



RESCUE MISSION

2018 Holiday

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

From Struggle to Strength

*Your gifts bring joy
to people like Adrienne at Christmas
and all year round.*

**On Page 3: Read how
your partnership and
prayers changed the lives
of this devoted mother
and her children.**



BridgeportRescueMission.org

SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Get Connected ...

Dear Friend,

Your generous contributions are not only blessings in themselves, but they're multiplied exponentially by the countless gifts they allow the Mission to share with those who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

The food, shelter and clothing we provide are gifts that fulfill the most basic human needs. Guidance, education and job training are gifts too – and when accepted with commitment and dedication, they can lead to lives filled with promise and purpose.

Yet the greatest gift we offer inside our doors is the message of God's love and grace, which can transform lives for eternity!

This issue of *Rescue Mission News* is all about sharing gifts – a subject that's especially appropriate during the holiday season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Yet

God's work, the Mission's outreach and our partnership with friends like you, is focused on giving all year long!

Of course, none of our ministries would be possible without the gifts you first share with us. And I'm so very grateful for your selfless giving, which brings joy to our hurting guests at Christmas and every day of the year. God bless you this holiday season and always.

In His service,



Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director



Executive Director Terry Wilcox encourages Mission partners and friends to embrace the opportunities found in this newsletter to bring Christmas joy to others.



Bridgeport Rescue Mission

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BridgeportRescueMission.org

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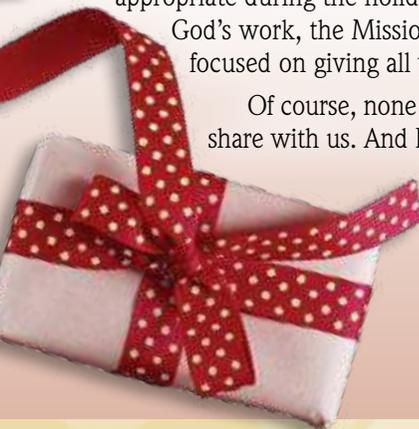
Donna Romano
Director of Communications

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

Write Us In as Your
United Way Gift Designation



Spread Joy Year-Round Through Year-End Giving

If you're looking for year-end giving opportunities that will make an impact all year long, the following options may fulfill your desire while also creating important tax benefits.

- Gifts of stocks, bonds and other securities allow you to give without depleting cash reserves.
- Products or services your company manufactures/provides help offset our budget.
- Real estate or used vehicles can be used in our ministry or sold to support our outreach.
- Planned giving through a will or trust establishes a lasting legacy.

To learn about corporate or year-end giving, contact Kim Fawcett, Director of Strategic Partnerships, at (203) 333-4087, ext. 113, or KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org.

Corporate Compassion in Action ► BizMark

BizMark Executive Director Ed Gillespie has been a long-time financial supporter of the Mission's outreach to the local community. Through his congregation at Crossroads Community Church, he also leads a team that serves weekly at one of our Mobile Kitchen sites. He often brings his clients to our **Restore Hope** banquet to raise awareness of our programs and services and has volunteered with his family through our **Great ThanksGiving Project**. We're grateful for this outpouring of compassion and generosity!

During the annual United Way fall campaign at your workplace, consider directing your contributions to Bridgeport Rescue Mission as your designated charity. If you're using EPIedge, simply use the "search agencies" field and click on or type in our name!

“Today, God’s light is shining through me!”

Adrienne was struggling. With employment. With finances. With a destructive relationship that caused her to doubt her self-worth and her ability to provide for her children. For her own survival and the well-being of her two little ones – a 10-month-old daughter and a 3-year-old son – she knew her life had to change.

“I had to break away,” she says, “to find myself and rediscover my purpose, because I felt like I was making the same mistakes over and over again.” But where would she go and how would she provide for herself and her children until she could stabilize her life?

She prayed to God for guidance, thanking Him in advance for helping her find a solid solution. Then she called 211 to locate safe shelter and was directed to Bridgeport Rescue Mission, where she was accepted into our faith-based life recovery program.

When she was shown to her room with a poster on the wall that read **“YOU ARE SO LOVED,”** she knew this was where God wanted her to be.

Here, through your gifts, she and her children are blessed with the essentials of safe shelter... nutritious meals... vital clothing... and everything they need to feel comfortable and at home. And with staff’s guidance and encouragement – and the structure of our comprehensive curriculum – she is growing stronger in every area of her life. “The Mission helps you with a plan so that when you leave, you’re never in a position to be stuck in the same predicament,” she says. And she’s learned the foundation for that plan is to trust in the Lord.

This Christmas, as Adrienne and her children celebrate Christ’s birth, she’ll also celebrate the joyous new life she found inside our doors... because of your kind compassion. “Every day since I’ve been here, my relationship with God has gotten more intimate and deep,” she says. “Now I can say that, through this process, I know Him for myself.”



We’re grateful for your gifts and prayers, which empower people like Adrienne to rebuild their lives and provide a bright future for their children. Your continued support will bless them this holiday season and into the year ahead.



**Can't form a team? Donate a "Virtual Turkey"!
Visit BridgeportRescueMission.org/ThanksgivingTurkeys**

Form a **Turkey Team**

We need
3,200 turkeys!

Want a fun way to make a difference this Thanksgiving? Gather your family, friends, congregation and coworkers, and form a Turkey Team! Select a fun name for your team and work together to:

1. Purchase 12- to 15-pound frozen turkeys (as many as you can). Deliver to 1069 Connecticut Ave. Unit 2B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2. Donate virtual turkeys at \$20 each (the more the merrier!).

Contact Patti Law at **(203) 333-4087, ext. 118**, to get started.

Fill Hearts With Christmas Joy



Give Backpacks of Love

Fill backpacks with the items below, which bring warmth and comfort to the homeless men and women in our care.

*bath towels & washcloths • winter hats, scarves & gloves
new packaged underwear • Christmas chocolates*

Fill Bedtime Bags for Kids

Fill a Christmas gift bag with the following items for a boy or girl, and include a note with a message of encouragement.

a bedtime storybook • a small stuffed animal
a child's toothbrush & toothpaste • a washcloth and mild soap*

* We suggest "Who Is Coming to Our House?" and "The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving."

Donate Blankets for Struggling Neighbors

Your gifts of new or gently used blankets, quilts and comforters will be distributed along with Bedtime Bags to more than 500 families in need.

Shop for Our Holiday Food Needs

- Canned green beans, corn and peas
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Stuffing mixes (not croutons)
- Gravy mixes
- Cranberry sauce (no glass)
- Canned hearty soups
- Canned tuna and chicken
- 12- to 15-lb. frozen turkeys
- Whole frozen hams

Visit BridgeportRescueMission.org for a complete food list, shop for the items, then bring them to the Mission (see Delivery Instructions). If you are unable to shop, make a gift online or send it in the enclosed envelope.

Calling for Coats... 15,000!

Your donations of gently used coats – in all sizes – as well as hats, gloves, scarves and boots will help struggling children and adults stay warm this winter. Encourage your Sunday school class, synagogue, work group or civic organization to hold a drive for coats and winter wear and deliver them to the Mission. We especially need coats for children and men.



Delivery Instructions

Please bring your **Backpacks, Bedtime Bags and Blankets** – as well as **turkeys, coats and food** – to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

A Night of
Prayer and Worship

January 25, 2019

Watch our website for details.