



RESCUE MISSION

Summer
2020

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Thank you
for helping
Andre
make a
fresh start!



CEO Frank Williams inspects progress on our new Community Care Center. Your ongoing support will bring hope to more people like André through the expanded programs and services this new facility will make possible.



BridgeportRescueMission.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 203-333-4087

BRIDGEPORTRESCUEMISSION.ORG

A Message from Frank Williams

Give Where You Live... to Meet Our Summer Challenge

Dear Friend,

This year's health crisis has overturned our lives – but even more so for our neighbors in need. The issues of hunger, homelessness, and poverty are far more painful now. The challenge to provide our services increases daily, but we are committed to care for those who are struggling. God is near to the brokenhearted, so as we seek to serve, we know that **God is with us.**

Summer is always a challenging time for non-profits, and **we need your help now more than ever.** Our expense to continue to provide vital care this summer is \$1,012,000. Please **give where you live** to ensure care for all the men, women, and children who will come to Bridgeport Rescue Mission for help. With your support we can meet this challenge!

Together we can provide meals and groceries, showers and shelter, case management and life skills – especially in this time of upheaval and loss. And, as we prepare to expand services with our new Care Center, more people will need to know that God is real, personal, and powerful. Help us to help them.

I ask you to pray for us, as we pray for you. May we all sense God's nearness and guidance so that we respond to the needs around us with generosity and compassion. Thanks for helping us to be God's hands and feet in Coastal Connecticut.

In His service,



Frank Williams
CEO



Your Gifts Made a Real Impact!

JANUARY – MARCH 2020

34,256
House Meals

42,524
Prepared Meals

71,291
Pantry Meals

7,348
Mobile Meals

Stuff-a-Truck Goes Virtual!

Due to COVID-19, we can't host our annual event at local Stop & Shop stores. But you can still help! Order food online or drop off:

1069 Connecticut Ave, Unit 2B, Bridgeport, CT 06607.



Bridgeport Rescue Mission

1088 Fairfield Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06605
203-333-4087
BridgeportRescueMission.org

Frank Williams

Chief Executive Officer

Donna Romano

Director of Communications



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

Serving those who are Hurting and
Homeless in Coastal Connecticut

“

**The Mission
gave me a place
to trust God.**

”



André – like a lot of teenagers – began using drugs early in life. As an adult, however, his destructive habits landed him in prison. When he was released, he experienced a season of sobriety. But when his marriage fell apart, so did André. “I felt depressed, abandoned, and alone,” he says. He turned to what was familiar to deal with the pain, but the drugs cost him his job. “I didn’t want to work. I didn’t want to look for work. I did whatever I needed to do to obtain my drugs.”

Yet throughout his struggles, André always sensed God’s presence with him. He began to hear God was calling him to a place where he could get the help he needed, and that place was Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

In our New Life Program, André embraced the message of God’s acceptance, and how that same forgiveness needed to be offered to those who had hurt him. It was his first step toward sobriety. In our Work Therapy Program, André asked to be placed in our

“

**All the while, God was nudging
me to return to Him.**

”

kitchen to help with meals and Pantry, and that’s when he began to recover his passion for food. His love of cooking was a gift his mother had given him, and now it gave him a sense of belonging and a chance to give back to the community.

Because of your support, André is moving forward with his life – and helping others do the same!

André knows God has a plan that is being revealed as he steps forward with faith. “I’m so happy I chose to trust God with my life! The Mission has pointed me back to God and back to sobriety. I feel very privileged to have been at the Mission, where I got the tools I needed to be the man I was made to be.”



Expanding Hope – Exciting News!

The first phase of services at our new Community Care Center is scheduled to open late summer! Once fully operational, this facility will enable us to expand our program capacity, offer comprehensive day services, including primary healthcare and dental services, a community café, public showers, laundry facilities, and offices for service providers. It also will become a permanent location for our Food Pantry, so we can expand our hours of operation as well as our clothing distribution. Stay tuned for updates. **Greater things are yet to come!**

Your support is deeply appreciated as we expand hope in the community, strengthen our partnerships, and meet the growing needs in Coastal Connecticut. For more information, contact Kim Fawcett at

KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org or at **203-333-4087, ext. 113.**

Pledge to Give Monthly at This Critical Time



Our **Monthly Giving Partners** provide the funds we rely on to feed, shelter, and care for our most vulnerable neighbors. Consistent giving is the best way to ensure we can meet emergencies head-on today, as well as confront the challenges of tomorrow.

Please consider joining this vital group! Your monthly commitment will secure a foundation of support and help struggling individuals and families.



Thank You For Helping Our Neighbors

Our guests are truly grateful to these Mission partners, who donate fresh and staple food items to stock our Pantry and provide meals for our guests:

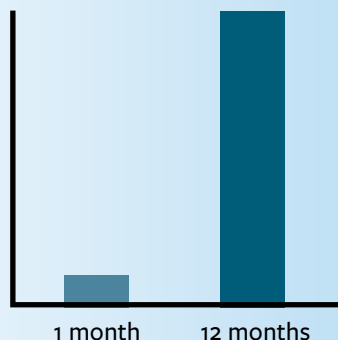
Balducci
BigY
CT Food Bank
Longhorn Steak House
Pepsi
Pizza Hut
Target
Trader Joe's
Whole Foods Market

Sign up now! Visit **BridgeportRescueMission.org** or complete the back of the enclosed reply form.



Your monthly gift of \$30 provides 12 meals + care

Over a year, that's **144 meals + care!**



Did You Know?

Our Director of Life Change Programs, Mary Ann Gardner, shares highlights of the Mission's work on AM radio station WICC 600. Tune in every other Friday at 9 am.

I'll Give Where I Live!

Here's my special summertime gift to provide meals, shelter, care – and hope.



- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 *This helps so much!*
☐ \$75 ☒ \$150
☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ BILL MY CREDIT CARD

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

CIV/SEC # _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

Donate now! ☎ 203-333-4087

🌐 BridgeportRescueMission.org

Bridgeport Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 9057
Bridgeport, CT 06601-9057

