



RESCUE MISSION

Fall 2024

# News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

## Giving thanks for YOU

**INSIDE:** Autumn shares how your support changed her life!



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BridgeportRescueMission.org

# Giving thanks for YOU this fall



## A Message from LARRY FULLERTON

Sometimes I wonder, what would become of the struggling neighbors Bridgeport Rescue Mission cares for if it wasn't for your compassion and generosity?

I think of people like Autumn, whose story you can read on Page 3 – her testimony is a powerful reminder of how God works through the gifts and prayers of friends like you to transform lives, now and for eternity!

**I thank God for how YOU are providing hope, help and healing to people who are hurting in our community.**

From the essentials of food, access to warm clothing and safe housing... to long-term healing and stability

through our life restoration program – with you beside us and Christ as our foundation – our ministry can provide all this and even more life-changing services this fall.

As we prepare to provide an estimated 250,000 meals to our neighbors facing the pain of hunger, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent and gifts with our ministry, knowing God will use your blessings to restore hope in many lives.

Thank you for giving me – and countless guests at Bridgeport Rescue Mission – a reason to give thanks this fall!

Larry Fullerton  
Executive Director

## YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...

At the Mission, hopes and dreams come to life – thanks to friends like you! Because of your prayers and support, men and women in our life-changing program look forward to brighter futures.



*"I'm going to go back to work, enjoy time with my family, stay on the right path and start a whole new life."*

*"The Mission is encouraging me to do things I thought I would never do. They make you feel loved and help you love yourself again."*



Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives, visit [BridgeportRescueMission.org](http://BridgeportRescueMission.org).

### Join Our

# 2024 Great Thanksgiving Project

## 250,000 Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families.

**For just \$3.25, YOU can provide a meal** to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift welcomes someone who is hurting to our table and surrounds them with life-changing care:

Safe, welcoming housing	Access to warm clothing, coats & shoes	Classes & job training	God's unconditional love

**Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season!**  
Send your 2024 **Great Thanksgiving Project** gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [BridgeportRescueMission.org](http://BridgeportRescueMission.org).

*Meet Autumn – who is thankful for your support!*



# “I was born again and renewed.”

**B**orn into a chaotic environment where both parents battled addiction, Autumn was deprived of attention, guidance and essentials, and she endured bouts of physical abuse. “I went to school with bruises,” she recalls. “I was bullied a lot for not having nice clothes or the right school supplies.”

Yet she loved her mother dearly. At 10 years old, when the woman died in her arms, Autumn was devastated and began numbing her feelings with her father’s alcohol. As she grew older, with no stable role models, she adopted a toxic lifestyle

that eroded her self esteem and eventually left her homeless.

As her destructive habits continued to take a toll, she questioned what her life had become. At age 23 she was hospitalized, because she no longer wanted to live. By God’s grace, however, that was the catalyst she needed to change.

“Finding who I am and my purpose... being happy and loving myself – those were my challenges,” she says. She came to Bridgeport Rescue Mission and knew immediately she’d found the help she needed to rebuild her life.

“The moment you walk through these doors, you feel like you’ve known everyone for so long. You feel at home, safe and welcome. I was crying tears of joy!”

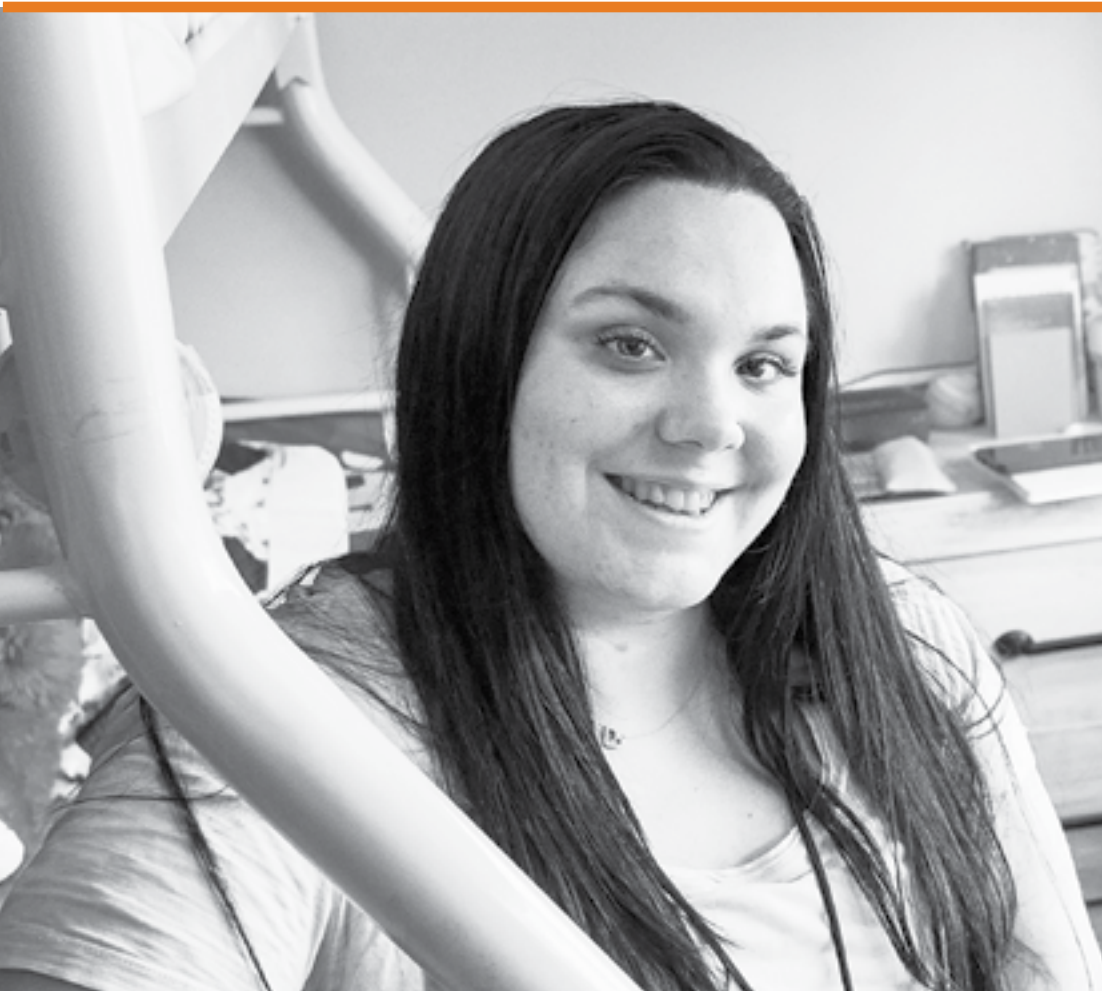
In our New Life Program, she’s healing from her trauma through understanding God’s

Word and His promises in her life. Classes in addiction recovery, life-skills development and spiritual formation are empowering her to build a stable and godly life. “Now I wake up every day choosing the right way to live.”

She embraces her Mission chores and volunteer opportunities as a way to give back and share her story with others. Now in transitional housing, she’s training to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA). “This place really set me up to succeed.”

**This fall, Autumn gives thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have helped change her life.**

“Before coming to the Mission I was broken and hopeless. Now I’m content and I actually see a future.”



“I grew up always being insecure and questioning why I didn’t have a better life.”

# Chapel Changes Lives

*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” - Romans 10:17*

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, Bible study 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!

*Are you or 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](mailto:Jhernandez@brmct.org).*

NEW

## HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?



### Donate essential items!

Help stock our pantry with food items and provide access to warm clothing for our struggling neighbors. OR... host a donation drive and invite others to collect much needed items for our community.

*To see our urgently needed items, visit*

[BridgeportRescueMission.org/NeedsList](https://BridgeportRescueMission.org/NeedsList)



### Volunteer with us!

Sign up to provide a meal, lead a class or share an encouraging message at a chapel service. There are many ways you, your family, friends or church can volunteer with us this fall!

*To learn more, visit [BridgeportRescueMission.org/Volunteer](https://BridgeportRescueMission.org/Volunteer)*



### Start giving monthly!

Join other faithful friends as a Monthly Giving Partner! Start giving monthly this fall to provide a steady stream of support for our neighbors during our busiest season.

*To learn more, visit [BridgeportRescueMission.org/GiveMonthly](https://BridgeportRescueMission.org/GiveMonthly)*



## Your Generosity Helped...

- 5 clients graduate from our Men's Program to achieve their dreams
- 3 mothers secure stable housing for their children after facing homelessness
- 99 men, women and children who were lost be found at Bridgeport Rescue Mission (Matthew 18:12)
- 14 mothers and 27 children have safe housing
- Hurting people attend 2,100 free health care appointments at our Resource Center



*“The Mission grounded me in God and gave me the time and stability I needed to change my life.” - Brian*



*“The Mission helped me find God. Now I know I'm worthy of love.” - Karen*

To learn more about the difference your generosity makes, visit [bridgeportrescuemission.org/what-we-do](https://bridgeportrescuemission.org/what-we-do).