



RESCUE MISSION

Holiday
2024

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

THANK YOU FOR
GIVING BRIAN

a life-changing

GIFT THIS

Christmas!



Don't miss...

- 2 Give a meal. Spark a miracle!
- 3 "God sent me here."
- 3 Dear Santa...

BridgeportRescueMission.org

*You help make
Christmas
miracles possible*

Get ready... the busiest time of the year is upon us! I imagine your calendar is filling up quickly. But **before the year ends, please save a few moments for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.**

I know you agree no one should live in a car... in a tent... or outside in the cold. Certainly not a child. Being homeless means living with constant fear and uncertainty. It's a terrible way to spend any day... much less Christmas Day. If there's anyone in need of a miracle, it's them.

You can make a Christmas miracle possible for a neighbor experiencing homelessness by giving \$3.25 to provide a hot meal at Bridgeport Rescue Mission. It may not seem like much – but each meal you provide can be someone's first step toward restoration and a new life. Where you see a meal, a neighbor in need sees a miracle.

With your support, no man, woman or child in our communities has to experience hunger or homelessness this Christmas. People like Brian (whose story is on page 3) can find the miracle of hot meals, safe housing and Christ-centered care at the Mission this holiday season... and all year round... thanks to you!



Rhonda Neal

Rhonda Neal
Chief Executive Officer

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!

Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're experiencing homelessness and hunger. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our life-changing programs and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal for \$3.25... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



\$3.25
for 1 hot meal



**CAN SPARK
A MIRACLE**



**That leads
to new life!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



“God sent me here.”



“I truly believe there was a reason I came to the Mission for food that day. IT WAS LIKE GOD SENT ME HERE.”

Brian worked for the same company for nearly 25 years – a place where social drinking was part of the culture. Yet over time it became a daily habit, Brian says, “without me really realizing the damage I was doing.”

It started with what others might consider little things. “But when you can’t punch the time clock because your hand shakes so badly, it’s embarrassing,” Brian recalls. When he recognized how alcoholism was destroying his health, he knew he had to quit or he would die.

“It wasn’t fun anymore... I needed help.”

He tried two different treatment programs, but neither offered the time, stability and foundation he needed to regain his sobriety. Disheartened and depressed, his addiction spiraled downhill until he’d lost everything – his livelihood and his loved ones.

“I was homeless, on the streets, sleeping on the church steps. I ended up at the front door of the Mission because I heard they had meals.”

We gave Brian food to ease his hunger... then offered him so much more.

In our long-term New Life Program, Brian found the pathway to sobriety he’d been seeking, which addressed his physical, emotional and spiritual needs. “I always believed in God, but addiction had sent me in a different direction.” Through Bible study, faith-based counseling and life skills development, Brian is building a stable, faith-based foundation for his future.

At the Mission, Brian volunteers in our pantry and assists with outreach events. He enjoys putting others’ needs above his own and is proud of the man he has become. When he leaves our care, he plans to find a job and housing, and lead a sober and productive life.

This Christmas, Brian is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God’s unending love. “I’m thankful to the Mission for grounding me and making me see and appreciate the important things in life that I got sidetracked from.”



Dear Santa,

I’m writing so you know where to find me this Christmas. We had to leave home. Mom said it cost too much. We lived in our car for a while, now we’re at the Mission. The food is really good and there are other kids my age, but I still miss Christmas at home. I hope you can make it better by bringing my mom and me a gift, so please don’t forget about us.

Love, Jane, age 7

P.S. The Mission doesn’t have a chimney. Good luck!

Give kids and families at the Mission a Christmas to remember! Visit BridgeportRescueMission.org to learn ways you can help this holiday season.

\$100,000 Year-End Matching Challenge

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



BIG NEWS to end the year: **When you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, housing and life-changing care for our struggling neighbors!

GIVE BY: 12/31

- ✉ Return your special year-end gift in the reply card today.
- 📧 Give online at BridgeportRescueMission.org.

THANK YOU
for doubling your impact during our Matching Challenge!

12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK



The Bible tells us it's more blessed to give than to receive, and what better time to experience the joy of giving than the Christmas season! It's also a wonderful time to teach children the importance of giving, or to partner with a friend or family member to give back.

Read on to explore **12 Days of Giving Back** and get inspired to share the miracle of Christmas this year:

DAY 1 Provide Food	DAY 2 Donate Clothes	DAY 3 Donate Toys
DAY 4 Write a Christmas Card	DAY 5 Create a Care Package	DAY 6 Help Distribute Meals
DAY 7 Help Sort Donations	DAY 8 Reach Out to an Elderly Neighbor	DAY 9 Help Those in Need With Safe Housing
DAY 10 Fundraise at Your Church or School	DAY 11 Pray for Families at the Mission	DAY 12 Spread the Word

To learn more about ways you can share the joy of Christmas with Mission guests, give us a call at **203-333-4087** or visit us online at BridgeportRescueMission.org!