

The

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Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



**“Without You,
I Wouldn’t Be Here”
- J.R.**

INSIDE:

- **How You Helped This Veteran Find Hope**
- **You Gave Nicole & Her Kids a Place to Turn**
- **Giving Thanks**



Tackling Veteran Homelessness

Dear Caring Friend,

Our cover story is about J.R., a veteran who served in Vietnam and struggles with PTSD. Though he's sheltered at City Rescue Mission, he's one of about 135 homeless vets in Oklahoma City.

Veterans Day is coming soon, a reminder that we should take every opportunity to thank those who served. Our doors are always open for these neighbors, and we would love nothing more than to end veteran homelessness here.

The Obama Administration had that same priority when it launched Opening Doors in 2010, and over the ensuing years, veteran homelessness plummeted nationwide . . . including in OKC. However, as federal funding for the initiative has fallen away, the number of homeless vets has risen.

Last year, Oklahoma City launched a city-wide initiative called Key to Home, partnering with 40 agencies with a goal to reduce homelessness by 75% and to house 500 people — including veterans — by 2025. We're more than halfway to that goal, and with your continued support, we'll make it!

God bless you,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO



Thanks to friends like you, veterans like J.R. have a place they can land.

“Without You, I Wouldn't Be Here”

Ask J.R. how he's doing these days, and he gets right to the point: “A lot better now than I was before.”

A 65-year-old Vietnam veteran, J.R. has seen more than enough tragedy through the years. While serving in the Army in Vietnam, he experienced the horror of war and came home with PTSD.

He eventually got married and had four kids, but the trauma remained with him. He started using drugs in his mid-30s — partly to deal with PTSD and partly to deal with the pain of losing his grandfather. “My dad died when I was three years old,” J.R. says, “so my grandfather was more like my real dad. When I lost him, I just didn't care anymore.”

“The Mission has helped me realize that I am worthy of love.”
— J.R.

More pain would follow. Just in the last dozen years, he lost his wife of 21 years, his mother, three favorite aunts and a younger brother who was killed by a drunk driver. J.R. was in the throes of depression, and though he never attempted to take his own life, he considered it. His self-worth spiraled out of control, and so did his addiction. And it was slowly killing him.

At 5-foot-11, J.R.'s weight had dropped to 119 pounds. A friend saw him and said he looked awful. J.R. says he felt it too: “It's kind of scary that I was that close to death's door.”

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“Where Else Would I Go?”

Thanks to you, Nicole and her kids had a place to turn

On Thanksgiving Day a year ago, Nicole wasn't feeling very grateful. It was 9:30 p.m., and she and her three young children had just been kicked out of her mom's house. Nicole and her kids — ages 7, 5 and 3 — were walking down the road in the dark, in the cold, with no place to go.

She called the police to ask for help, and a kind officer picked them up and brought them to City Rescue Mission. Finally, a reason to give thanks.

Nicole and her mom had had a contentious relationship for years, starting in her early childhood when she was given up for adoption. Over the years, they would reconcile briefly, then start fighting again.

But last fall, Nicole and her kids really needed her mom's help: Nicole had fled a domestic violence situation and sadly, did not receive the support she needed from her mom.

Nicole and her kids have found peace at the Mission's family shelter. She's in our employment readiness program and is looking into getting training in welding and/or movie set design.

“I like being creative, doing things with my hands,” she says.

Nicole recently received a housing voucher and is hoping to get her own place soon. Till then, she's thankful for friends like you who helped give her a chance for a better future.

“Where else was I going to go?” she asks. “I would've ended up on the streets.”

Thank you for being there for Nicole and her kids when she needed it most.



Homeless
for the Holidays
❖ T H A N K S G I V I N G ❖

While many of us gather with loved ones on Thanksgiving Day, many in our community won't be so fortunate. Instead of a time of gratitude and joy, the holidays can be a painful reminder of all that's missing.

Many of our neighbors are experiencing critical life challenges this holiday season. They're struggling to make rent, pay the bills, buy groceries. A festive meal with all the trimmings seems an impossible dream.

But your kindness can give them something to celebrate at City Rescue Mission. A warm meal. Clean clothes. Safe shelter. Encouraging words. And unlimited supplies of unconditional love.

A holiday meal at the Mission can help a struggling soul see the light at the end of the tunnel, and find their path to hope.

Your support will put a smile on someone's face, a spring in their step, a spark in their heart . . . and give them a reason to be grateful this Thanksgiving season. Thank you!

“Where else was I going to go?
I would've ended up on the streets.”

– Nicole

Giving Thanks

We are grateful for your kindness!

Thanks to you, neighbors who come to City Rescue Mission are landing on their feet and turning their lives around — please read their words of gratitude below. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our case managers for their compassionate work, encouraging and equipping individuals in our care to move forward with hope and confidence, ready to flourish.

"They showed me that God's got my back, and he's been with me the whole time. This place, it's a changer."

★ — Constance

"They've helped us a lot. Everything is looking up. God didn't lead us here for no reason. As long as I have God in my corner, I feel like everything is going to look up. You're doing a good deed, because you're helping people a lot here. Everything is nice here. Thank you!"

— Candace

"The Mission is amazing. It changes lives. Believe me, it makes miracles. Thank you for supporting this place!"

— Robert

"Without You, I Wouldn't Be Here"

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J.R. says he has long struggled with not feeling accepted or loved, but he was "so sick and tired of being sick and tired" when he finally decided to get help. That's when he walked through the doors of City Rescue Mission.

In just two months at the Mission, he had not only gained most of his normal weight back, but he had also gained confidence, hope and peace — things he had been missing for decades. He was eating well again. He stayed sober. He found purpose.

"The Mission has helped me realize that I am worthy of love," he says. "I got into a good church, and I've got good people who love me."

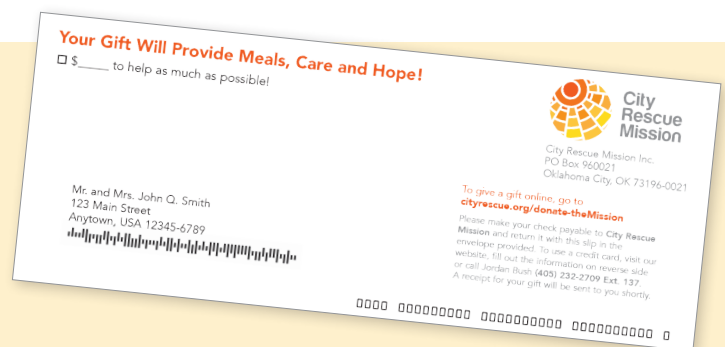
J.R. says that if it weren't for the Mission, "I don't know where I'd be, but I'd be struggling. Thank you for your support. Without you, I wouldn't be here. God bless you!"

Veterans like J.R. are feeling the love from your support. 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 and families. To give a gift online, scan the code or go to cityrescue.org/donate-theMission. Thank you!



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