



RESCUE MISSION

FALL 2022

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

TERESA IS GRATEFUL & BLESSED THIS THANKSGIVING

because of your support

You've given her hope
and new life this holiday!



Don't miss...

- 2 Celebrating Thanksgiving Every Day of the Year
- 3 "I found who I really am."
- 4 Reach thousands through our *Great ThanksGiving Project*

BridgeportRescueMission.org

Celebrating Thanksgiving Every Day of the Year



Here's a wonderful Bible verse for this season of Thanksgiving: *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24) During Thanksgiving, we gather to thank the Lord for blessings of family, food and health.

But what if we kept that same, abundant spirit of the holiday in giving

thanks every day of the year?

Each day at Bridgeport Rescue Mission, we see people who are thankful for the gift of new life that YOU helped make possible! Because of your support, we wrap them in God's loving embrace. And teach them skills to build brighter futures. Please lift up our ministry and guests in prayer and rejoice over every heart restored.

Life is challenging right now. With continuing inflation, costs for necessities like housing, gas and groceries are higher than ever. It's even harder for our struggling neighbors to make ends meet... and for our ministry to meet our community's pressing needs.

Through it all, we remain faithful to God's calling and grateful that we can rely on friends like you. Our prayer this Thanksgiving is that you will do the same.

We hope you will take comfort in the love of friends and family, and the joy of knowing hearts are changed thanks to you. God bless you!

Lisa Chester
Director of Development



Be part of our Great Thanksgiving Project



Join a Distribution Team

Pack and hand out turkeys and bags of fixings. With your partnership as a volunteer, hungry children, struggling families and lonely seniors will receive everything they need to enjoy a traditional holiday meal.

Become a Corporate Sponsor or Serve with a Corporate Team

Teams from local businesses and organizations help us meet the tremendous needs of our neighbors while having fun at the same time. If your group would like to make an impact, contact us today. Team slots fill fast, so call now!

Make a Financial Gift

Your donations of cash are especially appreciated at the holidays as they can be used where needed most. 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 Lisa Chester at
203-333-4087, ext. 118.**



**BRIDGEPORT
RESCUE MISSION**
Expanding Hope. Rebuilding Lives.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission
725 Park Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06604-4619
203-333-4087
BridgeportRescueMission.org



Serving those who are hungry, homeless and addicted in our communities



**“I found
WHO I
REALLY AM.”**



Teresa suffered abuse at the hands of her children’s father and began using drugs to numb her heartache and pain. The tragic situation lasted more than five years and, sadly, she became addicted.

“Instead of paying my bills, I would use my money to get high,” she says. Eventually she became homeless... lost her children... and became seriously ill. “My body couldn’t take any more. I was perishing. I was about to die.”

Her grandfather, too, feared for her life, and got her the hospital care she needed. But he was concerned that when released she would return to the same self-destructive environment. At the hospital’s suggestion, she came to Bridgeport Rescue Mission and joined our Life Recovery Program.

“**I wanted my life... I wanted more.**”

Teresa struggled at first, and the pull of addiction tempted her to leave our care. But then she thought of her children. “I wanted something different for my

son and my daughters,” she says. She also wanted to rebuild her relationship with the Lord. “I knew who He was, but I’d left Him behind.”

Through life-skills development, relapse prevention, work therapy and Bible study, she’s healing physically, emotionally and spiritually, and learning who she is as a child of God. “I found out I’m funny, friendly, loving and caring.” She’s also gaining the strength she needs to control her emotions, be responsible for her actions and make good choices. “I’m no longer afraid to say no.”

Most importantly, Teresa is setting goals for her future. “I want to find a good job, buy a house and be reunited with my kids,” she shares. “I’ll live life to the fullest, never look back and be who God meant me to be.”

Teresa’s heart is overflowing with gratitude this Thanksgiving because YOUR loving support gave her the confidence and support to rebuild her life. “I’m thankful to Bridgeport Rescue Mission for accepting me, helping me change and showing me what life is really about.”

Photo changed to protect privacy.

Our Great Thanksgiving Project Reaches Thousands

YOU can help!

Since 2008, friends like you have provided vital assistance and holiday hope to our neighbors in need through our **Great Thanksgiving Project**. Today our outreach extends up and down the coast, serving thousands of men, women and children each year.

This holiday season, our goal is to reach **6,700** struggling families. That means we need a greater number of volunteers – *and a greater level of financial support* – than ever before. Here's how you can help with our **Great Thanksgiving Project**!



Host a Virtual Turkey Team

Businesses, families, clubs, congregations – groups of all kinds – are encouraged to form “virtual” teams to collect “virtual” turkeys. Every \$20 your team contributes will purchase a frozen turkey for use in our holiday meals or distributed to a family in need. As many as 7,000 are needed this year! Simply give online at **BridgeportRescueMission.org** or send your gift in the envelope provided.

Hold a Thanksgiving Food Drive

We need food for the thousands of meals and fixings bags we'll provide during the Thanksgiving season. Encourage your business, congregation or civic group to organize a drive for the items listed below.

- ☐ 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, you can still help:

Send a financial “gift for groceries” in the envelope provided.

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



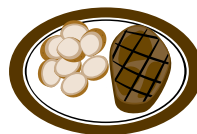
For more information, contact
Lisa Chester at **203-333-4087, ext. 118**.

Give Financially at Thanksgiving

Consider these vital opportunities to support our life-changing outreach 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.

This Thanksgiving Season
Because of you, hope begins
with a meal for so many!



250,000

Meals provided
September - November



168,000

Meals through our
Great Thanksgiving Project