



RESCUE MISSION

Holiday
2020

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Thank you for
bringing
GREAT
JOY to
hurting people

*You changed
Eboni's life*

Don't miss...

- 2 Celebrating rebirth this Christmas
- 3 Finding her Father's love
- 4 Ways to share the joy of Christmas

BridgeportRescueMission.org

Celebrating rebirth this *Christmas*

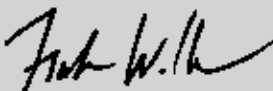
As we celebrate the Christmas season and the miracle of Jesus's birth in a lowly manger, we must keep in mind the ending... That He gave His life on the cross so you and I could be reborn as children of God.

You know that the guests of Bridgeport Rescue Mission have had a tough time before they come through our doors. Poverty, addiction, homelessness, hunger, violence... you name it. ***But what's so incredible is not their past stories, but how their lives are completely transformed thanks to you.***

You believe that change is possible. More than that, your generous support gives these men, women, and children the very services and support they need to be restored and reborn. You give them the most incredible gift there is this Christmas: the chance to find peace, purpose, and a new life filled with God's blessings.

As you celebrate this joyous season with loved ones, I hope you'll remember your neighbors who still need healing. After this difficult year, my prayer is that God will move in mighty ways in hearts and communities across the country. May you be filled with peace and love, and continue to share His love with others.

In His service,



Frank Williams
CEO



It Starts With You... You make transformation possible!

This has been a hard year for everyone, *especially* for your neighbors in Coastal Connecticut who lost jobs or experienced unexpected difficulties during the pandemic. But they have hope thanks to YOU!

Your compassionate support provides:

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



Just \$2.50 provides a meal and care for one person... and could be the first step toward lasting transformation.

Please Send Your Gift Today!

Your Year-End Giving Brings Joy to Others

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 cash 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.
- Special tax incentives for charitable gifts are made possible through the CARES Act.

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**.



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

Frank Williams
Chief Executive Officer



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

Finding her Father's love



Eboni never knew her father and always felt the void of not having his love. Although uncles and older brothers did their best to help raise her, it wasn't enough. "With the awareness that he wasn't in my life, I sought love in other places," she says. And through the years, her search drew her into destructive relationships, exacerbated by substance abuse and homelessness.

When her mother passed away, she was devastated. She rekindled her addiction to cope with her grief and sought comfort once again from a man who abused her. When he threatened to kill her, it was the wake-up call she needed.

**"I should have gotten help
a long time ago – but I'm glad
to be doing it now."**

"I had to change the way I was living," she says. She fled the relationship and came to the Mission.

Today, the void in Eboni's heart has been filled by her heavenly Father's love. In our residential New Life Program, she is learning about codependency and "the lies we tell ourselves to survive." Now, she says, instead of trying to manage life on her own, "I just give all things to God."

She works as our weekend house manager, setting a faith-inspired example for other women in our care. "When they see me, I want them to see God in me," she says.

When she graduates, she plans to further her education to provide assistance for women who are going through the same struggles she did. "If God could do it for me, He can do it for anyone."

This year, Eboni will be celebrating Christmas as a new creation, filled with the great joy of God's love. "Now I do things with a purpose that's more positive and pleasing to Him."

Throughout the challenges of the past months, Bridgeport Rescue Mission has continued to serve those burdened by poverty, homelessness, and spiritual despair. During the holiday season, their needs are greater than ever, and we pray for your continued and generous support.

Share the *Joy of Christmas* with 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 and 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.

You can be sure your donations will be accepted and distributed in ways that provide the utmost safety for our donors, staff, and recipients.

Questions?

Email

Volunteer@BridgeportRescueMission.org

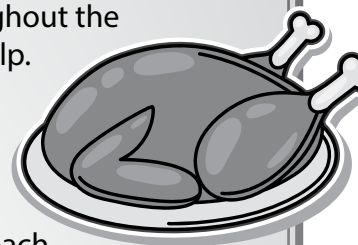
Great ThanksGiving Project **We Need Tons of Turkeys**

Each year, we use more than 3,200 turkeys in our **Great ThanksGiving Project*** fixings bags and the thousands of meals we provide throughout the holiday season. Here's how you can 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**.



*Due to the impact of COVID-19, our **Great ThanksGiving Project** will be reduced from six days to three.

And Coats & Winter Wear

Throughout the winter months, we will still distribute 15,000 gently used coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to help children and adults stay warm. Please encourage your congregation, workplace, or civic group to collect coats and winter wear.

Deliver turkeys and winter wear to our Donation Center at 1069 Connecticut Ave, Unit 2B in Bridgeport, open Tue - Sat, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

