sizes. Encourage your church, synagogue, workplace or civic group to host a drive for these items. Single donations are appreciated as well!

Please bring your donations of food and winter wear to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fill Our Pantry with Food



The Mission is requesting canned and other non-perishable foods to prepare wholesome meals – more than 100 daily – for the men, women and children in our care and for the hungry families and individuals served by our Mobile Kitchens. We especially need quantities of hearty soups (including chicken noodle), canned ravioli, macaroni and cheese, and tuna.

Connect with Patti

Our Community Relations Manager, Patti Law, is eager to help you

engage with the Mission and those we serve in very personal and meaningful ways. Visit our new website – or contact Patti at **(203) 333-4087, ext. 118** – to learn more about sharing your time, talent and expertise to make an impact in our community.

Cut out and share with others.

