



RESCUE MISSION

Fall
2020

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

**Jermaine's
heart is filled
with gratitude
for YOU!**

On Page 3: Read
how your support
changes lives.

**News from the Front Line
COVID-19 UPDATE**

Twice as much food!
Twice as many families!

BridgeportRescueMission.org

A MESSAGE FROM FRANK WILLIAMS

*You fill my heart
with Thanksgiving.*

The past few months have been challenging for all of us. No one is immune to the stress of uncertainty or the fear of the unknown. And especially this year, far too many of our neighbors have lost their livelihoods and their ability to provide for themselves or their families. They join scores of others already turning to Bridgeport Rescue Mission for food, shelter, and life-restoring guidance.

Yet, through it all, my heart is filled with gratitude – for God’s faithfulness... the goodness of people... and your dedication to serving “the least of these.”

As more struggling people reach out to us, you are there for them. You are among the heroes who put others’ needs above your own. You join us on the front lines of compassion and kindness, loving your neighbors when they need it most. Now, as we anticipate an increased need for food and care, my hope is that you’ll continue your amazing support this Thanksgiving season.

Regardless of the season or the challenges around us, remembering our blessings brings us comfort, peace, and joy. This Thanksgiving, as we gather with our loved ones, I pray each of us finds strength in God and one another.



In His service,

Frank Williams
CEO



Visit **BridgeportRescueMission.org** or follow us on Facebook for the latest information on how to take part in our **Great Thanksgiving Project!**

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 warm coats and winter wear. With your help, hungry children, struggling families, and lonely seniors will receive everything they need to enjoy a traditional holiday meal and stay warm during the cold months ahead.

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.

Give Financially

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

To learn more about the details and benefits of corporate sponsorship, contact Kim Fawcett at **203-333-4087, ext. 113**.



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 hungry, homeless and addicted in Coastal Connecticut

RECOVERING WHO GOD MADE HIM TO BE



Jermaine loves to serve on the front line, helping the Mission distribute essential foods to neighbors in need.

From the time he was little, Jermaine knew God was calling him to ministry. But so many traumas happened during those early years that the calling was drowned out.

Jermaine had a safe place he'd go to escape, the space under the stairs where he surrounded himself with the things he loved. His father couldn't love him because he didn't stay around to know him. His mother couldn't love him because she was an addict. So Jermaine and his siblings were raised by his grandparents in Bridgeport; it was the best option, under the circumstances. Jermaine's grandmother was everything to him, and she instilled in him a deep faith in God, a sense of right and wrong, and of doing his best. He excelled at school as a way to prove he was worthy of love.

But when his grandmother died suddenly, something died in Jermaine too. He lived in a predominantly white neighborhood, unlike his extended family. It was his cousins' relentless teasing

about how he dressed and the way he talked that, when Jermaine was given the chance to go to a private high school (where he longed to go), he chose the inner-city public school instead. Words that used to define him, "driven," "academic," "compassionate" started to be replaced with "addict," "dealer," "prisoner." Jermaine was in prison when his daughter was born.

It's taken years of cycling through using, dealing, prison, using, dealing, prison... but Jermaine's sense of calling has been restored! With help from Mission staff, he has done the hard work of looking back so that he can now move forward. He envisions creating interventions for young men who, like him, need affirming programs to help them succeed.

This Thanksgiving season, your generosity fills hearts with hope – and transforms lives like Jermaine's through God's love. Jermaine is indebted to supporters of the Mission, who enabled him to become the man God made him to be.

More ways to bless others through our...

Great Thanksgiving Project

Team Up for Turkeys

Families, businesses, congregations, and groups of all kinds are encouraged to form teams to collect frozen turkeys. **Or your Turkey Team can contribute \$20 to donate a “virtual turkey”** by making a gift online at **BridgeportRescueMission.org** or sending your gift in the envelope provided.

Hold a Coat Drive

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



Host a Thanksgiving Food Drive

Encourage your business, congregation, 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.

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

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

Give Financially at Thanksgiving

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

- Send a gift today in the enclosed envelope.
- Become a Monthly Giving Partner.
- 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.
- Encourage your company or congregation to become a **Great Thanksgiving Project** sponsor.

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

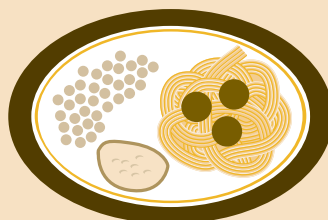


Visit **BridgeportRescueMission.org** or follow us on Facebook for details and the latest updates on these **Great Thanksgiving Project** activities!



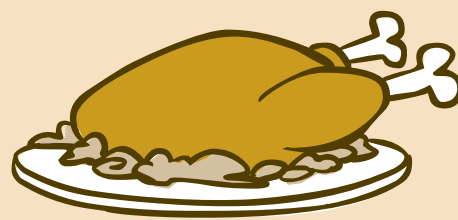
How Your Gifts Will Fill
Hearts with Gratitude...

This Thanksgiving Season



217,542

Meals provided
September - November



92,500

Meals through our
Great Thanksgiving Project