

The

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Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



Your kindness kept
this family together.

INSIDE:

- What an open door meant to a family in crisis
- Food, fellowship and lives transformed
- Homeless for the Holidays, because you care



Rebuilding Hope, Rebuilding Lives

Dear Caring Friend,

As Thanksgiving approaches, my thoughts turn to those who will reach out to City Rescue Mission for help and hope. In many cases, they'll be people experiencing homelessness for the very first time. Families like Brandon and Jennifer's, whose story you'll find inside this newsletter.

No matter the path that brought them here, these vulnerable neighbors can look forward to a hot, nourishing meal served with love. There's no judgment. No stipulations. Only a helping hand forward and a path back to hope through Christ.

I'm grateful to call you a friend and partner of this Mission. By giving so generously from your heart, you're creating a special Thanksgiving experience for men, women and families in crisis. The food and fellowship they share will carry them forward through life's hardships. That's a gift they'll never forget.

**From our family table to yours,
I wish you a happy Thanksgiving
filled with blessings!**

Thank you, and may God bless you,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO

"You Kept Our Family Together"

Safe in our care, Brandon and Jennifer will never forget your kindness.



You gave this family a place to catch their breath and get back on their feet.

It could happen to anyone. That's what Brandon and Jennifer kept telling themselves. But knowing that didn't make the experience of homelessness any easier for this family of five. Looking back, they can pinpoint the exact moment when their lives began to spin out of control.

"I was just getting my business off the ground when COVID hit," Brandon explains. Realizing that money might be tight for a while, the family moved in with Jennifer's mother. Tensions grew, and they were forced to leave quickly.

Just like that, Brandon and Jennifer were on the road with three kids and no place to call home. The couple vowed to keep their family together, no matter the cost. They set out in search of work, staying in hotels until the money ran out. Then the car that had been their lifeline broke down.

For a time, the family lived out of a storage unit — if you can call it living. Brandon recalls a low point when hope seemed far out of reach: "I pawned my wedding ring so we could buy a tent and some cans of food."

An Open Door Waiting

The family knew that they couldn't go on this way. They needed help — and their only safety net was waiting here at City Rescue Mission. Brandon and Jennifer felt the warmth of your kindness from the moment they arrived.

“It’s like an open-door policy,” Jennifer says of the welcome her family received. “Nobody’s judging what you’ve been through. They’re like, you’re here now. We’re going to make sure you get what you need to get back on your feet again.”

The Path Back to Hope

With their kids safe and secure at last, Brandon and Jennifer made the most of the resources you put at their disposal. Brandon found a fulfilling job as a FedEx delivery driver. And this summer, with help from the Mission’s Rapid Rehousing Fund, the family moved into a home of their very own.

Jennifer asked to share the following message directly with City Rescue Mission supporters.

“Keeping families together, keeping them safe, fed, clothed, housed — it wouldn’t be possible without a community coming together. You’re giving life to people who may have lost hope. Thank you for changing our lives.”



“You’re giving life to people who may have lost hope.”
— Jennifer



Thanks to you, the journey to end homelessness starts at City Rescue Mission.



Homeless for the Holidays
: THANKSGIVING :

For most of us, Thanksgiving conjures joyous memories of special gatherings at the family table. But for others, the holidays can be a painful reminder of all that’s missing.

In fact, thousands of families and individuals in our community are hurting like never before. They’re struggling just to afford necessities like food, gas, rent and medicine — let alone a festive meal with all the trimmings.

But thanks to kindhearted friends like you, our vulnerable neighbors do have something to celebrate. You make City Rescue Mission a safe, welcoming refuge for those experiencing homelessness. And at the holiday season especially, it’s a wonder to behold.

“You can just see the smiles on people’s faces when they actually feel like somebody loves and cares about them,” says Erin Goodin, President & CEO.

Your support restores hope and rebuilds lives at Thanksgiving and all year long. Thank you for caring!

EMPLOYMENT READINESS EMPOWERS CLIENTS AT THE RISE CAFE

For many facing homelessness, finding and sustaining work can be a challenge, creating what can often seem like a helpless situation. Rise Cafe offers a solution to that problem.

A social enterprise of City Rescue Mission, Rise Cafe provides clients with real-world employment opportunities.

"A lot of people, they have the skills, they're just lacking the confidence," says Erin Goodin, CRM President & CEO. "It's been so long since they've been in employment, or in steady employment, so just feeling like they can do it again increases confidence."

Client Kelly Sapp says her experi-

ence at the cafe has benefited her greatly. "It's not just a guidance on how to make a coffee, or how to represent a company to your customers. It's how to interact with your co-employees, your higher-ups, in a professional manner."

Cafe employees also receive parallel training through the Employment Readiness Services. This dual approach empowers clients to maximize their potential for success in future job settings.



Kelly Sapp enjoys the experience she receives at Rise Cafe.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS SERVICES

- Job application guidance
- Interview practice and preparation
- Resume development and presentation
- Customer service training
- Grooming and personal appearance training
- Additional soft skills training

"Our purpose isn't just to sell a good cup of coffee and have a good menu," says Ronda Golden, Rise Cafe General Manager. "Our purpose is to actually help people and give them a set of skills that will enable them to better their lives when they step outside of these doors."

COME SEE US AT RISE CAFE!

MON - FRI, 7AM - 2PM

RISECAFE.ORG

725 W. RENO AVE,
OKC OK 73102

ONLINE ORDERING
NOW AVAILABLE!



RISE
- C A F E -



Provide a Path Back to Hope, All Year Long

Have you considered joining City Rescue Mission as a monthly donor? It's the most effective way to provide safe shelter, meals and life-changing resources for those facing homelessness here in Oklahoma City. You'll provide a steady stream of support that allows us to budget and plan more effectively. That means more lives changed for the better, every single day!

To sign up online, visit us at cityrescue.org/donate, or call Grace at (405) 232-2709 Ext. 137 to join by phone.

You Can Change a Life Today!

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift today 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 with your help. Thank you!



City
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City Rescue Mission
800 W. California Ave
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cityrescue.org



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