



RESCUE MISSION

News

Holiday 2023

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Thanks to you...

**DIANE HAS
HOPE THIS
Christmas!**

Don't miss...

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- 2 Give Before the Year Ends!
- 3 "I wasn't Diane anymore."

*Testimony subject not pictured. The protection of our clients' privacy is paramount.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission.org

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BRIDGEPORTRESCUEMISSION.ORG

Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our neighbors sleeping in unfit conditions too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at Bridgeport Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe housing and life restoration are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to our neighbors – like Diane (whose story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you and may God bless you now and into the New Year.

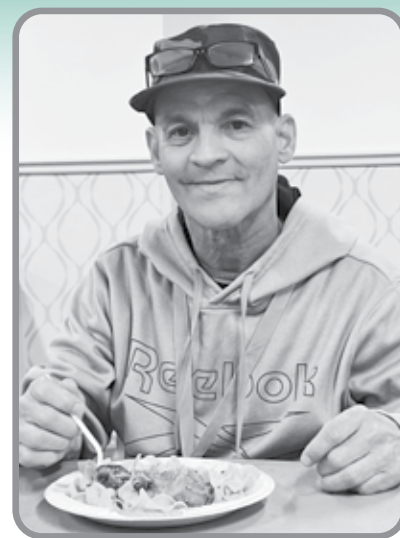


Larry Fullerton
Executive Director

Scan to watch a special holiday greeting!

Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It’s hard to have hope when you’re facing the pain of hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$3.25
for 1 hot meal



\$76.00
for 1 night of
safe housing

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

Give Before the Year Ends! \$300,000 GOAL

This holiday season, weary neighbors are desperate for a helping hand before they lose hope completely. **Your year-end gift gives them a chance to transform their lives.**

Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will help meet our \$300,000 goal, offering even more people *help* now... and *hope* for the new year!



- ✓ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online at **BridgeportRescueMission.org**.

“I WASN’T DIANE ANYMORE.”

“I owned a home at one point. I had my family. I had a good job.”

But all that changed when Diane met a man who said he loved her but began to control all aspects of her life – where she went, what she wore, who she spoke with, how she spent every penny.

“I did have jobs, off and on, but every time I got paid, he would take the money.”

Over time, he separated her from her loved ones. Afraid of being alone, she participated in his substance abuse and sordid lifestyle to please him.

“Things really got bad and I would sometimes look at myself in the mirror and think, ‘Who are you? What’s wrong with you?’”

Finally, after years in the toxic relationship, Diane found an

unexpected means of escape. She went to the hospital because of pain she was experiencing. Although the cause wasn’t serious, the doctor did recognize her loneliness, despair and suicidal thoughts and encouraged her to seek help.

“Now I realize it was the Lord telling me this was my chance to take care of myself.” And He was calling her to Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

Diane was apprehensive at first, unsure of the journey ahead. But she soon learned her fears were unfounded.

“When you walk into the Mission, you feel love, safety, care and concern.”

In addition to life skills and work therapy, we helped Diane get a birth certificate, Social Security card and other necessities for rebuilding an

independent life. Most importantly, she restored her relationship with the Lord.

“I had pushed Him away, and here I was able to find Him again.” Now with God in her heart, she knows she’ll never be alone and always be loved.

Today Diane is preparing to get her license so she can drive a city bus when she leaves our care. She has reunited with her children and forgiven herself for the mistakes of her past.

Diane has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life. “The Mission is pushing me to do things I thought I would never do. They make you feel loved and help you love yourself again.”

**Testimony subject not pictured. The protection of our clients’ privacy is paramount.*



“I started recognizing myself again.”

Colder Days = Increased Needs

Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 28° in our communities – and added factors like rain and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges as the weather sets in.

Help us bring them in from the cold at Bridgeport Rescue Mission:

- **Safe housing.** We provide a warm bed and a roof over their heads.
- **Hot food.** Each plate of food offers comfort to cold, weary neighbors.
- **Access to winter clothing.** Warm winter coats, clothing and shoes go faster than we can stock them.

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

YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION SPECIAL!

Christmas Morning: Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God's love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.



Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!