

The

December 2024

# Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



**A Thrill of Hope**  
How you gave  
this family a  
reason to rejoice

**INSIDE:**

- **Sharda Has Found Hope for the Holidays**
- **You Helped Michael Find His Faith Again**
- **Homeless for the Holidays**



## A Reason for Rejoicing

Dear Caring Friend,

On the cover, you may have noticed the words, “A Thrill of Hope.” They’re from the Christmas hymn, “O Holy Night,” which proclaims the good news of the birth of Jesus, including this line:

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.*

Those words are just as relevant today as when they were written. And they apply to every individual who walks through our doors — often weary, worn down by life’s hardships. They’re in search of hope.

That’s what City Rescue Mission is all about: providing hope for neighbors in need. And when they find it, they rejoice. Just ask Sharda and Michael, two of the 52 families under our roof this holiday season. Their stories are featured on these pages.

My hope and prayer for you and your loved ones this Christmas is that you also discover the thrill of hope and have reason to rejoice.

God bless you,

Erin Goodin  
President & CEO



Thanks to friends like you, Sharda and her daughters had a safe place to turn.

## Thanks to You, Sharda Has Found Hope for the Holidays

All that Sharda wanted for her kids was hope. But hope’s hard to find when you’re sleeping in a car as a family of four.

“Mom,” her young daughters would ask, “when are we getting a house?”

With the holidays on the horizon — as well as the cold nights of the season — Sharda wondered the same thing: When? Nobody wants to spend Christmas cramped in a car.

**“I really appreciate the Mission. They really care.”**  
– Sharda

“It was really hard,” Sharda says. “That was not something I wanted to go through, or put my kids through.”

But thanks to friends like you, Sharda can now share that story in the past tense . . . because your kindness led her to City Rescue Mission’s family shelter. Since they walked through our doors, Sharda and her girls have felt safe, warm and filled with hope.

Sharda has needed that hope for a long time. At just five years old, Sharda saw her mother killed in an act of violence. “I’ve always been traumatized by that,” she says. Then, at age eight, her father passed away, leaving her orphaned. More recently, she was in a difficult relationship.

(continued on Page 4)

# He Found His Faith Again



Michael thought he had a plan. As a single father, he lost his job after needing to take time off to care for his son, which led to their eviction. With nowhere else to turn, he imagined living under a bridge by the river, even planning to build a small makeshift shelter.

But when he heard about an accident involving children in that same area, he took it as a sign: “I feel like God woke me up and said, ‘Don’t do this.’”

A friend, aware of Michael’s plight, brought him and his son to City Rescue Mission. While here, Michael has reconnected with the God he knew as a child.

After his father left when Michael was an infant, Michael grew close to his grandfather, a church deacon who became a father figure. When his grandfather died when Michael was 10, “I lost my faith,” he says. But at the Mission, he has found it again.



At our family shelter, Michael and his son are grateful for all the help they’ve received, including a steady dose of support and encouragement. He’s working in maintenance at the Mission, saving up for when they move into independent long-term housing.

“Without the Mission, I’d be homeless or dead,” he says. “I’m grateful for your support. It’s much appreciated.”



**“I feel like God woke me up.”**

– Michael



## Help Us Make the Holidays Brighter for Families at City Rescue Mission

None of the individuals at City Rescue Mission ever imagined they’d be spending Christmas in a homeless shelter. This wasn’t where they expected to find themselves.

That’s why it’s vital for us — with your help — to make the season bright for these friends. We want them to know the comfort and joy of Christmas. We want them to feel “Home for the Holidays.” Here’s how you can help:

- ❄️ 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.

With your help, we can create a loving, encouraging holiday season at the Mission. Thank you!

For more info about holiday service opportunities at the Mission, scan the QR code or visit [cityrescue.org/HFTH](http://cityrescue.org/HFTH).



# Together, We Can Provide Healing for Our Community

High prices, particularly with rent and the cost of groceries, continue to hit our most vulnerable neighbors hard. Many in our community are living on a fixed income, or barely making it paycheck to paycheck . . . if they're getting a paycheck at all. Many are unemployed or underemployed.

As a result, more and more of our neighbors are facing homelessness, and in need of a place to turn. City Rescue Mission is that place, a shelter in the storm where folks can find help, hope and healing.

Your gift today could make a world of difference for an individual or family in need. Scan the code or go to [cityrescue.org/donate-theMission](http://cityrescue.org/donate-theMission).

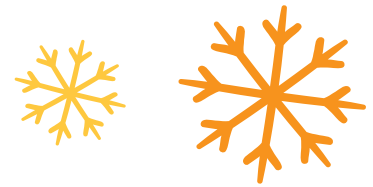


## Thanks to You, Sharda Has Found Hope for the Holidays

*(continued from Page 2)*

Job loss led to an eventual eviction, which led to her homelessness and sleeping in a car. When her wallet was stolen, along with her social security card, birth certificate and credit cards, she desperately needed help for her and her daughters. That's when Sharda turned to the Mission.

"I really appreciate the Mission," she says. "They really care. They tend to you, and help you do what you need to do to land on your feet. I feel myself getting back to the person I really am. That's a big blessing."



Our team is also helping Sharda get those vital documents replaced, so she can apply for jobs and housing. She wants to go back to school to study business, and she dreams of running her own restaurant someday.

But for now, she's happy she can tell her girls it won't be long before they're in their own home again . . . hopefully just in time for the holidays.

**Thank you for providing hope for the holidays for so many neighbors!**

## 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](http://cityrescue.org/donate-theMission). 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