



RESCUE MISSION

2019  
Spring

# News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

## a Beautiful New Beginning

On Page 3: Read how your support is giving Audrey a reason to celebrate this Easter!



BridgeportRescueMission.org

SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY



# Get Connected ...



Dear Friend,

*A simple handshake... a clean shirt... a hot meal.*

You never know the one small gesture that will give a hurting person a glimmer of hope. For Audrey, who shares her story on Page 3, it was the kind voice who answered her call to the Mission and reassured her she wasn't alone.

Your generosity makes hope happen every day for people who are searching for safe beds, struggling to feed their children, or burdened by life-dominating challenges they can't overcome on their own. The recent closing of a nearby shelter and food pantry has brought even more of these struggling neighbors to our doors.

During the Easter season, as we celebrate the selfless gesture of love that brought hope to the world, I pray you'll continue your own amazing gestures of generosity and compassion.

By God's grace, and your support, so many like Audrey are experiencing hope restored. On behalf of each person in our care, thank you for your partnership this Easter and always.

In His service,

Rev. Terry Wilcox  
Executive Director



Executive Director Terry Wilcox is grateful for the continued generosity of friends and partners as more men, women and children turn to the Mission for hope.



**BRIDGEPORT  
RESCUE MISSION**

*Fighting poverty from the inside out*

## Bridgeport Rescue Mission

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**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.

## Finding Hope during the Holidays

*Smiles of delight... words of gratitude... tears of joy...*

These are the heartwarming results of the abundant blessings you and others shared with our residents and hurting neighbors throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. We thank the scores of Mission donors, volunteers and generous sponsors who made our annual holiday outreach possible.

### We're especially grateful for the ongoing support of these corporate partners:

#### Platinum Partners

*BizMark  
Enterprise  
R.D. Scinto, Inc.*

#### Bronze Partners

*Bank of America  
People's United Bank  
Webster Bank*

#### Gold Partners

*Affinion Group  
Barrow Street Advisors LLC  
Barteca Restaurant Group  
Newman's Own  
Penske Automotive Group  
PepsiCo  
Prime Line  
Reed Exhibitions*

#### Copper Partners

*Arbour Lane Capital  
Anholt Services (USA), Inc.  
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, PC  
Northeast Private Client Group  
Sikorsky  
Splash Car Wash*



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





**“ I chose to live among those who felt the same way I did... unworthy, unimportant, at the lowest point of my life. ”**



**A**udrey had been homeless for two years – and was so malnourished that those who knew her didn’t recognize her – when she felt God tugging at her heart. “I began to feel uncomfortable in the crack houses, like I didn’t belong,” she recalls. So she reached out to a relative, and through a chain of events she feels could only have been orchestrated by God, she made a phone call to Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

Now in our faith-based New Life Program, Audrey is embracing opportunities to focus on her relationship with the Lord, on letting go of her past and on the tools she needs to build her future. After just a few months, she is flourishing. “I’ve learned how to deal with things that used to keep me down, how to set boundaries and how to love myself,” she says. Most importantly, “I’ve

learned I’m valuable in the Kingdom of God.”

**This Easter, Audrey will celebrate a beautiful new beginning – made possible by your compassion and support.**

“If you could see me now, I’m shining. I’m clean and sober. I’m focused and I love the Lord. There is hope here at Bridgeport Rescue Mission.”

**“ God picked out the Bridgeport Rescue Mission for me, and it is like the perfect marriage. ”**



## Your Gifts Save Lives!

*Over 1,000 deaths from opioid overdoses were reported in Connecticut in 2017, doubling the tragic toll since 2014. Opioid deaths in Fairfield County alone numbered 179 in 2016. Your Easter gift today and your continued generosity empower individuals like Audrey to replace their addiction with reliance on God.*

# Because of You, Hope is Restored through...

## Food

Three meals a day are served in our dining room to Mission residents and guests and struggling community members, while Pantry Bags are provided weekly for impoverished families. And our Mobile Kitchens distribute food to hungry adults and children at scheduled stops in Bridgeport and South Norwalk.



## Clothing

Gently used shirts, pants, coats and shoes are given free of charge to those in our care and in our community through our Blessing Rooms and at our Mobile Kitchen stops.

## Shelter

Men, women and children find clean, safe beds in a faith-based environment where their need for food, showers, clothing and other essentials are relieved. They're offered guidance and resources to overcome temporary challenges and opportunities for long-term life transformation.

For more information on the hope you provide, visit our website at [BridgeportRescueMission.org](http://BridgeportRescueMission.org).

## Addiction Recovery

In our New Life Program, men and women battling substance abuse are empowered to break the chains of addiction. Through spiritual guidance, life-skills training, adult education and supportive housing, they become stable and contributing members of their communities.



## Supportive Housing for Men and Women

Graduates of our New Life Program are provided housing, case management and on-site apprenticeship positions to assist them in their transition to independent living.

## More Ways to Give Hope

**In prayer:** Include our residents, volunteers and staff in your daily devotions.

**Through ongoing gifts:** Become a Monthly Giving Partner (see back of reply form) and ensure a steady stream of income to empower those in our care to change their lives.

**With estate planning:** Include the Mission in your will, trust or beneficiary designation and ensure your compassion for the poor continues beyond your lifetime.

**By donating in-kind:** Your gifts of products or services help offset our budget and provide our residents with opportunities they might not otherwise receive.

## Your Gifts Made an Impact

January –  
December 2018

 587,000 Meals provided

 37,960 Nights of shelter provided

 15,000 Coats and items of clothing distributed

 91 Individuals in residential life recovery