



RESCUE MISSION

Fall 2023

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

A Heart of Thanksgiving

Richard wants to share how your support changed his life! ♥



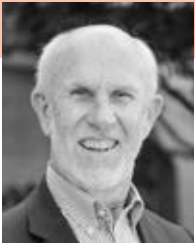
Don't miss...

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BridgeportRescueMission.org

Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving



A Message from LARRY FULLERTON

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at Bridgeport Rescue Mission, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

Outside, the weather is starting to cool. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as **we get ready for the many men, women and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

Each time someone comes to the Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and struggle that

they may not have anticipated and certainly didn't desire – and they **choose** a season of support and recovery. **I truly believe this is God's hand at work through your partnership in this life-giving ministry.**

Now, as we prepare to provide an estimated 250,000 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every struggling man and woman who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. I'm thankful for you now, and always.

Larry Fullerton
Executive Director

Join Our

2023 Great Thanksgiving Project

250,000

Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

In addition, we are expecting to serve more than 7,000 families through our *Great Thanksgiving Project.*

Host a Virtual Turkey Team

Every \$20 your businesses, family, club or congregation contributes will purchase a frozen turkey for our holiday meals or a family in need.

Hold a Thanksgiving Food Drive for these items or send a financial "gift for groceries."

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

Consider These Giving Opportunities

- Become a Monthly Giving Partner.
- Pledge a substantial gift, payable October through December.
- Designate the Mission as the recipient of your workplace United Way campaign.
- Include the Mission in your will.
- Encourage your company or congregation to become a **Great Thanksgiving Project** sponsor. (Contact Lisa Chester at **203-333-4087, ext. 118.**)

Send your 2023 **Great Thanksgiving Project** gift today OR give online at **BridgeportRescueMission.org.**

“Thanks, God.
I surrender.”



Richard began hanging out with an older crowd – adopting their destructive habits – when he was only 11. His father had left home years earlier, forcing his mother to work several jobs, leaving Richard and his siblings with little supervision.

“I started at a very young age to do things normal kids wouldn’t – using and getting into trouble.”

He dropped out of school and his substance abuse escalated. Unsuccessful at overcoming his addiction, he struggled to hold a job and eventually became homeless.

Then he suffered a near-fatal heart attack.

“I was lucky to still be alive,” he says, “and I knew I had to make a change.”

Richard had struggled with his faith, refusing to relinquish control of his life. But now he opened his heart and felt the Lord guiding him to the Mission. When he arrived, and learned we had a bed available, he knew God was waiting and ready to help him.

“I pretty much said, ‘Thanks, God. I surrender and whatever it is You want me to do, I’m gonna do.’”

In our care, Richard is building a life of sobriety, accountability and service.

He’s working toward his GED and earning

certificates in marketable skills. His chores at the Mission are kindling a desire to help others. And he relishes the opportunity to share God’s life-transforming love with those around him.

“I’ve had great experiences here with God leading me, inspiring me and building up my confidence,” Richard shares.

“What I like about this place is that the door is open for you to get to know who Christ is... who God is... and who the Holy Spirit is.”

But most important, he says, was his decision to surrender to the Lord. “There are rewards when you let God work in your life. I’m grateful I’m here for that to happen.”

Richard is filled with thanksgiving for God’s redeeming love in his life – and your incredible generosity and support! “It’s been a wonderful experience allowing the Lord to transform me. I’ve grown here as a person... a man... and a child of God.”

Chapel Changes Lives

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” - Psalm 119:105

Attending chapel at the Mission can be a major turning point in the life of someone who has lost all hope. After struggling with homelessness, addiction, abuse or other heartbreak, many find it difficult to trust God.

Chapel helps build faith!

Through regular prayer, worship, the teaching of the Word and fellowship, men and women feel inspired to make positive changes in their lives... and many even experience God’s love for the first time!

Chapel becomes a refuge for our guests, where they can seek God in prayer, study His Word and discover the good plans He has for their future.

Is your church interested in getting involved with chapel or donating Bibles for our guests? For more info, contact Joslynn Hernandez at 203-333-4087, ext. 103 or JHernandez@BRMCT.org.

NEW

HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?



Book a Mission speaker for your next event!

Hear how God has been at work in our community this year, and how your generosity is supporting life-changing services and programs.

Contact Joslynn Hernandez today to arrange a visit: 203-333-4087, ext. 103 or JHernandez@BRMCT.org



Donate essential items!

Help stock our kitchen with the food items and our clothing closet with the protective clothing needed to care for our hungry, weary neighbors. OR... host a donation drive by inviting others to join you in collecting much needed items for struggling community members.

To see our most urgently needed items, visit BridgeportRescueMission.org/needslist



Attend a Meet & Greet on Thursday, October 12!

A 20-minute tour of our newly renovated building will be followed by a meet and greet and discussion about our programs and services. The meet & greet is from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To RSVP, please contact Joslynn Hernandez at 203-333-4087, ext. 103 or JHernandez@BRMCT.org.



YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...

“I’m getting back on my feet and the Mission is helping me with housing and job and school opportunities – my future is looking great!”

At the Mission, hopes and dreams are born – because thanks to the support of friends like you, men and women in our life restoration program can believe that a brighter future is possible.

To find out more about how you’re helping transform lives and fulfill dreams, visit BridgeportRescueMission.org. Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!

“I’ve got to stay on the right path and that’s my plan. I’m going back to work and starting a whole new life!”

