

The

August 2023

Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



**From chaos
to contentment,
you restored
a broken life.**

INSIDE:

- You gave Cynthia the stability she needed to heal
- "I see the change you create up close"
- Starting the school year strong, thanks to you



Rebuilding Hope, Rebuilding Lives

Dear Caring Friend,

Here's something you might not know about City Rescue Mission. Almost 200 of the individuals in our care right now are children. Their families have dealt with all manner of hardship — from job loss to eviction, mental health challenges and domestic abuse.

But I don't despair for those 200 children. Instead, I pray for their resiliency. And I know that they're exactly where God needs them to be in this moment. Through your kindness and generosity, they're in a safe, peaceful environment. They've got a stable foundation from which their parents can rebuild.

This month, many of the kids at the Mission will be going back to school. And caring friends like you will equip them with the supplies they need to succeed in the classroom. **I can't tell you how gratifying it is to see cycles of homelessness and poverty breaking in real time. That's the power of your impact!**

God bless you,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO



Cynthia wandered the streets, estranged from her family and suffering untreated mental illness. Then your compassion transformed her life.

**Photo changed to protect identity.*

From Chaos to Contentment, You Restored a Broken Life

For decades, mental illness wreaked havoc on Cynthia's personal and professional life. These struggles cost her jobs, relationships, almost everything ...

"Every two years, like clockwork, I would fall into a twilight zone, not knowing night from day," she says. "I walked around like a zombie, and I felt like I was in someone's TV."

**"Thanks to
Mission donors,
I have my
life back"**
— Cynthia

But the biggest crisis of all came as a total shock to Cynthia. Her husband blindsided her with divorce papers. Her support system crumbled in an instant, leaving her unsure who to trust. Cynthia's life spiraled out of control from there. She ended up on the streets, then in jail.

While incarcerated, Cynthia finally got the mental help she urgently needed. She came to Oklahoma City and quickly found a job in a fast-food restaurant. But no matter how many hours she worked,

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I See the Change You Create Up Close

By Jasmine Wesley, Emergency Shelter Intake

First impressions matter. That's why I treat every person who enters City Rescue Mission's emergency shelter with the utmost love and care. I know how hard it can be to reach out for help — and how easy it can be to turn around and walk back out that door.

Cynthia is a perfect example. When I first met her, I let her know someone is listening. Someone cares. A kind word — and a feeling of acceptance — can make all the difference on the path back to hope. In many cases, that personal connection matters just as much as the wide array of transformative resources you provide.

It warms my heart to know Cynthia is doing well today. Hers is the sort of outcome we strive to achieve for all the men, women and families in our care.

My greatest privilege is to witness the gradual change you create, right up close. As women settle into our Recovery or Housing Programs, their features start to soften. Walls come down.

I love watching someone become who they truly are, who they're supposed to be. It's a beautiful process. And I praise God for friends like you who make it all possible.



**"A kind word can make all the
difference on the path back to hope."**

– Jasmine

Starting the School Year Strong, Thanks to You!



Back-to-school season is in full swing. And thanks to your generosity, eager young students at City Rescue Mission are equipped to excel in the classroom. You're making this happen in two crucial ways.

First, you're creating a safe, stable home environment for kids who've experienced the chaos and uncertainty of homelessness. Removing those distractions gives kids the best possible chance to excel in the classroom.

You're also providing essential supplies that parents can't always afford. Things like pencils, crayons, folders and notebooks. By relieving that burden from struggling families, you're allowing them to focus on rebuilding their lives at the Mission.

Children are the future. And thanks to you, the future in our Oklahoma City community looks bright indeed! God bless you for caring.



SAVE THE DATE! MISSION OF HOPE 09.26.2023

FOR SPONSORSHIP
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Building Confidence for Life's Next Chapter

Did you know? The Employment Readiness Program prepares folks in our care for productive and fulfilling careers. This program offers training in different areas of the Mission, including housekeeping, laundry, reception, maintenance, security, the warehouse and Rise Cafe. Along the way, participants gain valuable interview skills. They try out potential career fits and discover a path to stability. The stats back that up:

- **80 percent** of program participants found gainful employment
- **86 percent** secured permanent housing
- On average, their income increased by **168 percent**

Through your support, participants develop the skills and confidence necessary to return to the workforce. Thank you for helping men and women achieve their dream of self-sufficiency.

From Chaos to Contentment, You Restored a Broken Life

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Cynthia couldn't keep up with the rising cost of living in our community.

She lived in her car for three months before finally reaching out to City Rescue Mission for help. "My first week here, I knew this is where I needed to be," she shares. "I felt so welcomed, loved and safe. I felt heard and comforted. They always asked, 'Are you OK?' No one ever asked me that before."

Cynthia was blessed with regular meals and a stable living environment. Therapy helped

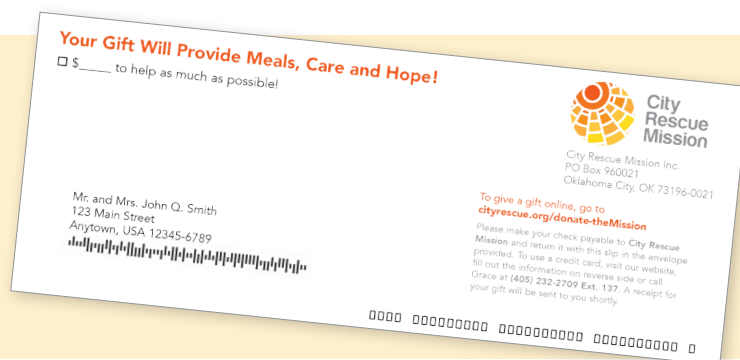
her dig to the root of deep-seated mental health issues.

"When I felt no one loved me and no one cared, God showed me how much He loved me and cared about me through everyone who works here," Cynthia shares.

Today, her heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who made her recovery possible. "Thanks to Mission donors, I have a full-time job, a nice, furnished home, food in my fridge — and I have my life back."

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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