

The

December 2023

# Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



**Because of You,  
Wanda Has  
Found Christmas  
Joy Again**

## **INSIDE:**

- **Making Sure There's "Room in the Inn"**
- **"This Place, It's a Changer"**
- **Homeless for the Holidays**



## Making Sure There's "Room in the Inn"

Dear Caring Friend,

We all know the story: Joseph and Mary arrive in Bethlehem, desperately seeking shelter so Mary can give birth to the baby Jesus. But time and again, they were turned away, because "there was no room for them in the inn."

Those "innkeepers" must have felt terrible about it. Hospitality was a hallmark of their culture; welcoming strangers was in their DNA. And they had no way of knowing that these travelers were about to bring the Messiah into the world.

We feel the same way at City Rescue Mission. We never want to turn anyone away. But sometimes, we're at 100 percent capacity, and there's just "no room in the inn." And that breaks my heart, because we believe those who knock at our door are the face of Jesus (Matthew 25:34-40).

**Your support will help make it possible to ensure there's always room at our "inn" — not just at Christmas, but all year round. Thank you!**

God bless you,

*Erin Goodin*

Erin Goodin  
President & CEO



**Depressed for decades after losing her daughter to cancer, Wanda found light and life at the Mission ... thanks to your loving kindness.**

## Because of You, Wanda Has Found Christmas Joy Again

It had been decades since Wanda celebrated Christmas with her family, mostly because she had pushed everyone away. "I was hurting," Wanda says.

For 18 years, Wanda had been dealing with unfathomable pain — the overwhelming grief of losing a child. When her daughter died of cancer, Wanda spiraled into a depression so deep and dark, she didn't think she'd ever see light again.

**"I feel like God brought me here!"**  
— Wanda

She shut herself off from the world, and often didn't even get out of bed. "Sleep became my addiction," Wanda says. "If I slept, I didn't have to deal with it. I lived in denial. I became a hermit. I turned my home into a dungeon."

She also shunned family members who wanted to help. But one niece wouldn't give up. When Wanda lost her job, ran out of money, and had no place to go, that niece brought Wanda to City Rescue Mission.

*(continued on Page 4)*

# "This Place, It's a Changer"



Last December, Constance — a single mom — and her daughter were facing the possibility of being homeless for the holidays. Rent for their two-bedroom apartment had been steadily climbing, and looming medical bills made her situation even more difficult.

Constance did the math: She could no longer afford to stay there. She put their belongings in storage while trying to figure out where to turn ... and then someone broke in and stole everything.

"I guess it was God telling me it's time to start over," Constance says. But where? She read some positive online reviews of City Rescue Mission, and was soon knocking at our door.

"I was scared to death at first," she says. "But they let me know that everything's going to be OK."

It was early December. Constance wouldn't be homeless for Christmas after all! And her daughter, away at college at the time, would have a place to land as well.

When the 25th rolled around, "I felt like I was at home," Constance says. She says the staff made her feel that way, and the chapel services even more so: "I would just sit and listen. They were showing me that God's got my back, and He's been with me the whole time. This place, it's a changer."



**Today, Constance is doing great and she hopes to move into her own home in the semi-near future. Thank you for making the Mission a place of change for people like Constance!**



**"God's got my back, and He's been with me the whole time."**

– Constance



When you think of Christmas memories, what comes to mind? Family gatherings. A festive meal. Lights and decorations. Celebrating Christ's birth. But for the men, women and families at City Rescue Mission, the holidays can be difficult. For many, there are few warm memories.

They deserve to know the joy of the season — with hope, love and fellowship. You can help spread some of that holiday cheer during "Home for the Holidays" at the Mission. Here's how:

- ❄️ Donate kitchen items, cleaning products or linens to help our clients start fresh in new housing.
- ❄️ Contribute new unwrapped toys and other children's gifts to the Christmas Wish Store.

Thank you for helping us create a loving and memorable holiday season at the Mission.



To learn more about our holiday service opportunities, scan the QR code with your phone camera, or visit [cityrescue.org/HFTH](http://cityrescue.org/HFTH).

# Thank You Oklahoma City Thunder!

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the Oklahoma City Thunder for the renovation of our gym. Our clients enjoy having a space for the monthly birthday party, special events and other activities and we are thankful they will be able to enjoy this new and improved space.

Check out the Thunder's schedule at [nba.com/thunder/schedule](http://nba.com/thunder/schedule), and root on our amazing partner!



# Your Gift Now DOUBLES in Impact There's still time to change lives in 2023

This holiday season, the high prices of rent, food and gas make it hard for our vulnerable neighbors to make ends meet. Many look to City Rescue Mission for help. Thankfully, a generous friend of the Mission has offered a \$50,000 matching challenge, meaning that your gift by December 31 will DOUBLE in impact. **Please don't miss out on one last chance to provide a path back to hope for TWICE as many neighbors by the end of the year!** Your gift, postmarked by December 31, will help make a lasting difference, one life at a time.



## Save the Date

Hearts of Hope  
March 14, 2024

# Because of You, Wanda Has Found Christmas Joy Again

(continued from Page 2)

Wanda was reluctant at first, but in time, she realized she was exactly where she needed to be.

"I feel like God brought me here," she says.

Wanda started to see glimmers of light for the first time in ages. The kindness and compassion of the Mission staff helped her begin the process of healing.

"When I first got to the Mission, I wouldn't talk about my daughter," she says. "I can talk about her now." Wanda says it feels like a weight was lifted from her shoulders.

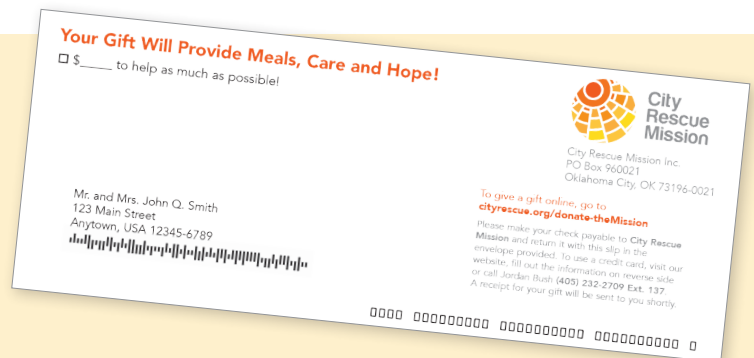
The best part is that Wanda has opened the door to her family again, restoring relationships that had been shattered. After 18 Christmases spent alone, Wanda celebrated the holiday with six family members last year, including her mother, whom she hadn't seen in 20 years.

This year, Wanda's expecting an even bigger family gathering ... all thanks to the hope and joy she found at City Rescue Mission.

**Your love is healing broken hearts and reuniting families this Christmas season. Thank you!**

# 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

City Rescue Mission  
800 West California Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
(405) 232-2709

### Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[cityrescue.org](http://cityrescue.org)



### CITY RESCUE MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

Corner of Shartel and California  
800 W. California Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106