



RESCUE MISSION

# News

Holiday 2019

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Because  
of you...

**"My Story  
Has a New  
Beginning!"**

Your gifts bring **JOY**  
to people like Sarah  
at Christmas and all  
through the year!

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BridgeportRescueMission.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 203-333-4087

BRIDGEPORTRESCUEMISSION.ORG

# A Message from Terry Wilcox

## *Your Gifts Fill Hearts With Joy!*

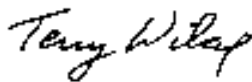
The Christmas story isn't fiction, fable or fairytale. It's God's reassuring Truth! God sent His son to bring hope to a troubled world and healing to broken souls. That's the joy-filled message that the Mission shares with guests, at Christmas and every day of the year.

Oftentimes, for a new story to begin, an old one must end. Through the faith-based care your generosity provides, individuals are empowered to close chapters of loneliness, pain and tragedy in their lives and ask God to be the author of their futures. I invite you to partner with the Mission in the coming weeks to provide gifts of food, shelter and life-restoring guidance, as we celebrate the joyous new beginnings the season brings.

And as I begin a new chapter in my own life, I'm excited about the new chapter being written at the Mission. I am pleased to announce that our Board has selected Frank Williams as my successor. Frank is the perfect person to carry on the Mission legacy of hope and transformation through God's love and your gifts and prayers.

Please join me in welcoming Frank and supporting his efforts as you have done so faithfully with me.

In His service,



Rev. Terry Wilcox  
Executive Director, Emeritus

## Meet Our New CEO!



Having faithfully served the Mission as CFO and as Acting COO, Frank Williams has been chosen to succeed Rev. Terry Wilcox as its CEO. Before coming to the Mission, Frank held leadership roles at the Bowery Mission and World Vision International. We thank God for bringing Frank to us!

## *Give a Meal... Change a Life* 40,310 meals provided by Christmas!

A plate of hot, wholesome food can change someone's story from struggle to strength... from heartbreak to hope... from despair to joy. With each meal you give, you offer so much more:

- Safe shelter and clean clothing
- Life skills classes and practical guidance
- The message of God's life-changing love

It costs only \$2.50 to provide a meal and care for one hungry person...

***Please Send Your Gift Today!***

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

💻 Give online anytime at  
**BridgeportRescueMission.org.**



### Bridgeport Rescue Mission

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

**Rev. Terry Wilcox**

Executive Director, Emeritus

**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





“God wants me to start over, and I’m willing.”

Sarah started experimenting with drugs at age 19, because her peers exhibited a confidence she longed for. “I lost my self-esteem and was drawn to people who were using,” she says. Sadly, her misguided choices destroyed what she loved most and filled her heart with guilt and shame.

She dropped out of college and began waitressing to support her addiction. Soon she met a man whose love initially blinded him to her troubles. They married and had a son, but she struggled to be a wife and mother. “I got divorced over drugs; I did a lot of damage,” she says, heartbroken at losing her family and vowing to change her life.

Although Sarah had gone to church as a child, she had never developed a personal relationship with God. But after failed attempts at treatment, she felt Him guiding her to our doors. “I reached a point of desperation,” she explains, “and was hospitalized for being suicidal.” When she was released, she called the Mission. “I was told they had been trying to reach ME because they had a place for me. That was definitely Divine intervention!”

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**“Being totally willing and totally surrendered is when the real change came about. That’s when I began to feel God.”**

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In our New Life Program, Sarah embraced the influence of our staff, volunteers, and mentors, who are teaching her the Source of true self-esteem. And through our faith-based classes and one-on-one counseling, she is healing from the regrets of her past. “Before, I was stuck in a cycle of guilt and self-condemnation, which was my excuse to continue using,” she explains.

Today, Sarah is rebuilding her relationship with her little boy. When she graduates, she plans to pursue a degree in Human Services, to help other women overcome destructive habits in their lives.

This Christmas, **because of your compassion and God’s love**, Sarah’s story has a new beginning. And she’s blessed by the greatest gift she could ever receive – a future filled with joy and meaning. **“Before coming to the Mission I was desperate and broken. Now I’m hopeful and restored!”**

## Bring *Christmas Joy* to Those in Need

- 🎁 Fill **Backpacks of Love** with these items for adult guests who are homeless:

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

- 🎁 Fill **Bedtime Bags** with these items – with a note of encouragement – for a homeless boy or girl:  
*bedtime story book\* • new stuffed animal  
child's toothbrush and toothpaste • washcloth & mild soap*

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

- 🎁 Donate new or gently used **blankets, quilts and comforters** for more than 500 struggling families.

- 🎁 Shop for our **holiday food needs**. Visit **BridgeportRescueMission.org** for a list of items.

### Questions?

Email **Volunteer@BridgeportRescueMission.org**

## Spread *Joy* Through Year-End Giving

These year-end giving options will make an impact all year long and may also create important tax benefits.

- Gifts of stocks, bonds and other securities allow you to give without depleting case reserves.
- 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 more about corporate or year-end giving, contact Kim Fawcett, Director of Strategic Partnerships, at 203-333-4087, ext. 113, or [KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org](mailto:KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org).

## We Need 3,200 Turkeys...

Each year we use tons of turkeys in our **Great ThanksGiving Project** fixings bags and the thousands of meals we serve throughout the holiday season.

Gather your family, friends, congregation and coworkers and form a **Turkey Team** to help.

1. Purchase 12- to 15-pound frozen turkeys (as many as you can).

OR:

2. Donate "virtual" turkeys for \$20 each at **BridgeportRescueMission.org/the-great-thanksgiving-project**.

## And 15,000 Coats!

We need gently used coats in all sizes – as well as hats, gloves, scarves and boots – to help children and adults stay warm this winter. Encourage your congregation, workplace or civic group to collect coats and winter wear.

**Deliver coats and turkeys to  
our Donation Center at  
1069 Connecticut Ave, 2B  
in Bridgeport  
open Tue - Sat, 9am to 5pm**