



RESCUE MISSION

Summer 2019

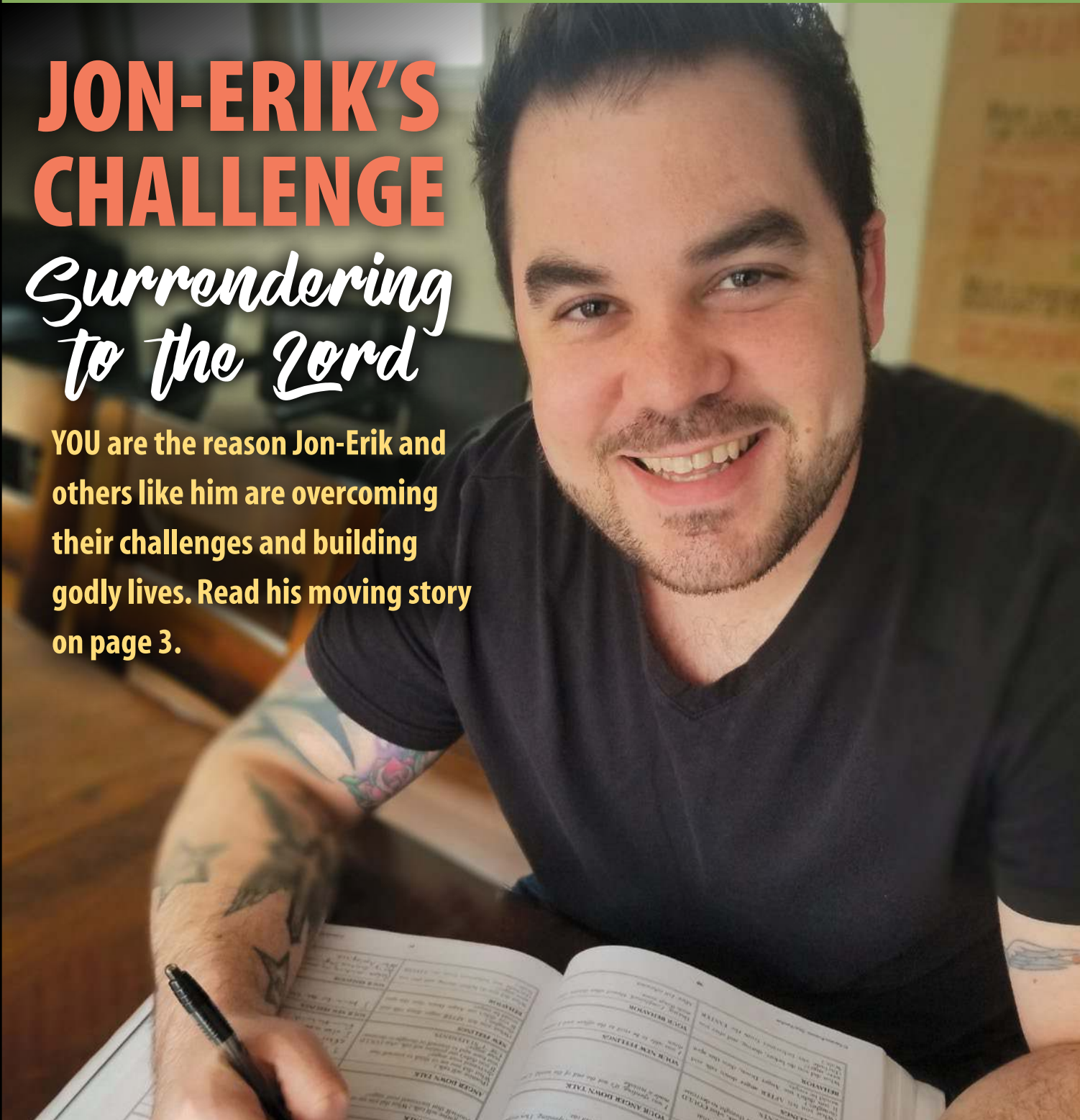
News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

JON-ERIK'S CHALLENGE

Surrendering to the Lord

YOU are the reason Jon-Erik and others like him are overcoming their challenges and building godly lives. Read his moving story on page 3.



BridgeportRescueMission.org

SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Get Connected ...

Dear Friend,

Every day, it seems, the lines grow longer: hungry people who need a hot meal... families turning to our pantry for groceries and clothing... women and children who need a safe place to lay their heads. And I pray that we can help them all.

That's why I'm excited to share this opportunity to bring twice as much hope to twice as many people. **A group of generous partners has offered funding for a Matching Challenge. They're asking you and other friends to match their gift of \$250,000 with an additional \$250,000.** That's a total of \$500,000 to care for those who are homeless and hurting.

I hope when you read about Jon-Erik (on page 3), you'll see how tremendously his life has been changed by gifts like yours. And what a blessing to give this month, when your generosity provides twice the help with life essentials and life-changing guidance, so those in our care can find hope and healing through God's love.

You are the reason the Mission can meet the challenge of caring for our community's homeless – this month and throughout the entire year. As our numbers continue to increase, please pray with our leadership for an effective and God-inspired way to meet the growing crisis in our community. I'm so grateful for your partnership and generosity.

In His service,

Terry Wilcox

Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director



Community Partners Fill Pantry

We're grateful for the support of compassionate partners who donate items for our food pantry. Their generosity ensures we can meet the needs of hungry and struggling individuals and families who turn to us for groceries on a monthly basis.

One of these special friends, Bigelow Tea, has provided hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables grown in their community garden in Fairfield, Connecticut. To learn how you or your group can help with this important ministry, see "Got Food?" on page 4.



Executive Director Terry Wilcox encourages friends of the Mission to make the most of this special opportunity to double the impact of their generosity. All gifts made by May 31 will be doubled.



Bridgeport Rescue Mission

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Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director

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Director of Communications & Engagement

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

A Life Surrendered... and Transformed



“Things were looking very bright for me and I threw it all away,” says Jon-Erik, a resident in our New Life Program.

After two years of sobriety, he was studying to become a substance abuse counselor and working as an intern in a ministry like ours. “I was doing counseling and running the kitchen and I loved it,” he says. But when the internship ended and he began a full-time job, the money, he believes, was a trigger.

“I stopped doing the things that were keeping me sober, like going to meetings, reading the Bible and serving in church,” he says. It wasn’t long before he relapsed... and his life spun out of control.

“I went from having a job and pursuing a career to being homeless,” he explains. Knowing a long-term, faith-based program would be key to restoring his life, he came to Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

“I came into this program wanting to become a responsible man of God, and this program has allowed me to do that.”

Here, he believes the classes, the work therapy, the community and the love students have for one another have provided the foundation for a new beginning. Most importantly, he has surrendered his life to the Lord: “The Mission has allowed me to strengthen my relationship with God... to see the strengths He has equipped me with... and to know that I am created for something greater than the use of drugs and alcohol.”

He recently graduated from our program and plans to continue to pursue his career, strengthened by his own life experience. “I know that all things can be done through Christ,” he shares, “and that was a big part of choosing Bridgeport Rescue Mission.”

YOU are the reason individuals like Jon-Erik are no longer bound by past challenges and have become overcomers through God’s love. They are deeply grateful for your gift today and continued support.



Did you know?

Our Director of New Life and Supportive Housing Programs, MaryAnn Gardner, shares highlights of the Mission’s work on radio station WICC AM 600. Tune in the first and last Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

DOUBLE YOUR HELP!

Our Matching Challenge is underway now

Right now, a generous Matching gift means every gift given until May 31 has double the impact. That adds up to TWICE THE HELP for people facing huge challenges throughout coastal Fairfield County!

\$50 → \$100

\$100 → \$200

\$150 → \$300

- ♥ Hot meals for those who are hungry (just \$2.50 each!)
- ♥ Safe shelter and beds for homeless men, women and children
- ♥ Counseling and prayer for individuals battling addiction
- ♥ Training to prepare men and women for employment

HELP TURN
\$250,000 → \$500,000

YOU will be a blessing in so many lives!
This Matching Challenge ends May 31!



Send your gift for 2x the impact today.



**DON'T WAIT!
DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT
BY RESPONDING NOW.**



Got Food?

Help provide fresh produce and non-perishable items for our Food Pantry – as well as for the more than 467 meals served each day in our dining room and through our Mobile Kitchens – by donating the items we need most:

*jelly in plastic • peanut butter
cereal • macaroni & cheese
canned tuna in water • ramen
baked beans • chicken noodle soup
canned vegetables • canned ravioli
canned chili*

Please deliver your food items to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Ave., Unit 2B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Got Time?

We need your helping hands with these important activities:

- Assist with our **Stuff-A-Truck** events by accepting food donations at various **Stop & Shop** locations.
- Organize a canned food drive through your workplace, congregation or civic group.

To learn more, contact Patti Law, our Community Relations Manager, at PLaw@BridgeportRescueMission.org.

Discover More Ways to Help!



Follow us on **Facebook**



Visit our website – BridgeportRescueMission.org



Stuff-A-Truck at Stop & Shop

Pick up a few extra items for the Mission when you visit local **Stop & Shop** locations in early June (watch our website for exact dates), and drop them in our truck outside the store. Your church, synagogue or business may also choose to station a truck in your parking lot and hold a food drive to fill it!

Partner With the Mission...

With ongoing gifts – Become a **Monthly Giving Partner** (see back of reply form) and help provide a reliable stream of income to sustain our life-changing programs and services.

Through estate planning – Include the Mission in your will, trust or beneficiary designation to ensure your compassion for those in need continues beyond your lifetime.

For more details, contact Kim Fawcett at KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org or (203) 333-4087, ext. 113.