

The

Mission

February 2023

A Publication of City Rescue Mission

**Theresa's
life is back
on track,
because
of you!**

INSIDE:

- You brought Theresa back from the brink of hopelessness
- Welcoming neighbors in from the cold
- The Christmas memories you created



Rebuilding Hope, Rebuilding Lives

Dear Caring Friend,

At City Rescue Mission, we often talk about the path back to hope. Of course, that path looks a little different for each of the men, women and families in our care. It can be a steady uphill climb, or a long and winding odyssey full of stops and starts. That's been the case for Theresa, whose story you can read here on page 2.

No two journeys to healing and recovery look exactly alike, but here's what really counts: The path back to hope starts with you.

Your generosity provides meals, shelter and compassionate care. Beyond those basics, you support our Bridge to Life housing and recovery programs. In this environment of security, stability and dignity, the individuals in our care thrive. Many go on to regain self-sufficiency. That's a beautiful thing to witness!

This winter and all year long, thank you for your faithful support of City Rescue Mission. Together, we'll continue to transform lives for the better.

Thank you, and may God bless you,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO

You Brought Theresa Back from the Brink of Hopelessness



In the wake of personal tragedy, you guided Theresa through her grief and along the path back to hope. She couldn't be more grateful.

Sometimes, love can cause someone to ignore their better judgment or even lose their way entirely. That's what happened to Theresa.

Following the death of her first husband, she met someone new. The man was a former drug addict who suffered from PTSD and serious anger issues. But he had become a Christian and Theresa loved him. Faith was the most important part of her life, so, in faith, she married her second husband. They attended church together three times a week. But their happy life together wouldn't last.

**"Your support
saves lives at the
Mission. You
saved mine!"
– Theresa**

"My husband struggled to find work," Theresa recalls. "He got more and more discouraged and started using drugs again. But I didn't want to leave him at a time when I felt he needed me most."

In a last-ditch effort to preserve their future together, the couple decided to move to Oklahoma City. Then the unthinkable happened. Along the way, Theresa's husband was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident.

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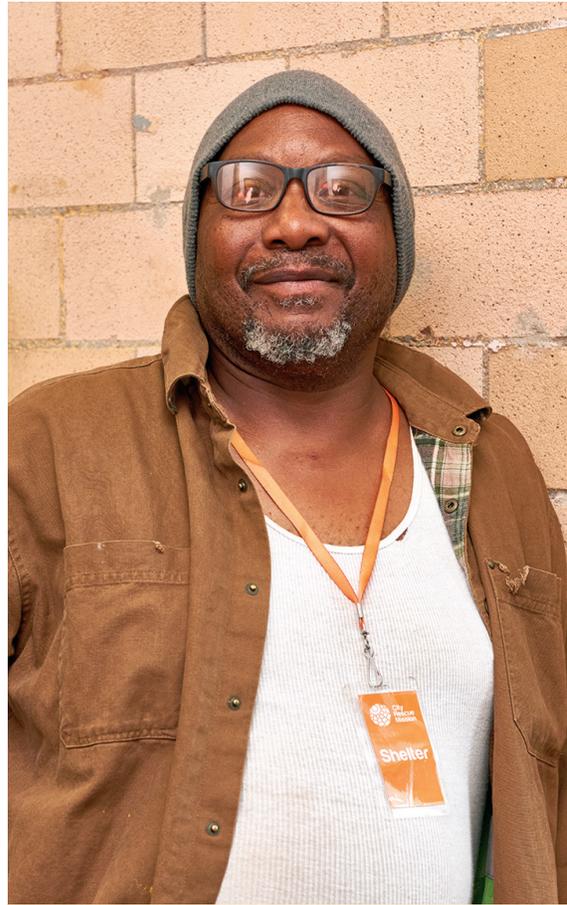
The Part You Played in My Recovery

By Charles, Bridge to Life Participant

Every morning, I wake up with a chance and a choice. Here at City Rescue Mission, you gave me the chance to overcome many hardships. So I'm making the choice to be a better man.

I grew up hustling. Doing anything I could to get ahead in life. I have a criminal record to show for it. And even though I've always felt at home on the streets, I realized something. I'd given God a million reasons to give up on me. He never did. That's why I came here.

Since then, I've noticed a more compassionate side of myself. Maybe it's because this is the first place I've been treated with such dignity and kindness. I like to help out around the Mission, feeding and encouraging others. I have a brotherhood with the other men in the program. We hold each other accountable. We lift each other up on the toughest days.



"This is the first place I've been treated with such dignity and kindness."

– Charles



Whatever happens next in my life, I'll meet the future with a servant's heart. When I graduate, I'll never forget this place. And I won't forget the part you played in my recovery.

Thank you for bringing hope to the hopeless every day at City Rescue Mission!

Welcome
Vulnerable
Neighbors in
from the Cold

Winter
CARE CAMPAIGN
2023

As inflation drives up the prices of food, rent and utilities, more neighbors find themselves in a fragile position this winter. Some even face homelessness. And when their hour of greatest need arrives, these men, women and families turn to City Rescue Mission. Safe shelter, warm beds and hot meals form the foundation on which they can build a new life.

"Whipping winds and freezing overnight temperatures make this the most dangerous time of year to experience homelessness," the Mission President and CEO Erin Goodin says. **"Your compassion welcomes our vulnerable neighbors in from the cold. That's when the healing can begin."**

Thank you for making our Mission a place of refuge from the storms of winter and the storms of life. Your kindness changes lives — and saves them too!



SAVE THE DATE!



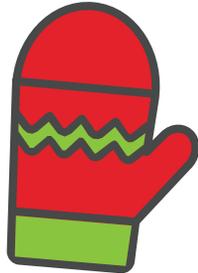
MAY 4TH, 2023

MISSION OF HOPE
SEPT. 14TH, 2023



You Created Merry Christmas Memories at the Mission!

Special thanks to everyone who helped make spirits bright at City Rescue Mission this holiday season. Individuals in our care are overwhelmed with gratitude for the meals, shelter and special experiences you made possible by supporting our Homeless for the Holidays campaign.



“I enjoy Christmas now because I get to be here around other people. I know that I am going to have a plate of food [under the tree]. I feel really happy, full of joy, and very thankful for everyone who has helped me out!” - Jose



You Brought Theresa Back from the Brink of Hopelessness

(Continued from page 2)

Finding a Family

At first, in overwhelming grief, she tried living with some of her husband’s friends. But many were drug addicts, and their lifestyle made her uncomfortable. Theresa finally turned to City Rescue Mission for help.

“When I came here, I was relieved and thanked God every day for this place,” she says. “I was alone in the world with no family to turn to. But over the past four months the people here became my family, and I cherish them. Now I’m getting ready to move into a new apartment, and I’m taking steps on a path to get my old life back.”

Your kindhearted generosity is helping Theresa find hope and healing, day by day, in our Bridge to Life programs. She asked to share this special message with caring friends like you: “Your support saves lives here at City Rescue Mission. You saved mine.”



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!

Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!

\$_____ to help as much as possible!

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Anytown, USA 12345-6789

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 Grace at (405) 232-2709 Ext. 137. A receipt for your gift will be sent to you shortly.

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



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