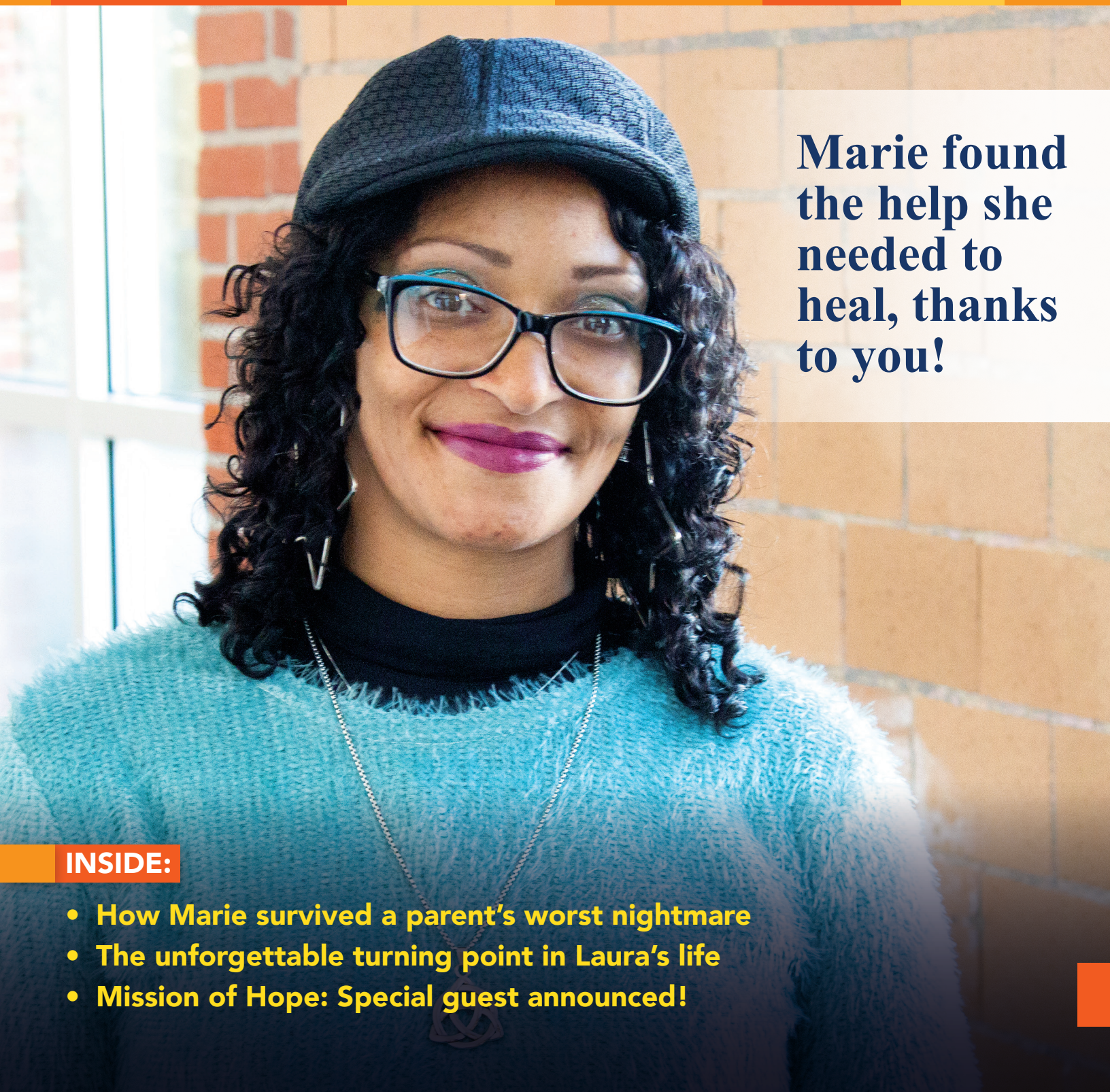


The

Mission

April 2023

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



Marie found the help she needed to heal, thanks to you!

INSIDE:

- **How Marie survived a parent's worst nightmare**
- **The unforgettable turning point in Laura's life**
- **Mission of Hope: Special guest announced!**



Rebuilding Hope, Rebuilding Lives

Dear Caring Friend,

One bad judgment. One medical emergency. One missed paycheck. That's all it would take.

Here in Oklahoma City, a growing number of neighbors live perilously close to the edge of homelessness. You are the safety net waiting to catch them. **Through your support of City Rescue Mission, you shine a beacon of hope that cuts through the darkness of poverty, broken homes, illness and abuse.**

You might be surprised to learn that just 30 percent of the Mission's clients have an addiction. Most men, women and families end up here because of mental health struggles and an unaffordable housing market. They want to do better — for themselves and their families.

Every day, I have the privilege of watching people walk through these doors, intent on ending their homelessness. You're making that goal a reality. Through hearty meals, safe shelter, case management, job training and educational opportunities, neighbors rebuild their lives. All because you showed them a path back to hope.

Thank you, and may God bless you,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO



When Marie experienced every parent's worst nightmare, you helped her pick up the pieces of a broken life. Today she has hope!

You Gave Marie the Help She Needed to Find Healing

Marie's daughter had recently graduated high school when the unthinkable happened. The bright, energetic 19-year-old passed away unexpectedly — a victim of the fentanyl crisis.

Marie couldn't make sense of it. In a desperate bid to numb the pain, she turned to drugs herself.

To make matters worse, Marie's personal tragedy was playing out in the early days of the COVID pandemic. She'd been living in California, far away from loved ones in her native Oklahoma. Now she felt the acute pain of isolation.

"I remember just wanting to go home," Marie says. "I needed a hug from my family."

Marie planned to move in with her mother and younger sister. She'd regroup from there and begin a new life closer to her support system. But it wasn't to be. Marie's sister died of COVID before she even arrived back in the state.

"I want you to know that this Mission restores hope. It really does."

— Marie

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I Wouldn't Be Here Without You

By Laura, Bridge to Life Participant

I'll never forget the day I came to City Rescue Mission. I'd been living without a home, sleeping in abandoned buildings. I didn't know how to stop using meth, even though I was in and out of the hospital with asthma and COPD. My whole life felt like an emergency.

I knew this might be my last chance to reach out for help. I decided to listen to what God had been telling me. It was time to go to the Mission. Still, I felt so nervous. I wanted an excuse to leave. After signing in, I told the woman at the front desk I'd run to the store and be right back.

"Stay," she told me. "You're part of this family now." I can't tell you how much those words meant. The structure of this place, along with that feeling of family, is as important to me as the meals in my stomach and the roof over my head.

Soon I'll have a place of my own. I'll be back on my feet. My life isn't an emergency anymore. I have peace, and I'm moving in the right direction. City Rescue Mission gave me the tools to get this far. I can't wait to come back and volunteer.

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms. I can say with certainty that I wouldn't be here without you.



**"My life isn't an emergency anymore.
I have peace."**

– Laura

Your Gift
DOUBLES
in Impact for
**OKC Neighbors
in Need**



MATCHING CHALLENGE

Have you heard? A kindhearted group of City Rescue Mission donors are offering to match any gift you give, up to the **\$50,000 Matching Challenge total.**

This 2-for-1 opportunity arrives at a critical time for our Oklahoma City community. Every day, more neighbors find themselves living on the edge of hunger and homelessness. Meanwhile, the cost of food, rent and other essentials continue to rise.

Local men, women and families turn to the Mission when there's no place else to go. Some of these neighbors have been crushed under the weight of medical bills they can't afford to pay. Others have survived abuse and broken homes. No matter the circumstances, they're desperately searching for a path back to hope.

Please give to provide nourishing meals, safe shelter and compassionate care. Your gift will go twice as far to help neighbors in crisis this spring. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE!



MAY 4, 2023

MISSION OF HOPE
SEPT. 14, 2023

You Helped Over 2,000 Neighbors End Their Homelessness in 2022!

Our 2022 Impact Report has arrived. We simply couldn't wait to share news of the life-changing difference you made for vulnerable Oklahoma City area neighbors last year. For a detailed look at the power of your generosity, use your smartphone to scan this QR code.



You Gave Marie the Help She Needed to Find Healing

(Continued from page 2)



A Light in the Darkness

The reality of Marie's situation was finally setting in. She had no place to go. No means to support herself. Not even an ID. Thanks to your support, City Rescue Mission was ready to receive her with open arms.

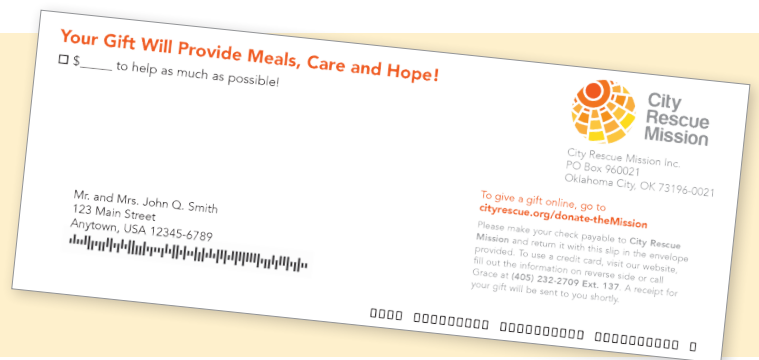
"I was in an almost catatonic state," Marie says. "Losing a child is the worst thing imaginable. Then add everything else. It's a testament to the power of this place that they brought me out of it."

Marie's progress has been slow but steady. Case managers are guiding her through her grief. Work therapy brings a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Today, she's responsible for all the laundry in our emergency shelter. The misery and despair that once stained her life have finally begun to fade. She's allowing herself to imagine a future.

"I want you to know that this Mission restores hope," Marie shares. "It really does. If it wasn't for this place, I don't know where I would be. Thank you for giving me the chance to heal."

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
Rescue
Mission**

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



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