



RESCUE MISSION

Fall 2019

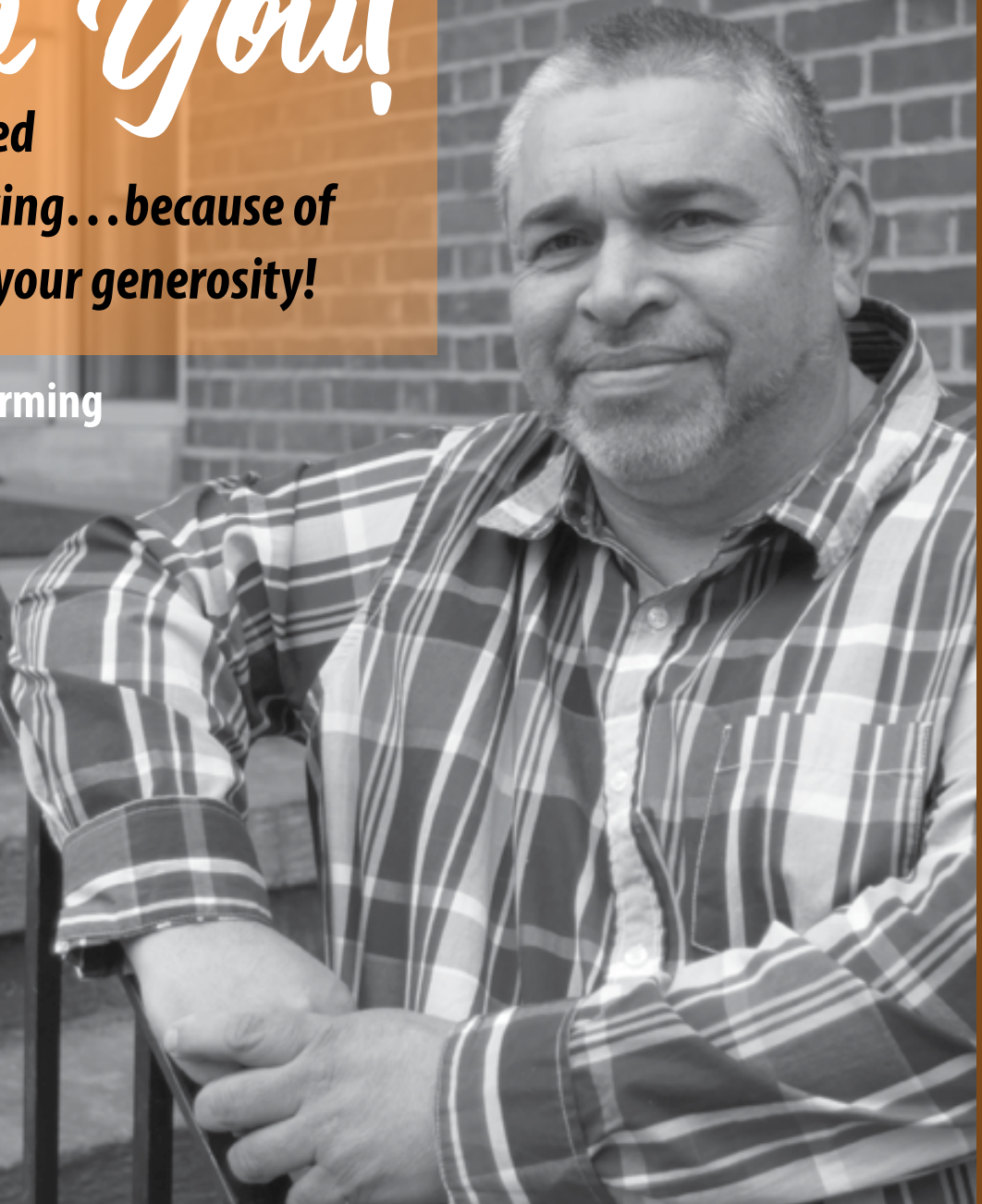
# News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

## Angel Wants to Thank You!

**His heart is filled  
with thanksgiving...because of  
God's love and your generosity!**

Read his heartwarming  
story on Page 3.



BridgeportRescueMission.org

SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY

# Get Connected ...

Dear Friend,

For nearly 18 years, I've had the honor and privilege to serve as Executive Director of Bridgeport Rescue Mission. I've watched God work miracles in the lives of countless men and women facing life-dominating challenges. It's been my joy to see their hope and independence restored through our faith-based outreach.

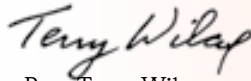
Through it all, one of my greatest blessings has been the steadfast partnership of friends like you. ***Each time I think of you, my heart overflows with thanksgiving.***

It is because of your dedication to our life-changing ministry that I want to tell you the news of my own life change. I will be retiring from the Mission at the end of the year and moving with my wife to Lakeland, Florida, where I've been invited to pastor a new church. It is because of your undeniable compassion for those who are hurting that I have every confidence our programs and services will continue to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our community.

As our board of directors ensures a smooth transition to new leadership and embraces new opportunities for growth and service, I pray you will continue to stand alongside the Mission to fight poverty from the inside out.

Thank you again for your friendship and for your generosity in so many forms, and may God bless you abundantly as you have blessed me and all those the Mission serves.

In His service,



Rev. Terry Wilcox  
Executive Director

## Be part of our annual... *Great Thanksgiving Project*

### Join a Distribution Team

Volunteers are needed to pack and hand out turkeys, bags of fixings and coats to bless hungry children, struggling families and lonely senior citizens. With your help, they'll receive everything they need to enjoy a traditional holiday meal and to stay warm and comfortable during the winter months.

### Serve with a Corporate Team or Become a Corporate Sponsor

Teams from local businesses and organizations help us meet our tremendous holiday needs while having fun and building company spirit. Team slots fill quickly, so contact us today.

We also need corporate sponsors to underwrite the costs of our ***Great Thanksgiving Project***. To learn more about the details and benefits, contact Kim Fawcett at (203) 333-4087, ext. 113.

### Give Financially

Your cash donations are always needed and deeply appreciated, and never more so than during the holidays. An envelope is provided for your convenience. God bless you for your generosity!

***See more opportunities on Page 4!***

Contact us for more information at  
**Info@BridgeportRescueMission.org**  
to learn more about the  
***Great Thanksgiving Project!***



Executive Director Terry Wilcox shares his heart of thanksgiving... for friends like YOU!



#### Bridgeport Rescue Mission

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[BridgeportRescueMission.org](http://BridgeportRescueMission.org)

Rev. Terry Wilcox  
Executive Director

Donna Romano  
Director of Communications & Engagement

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



MISSION MEMBER



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



# Angel's Story of *Healing* and *Hope!*

**A**ngel blamed God for his little boy's death. The baby was only 15 days old when he passed away, shattering Angel's dream of raising a son. After that tragic loss, "I didn't want nobody telling me nothing about God," he says.

Longing to leave his grief behind, he came to Bridgeport to build a new life. But his sorrow only followed. He began drinking to numb his pain... drug use came next... and soon, "I lost everything," he says, referring to his home, his job as a mechanic and the respect of his loved ones.

Homeless for nearly three years, "I did things I never thought I'd do," Angel shares, describing the hunger that drove him to eat from the streets or garbage cans. Although he had gone to church as a child, he had never solidified his relationship with God. Finally, he reached out to God in desperation. ***"I was tired of the drugs... of sleeping on the streets... of feeling like nobody loved me,"*** he shares. ***"So I raised my eyes to heaven and prayed, 'God, I know I've talked bad about you, but if you're real, I need help.'"***

The next day his prayer was answered. Through a friend's direction, he found his way to Bridgeport Rescue Mission. He joined our faith-based New Life Program, which at first, he says, was "too much God." Angel's only plan was to stop using drugs. But God had an even greater plan in store. "I accepted Jesus into my life, and after that, everything changed," Angel says.

Last year, Angel graduated from our program with his family by his side. He moved into transitional housing and has opened his own garage. Most important, he is healing and has hope – through God's promise that one day he will be reunited with his son.

***Because of your generosity, Angel's heart is filled with thanksgiving... and God's love!*** "I want to say thank you every time I wake up... when I go to sleep... when I'm walking in the street... when I'm working on my car. I say thanks to God and everyone who put me at Bridgeport Rescue Mission."

“

***I didn't want  
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”



# More ways to touch lives through our... *Great Thanksgiving Project*



## Team Up for Turkeys

Family members, workplace associates, church and synagogue congregations and groups of all kinds are encouraged to form teams to collect turkeys. Please deliver frozen turkeys to our Donation Center. **Or your Turkey Team can contribute \$20 to donate a "virtual turkey"** by making a gift online at [BridgeportRescueMission.org](http://BridgeportRescueMission.org) or sending your gift in the envelope provided.

**Virtual or actual,  
we need 3,200 turkeys  
before Thanksgiving!**

## Hold a Coat Drive

The Mission will give away nearly 15,000 gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves and other winter wear to disadvantaged adults and children. We're calling on individuals and groups to host drives for these items.

## Give Financially at Thanksgiving

Please prayerfully consider these vital opportunities to support our daily services, life-changing programs and special activities throughout the holiday season:

- Choose to become a Monthly Giving Partner.
- Make a gift today in the enclosed envelope.
- Pledge a substantial financial gift, payable October through December.
- Designate the Mission as the recipient of your workplace United Way campaign.
- Include the Mission in your will or estate plan, or consider donor advised funds.
- Encourage your company – or your church or synagogue – to become a **Great Thanksgiving Project** sponsor.

For more information, contact Kim Fawcett at (203) 333-4087, ext. 113.

Please bring your **Great Thanksgiving Project** contributions to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2-B, in Bridgeport, CT, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., by November 15th.

## Hold a Thanksgiving Food Drive

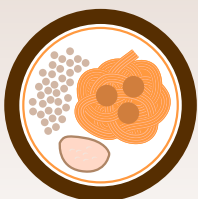
Encourage your business, church, synagogue or civic group to organize a food drive for the items listed below, which will be used in the thousands of meals and fixings bags we'll provide during the Thanksgiving season. We're grateful for your helping hands and generous hearts!

- ☐ 12- to 15-pound frozen turkeys
- ☐ Canned green beans, corn & peas
- ☐ Canned cranberry sauce
- ☐ Stuffing mixes (not croutons)
- ☐ Gravy mixes

If you're not able to shop for us, your financial donations help too! Please send your "gift for groceries" in the envelope provided.



## How Your Gifts Will Fill Hearts With Gratitude ... *This Thanksgiving Season*



14,657

*Prepared  
meals each month*



26,911

*Pantry Bag meals  
each month*



88,000

*Meals through our  
Great Thanksgiving Project*