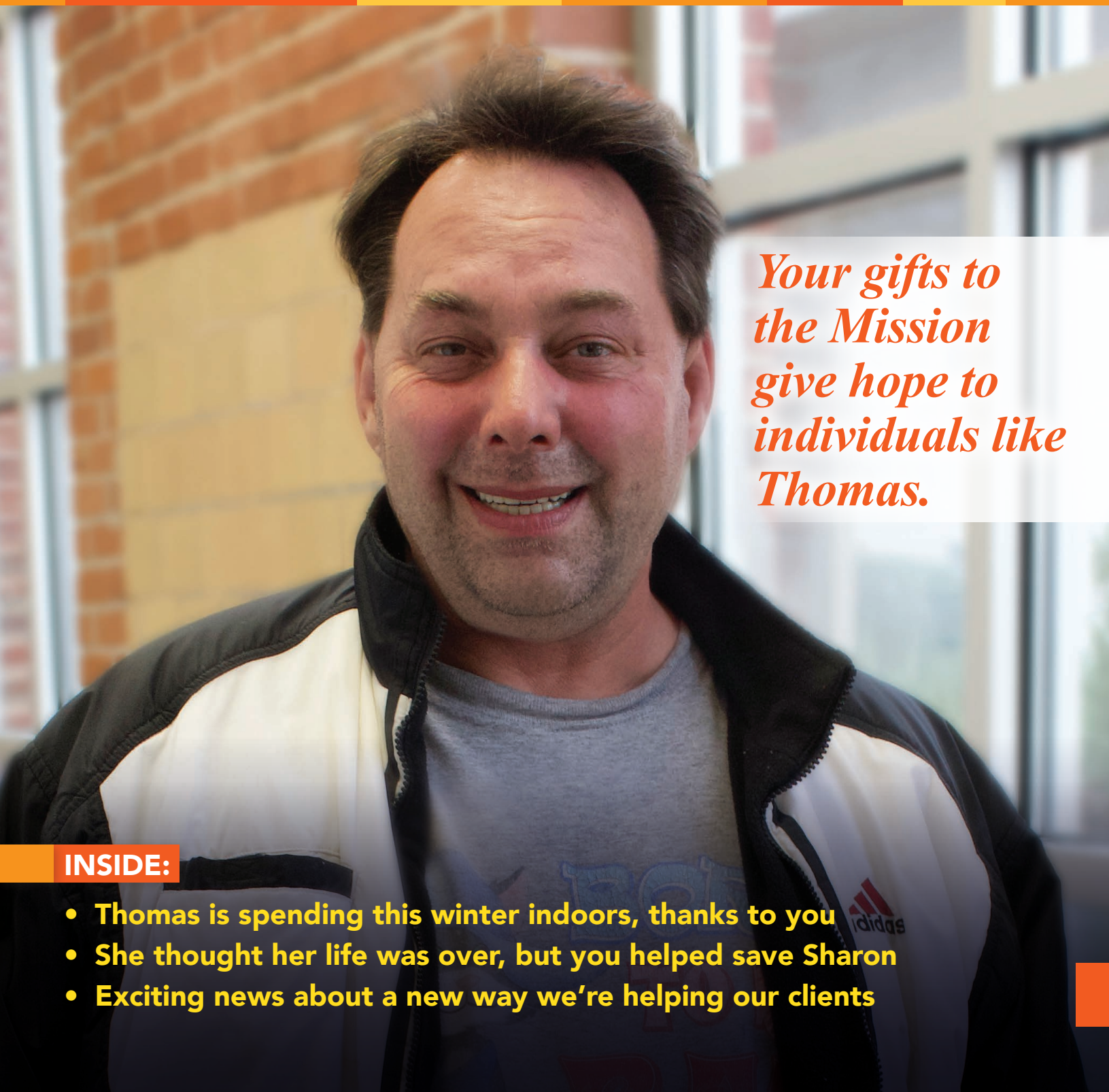


The

February 2021

Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



*Your gifts to
the Mission
give hope to
individuals like
Thomas.*

INSIDE:

- Thomas is spending this winter indoors, thanks to you
- She thought her life was over, but you helped save Sharon
- Exciting news about a new way we're helping our clients



Rebuilding Hope, Rebuilding Lives

Dear Caring Friend,

Thank you for your compassionate response to the needs of homeless and hurting neighbors in our community.

This is an especially difficult time to be living on the streets or with the burden of addiction. Many of our neighbors don't know anything but the pain caused by their struggles.

You let them know something else: They haven't been forgotten ... help is within reach ... and God wants something better for them than living in a bottle or on a cold sidewalk.

In this issue of *The Mission*, you'll read about Thomas and Sharon, who were once on the path to destruction. Until they came to the Mission and allowed the power of God to change their lives.

I desperately want every person who walks through our doors to experience that same kind of miraculous transformation. Won't you join me? Because I can't do this alone.

Together, let's make 2021 the year that HOPE wins out!

Thank you, and may God bless you,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO

This Winter, New Life Begins with Safe Shelter and Hot Meals

"Thank you for giving me a place to start my recovery."



Because of you, Thomas is spending this winter indoors and surrounded by love.

Thomas knows firsthand how miserable it is to be homeless, struggling to stay warm in the winter storms. His meager possessions included a sleeping bag and what few cold weather items he could afford.

The wind, rain and snow are brutal in Oklahoma, and it's amazing he was able to survive as long as he did.

"Winter weather is the most difficult thing," Thomas says. "I'd been out there in the cold for a while."

So when last winter rolled around, Thomas knew he needed help to make a change. He'd heard City Rescue Mission was a helpful place for people wanting a fresh start, and he came here straight away.

Here, he was welcomed by loving staff and received a warm bed and hot meals — things that might seem small but make a world of difference for people like Thomas.

Now, Thomas has gone through our recovery program and is working in our kitchen while he looks for a full-time job and permanent housing.

Thomas looks forward to living independently with a roof over his head and is grateful to Mission donors like you for the second chance at life he has received.

"I want to be going to work, and get my own place to live," he says. "Thank you for giving me a place to start my recovery."

Your gifts to the Mission help give desperate individuals like Thomas hope and a chance at a new life. Thank you.

Laid Off and Caught in the Storm of Life

When Sharon was at her lowest, you were there with a helping hand

Sharon had always been a strong, independent person who could overcome any obstacle life threw at her. But last year when she was working as an accountant and attending university for her master's degree, her life began to unravel.

Sharon and many of her coworkers were laid off last year as COVID-19 upended the nation. Soon, she became homeless.

"I always could take care of myself," Sharon says. "The idea that I was in limbo, I didn't realize how trauma like that would trigger me."

Dark thoughts began to fill her mind and Sharon knew she needed to ask for help before the unthinkable happened. Thankfully, she found City Rescue Mission and got here as soon as she could.

"I felt a weight come off my shoulders," Sharon recalls.

With the stable and peaceful environment she found here, Sharon was quickly hired in a remote position working for an insurance company. She is looking forward to transitioning out of our program soon and finishing her degree.

Sharon also hopes to ultimately be able to help others in the way that you helped her through your support of City Rescue Mission.

"Thank you," she says. "I appreciate your help. Please keep doing what you're doing and give people like me hope."

Sharon's transformation was only possible because of your support. Thank you for changing lives.

Sharon is looking forward to transitioning out of our program soon and finishing her degree.

A Merry Christmas, Thanks to You!

When our graduates are ready to transition into housing, it's important they have everything they need to start fresh. We are so thankful for every donor who contributed household essentials during the 12 Days of Giving this Christmas. From plates and cups to soap and bath towels, each and every item donated is helping our graduates begin the next step of their journey on the right foot!



You Can Provide Safety and Hope



We continue to see more and more men, women, and women with children coming to us for safe shelter, warm beds and hot meals. Many are seeking assistance for the first time in their lives after their jobs were affected by the economic downturn last year. They often arrive with nothing more than the clothes on their back, desperate for a helping hand up so they can reclaim their independence.

"There is never a good season to be homeless, but winter is especially difficult," Mission President and CEO Erin Goodin says. "That's why in times like these I'm grateful we can count on our supporters to help us provide the life-changing meals and care our neighbors need to transform their lives."

Thank you for your ongoing support for people seeking refuge from the storms of winter and the storms of life.



Three Ways Monthly Giving Makes a Difference Throughout the Year

1 Provide a steady, predictable source of income: Your monthly gifts will be used to change the lives of men, women, and women with children who seek to transform their lives.

2 Help us plan ahead and budget more efficiently: As we work hard to best prepare our clients seeking a second chance, your ongoing contributions will enable us to plan for the future.

3 Steady donations prevent service interruptions: The Mission must provide our services year-round, even during months when donations typically stall. Your continuing gifts will help us ensure help is always available for those who need it.

To sign up online, visit us at cityrescue.org/donate, or call Samantha at (405) 232-2709 Ext. 106 to join by phone.

Don't Leave the Future to Chance

Sometimes our best laid plans fall apart. But there's one plan everyone should take extra care to create — their estate plan. An up-to-date will or estate plan allows you to:

- 1. Protect your family.** Preparing ahead means you'll remove the possible burden from loved ones and allows you to name a guardian for any minors.
- 2. Reduce your tax load.** Planning ahead allows you to utilize numerous tax reduction strategies to help keep more money in your estate.
- 3. Support your favorite cause or ministry.** Consider leaving a gift in your will for City Rescue Mission to impact lives for years to come.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "How You Can Create a More Certain Future" by checking the box on the enclosed reply form and returning it in the envelope provided.

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You Can Change a Life Today!

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to individuals who are alone with nowhere else to turn. Please give generously and offer your encouragement to the neighbors in our community who are rebuilding broken lives one day at a time. Thank you!

Your Gift Will Provide Winter Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I want to help my neighbors in our community receive a hearty meal and compassionate care this winter. Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible!

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith
123 Main Street
Anytown, USA 12345-6789



 **City Rescue Mission**
City Rescue Mission Inc.
PO Box 960021
Oklahoma City, OK 73196-0021

To give a gift online, go to cityrescue.org/donate-theMission

Please make your check payable to City Rescue Mission and return it with this slip in the envelope provided. To use a credit card, visit our website, fill out the information on reverse side or call Samantha at (405) 232-2709 Ext. 106. A receipt for your gift will be sent to you shortly.

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**City
Rescue
Mission**

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Oklahoma City, OK 73106
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Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.
cityrescue.org



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