

The

August 2024

Mission

A Publication of City Rescue Mission



**“I’m so glad
I’m here!”**

- Janice

INSIDE:

- **How You Helped Janice Find Stable Shelter**
- **Safe at Last: She No Longer Has to Run**
- **Join Our Friends of the Mission!**



Homelessness Is Not a Crime

Dear Caring Friend,

In April, the Oklahoma Senate passed Bill 1854, which was signed into law. This law targets homeless camps and the people who live in them. Breaking this law can result in up to 15 days in jail.

Criminalizing homelessness is neither a good idea nor is it sustainable. It creates more barriers for individuals and families that are already in crisis.

Those affected by the law include many families who certainly don't want to be in such circumstances, but have no place to go after losing their homes.

Fortunately, at City Rescue Mission, we can help those affected families by providing safe shelter to keep them together. You'll read about a couple of those families in this issue of *The Mission*, where they found immediate support and long-term resources, thanks to friends like you.

Family homelessness is on the rise, and your support is still needed to give these families a safe place to turn.

God bless you,

Erin Goodin

Erin Goodin
President & CEO



Thanks to friends like you, Janice and her son had a safe place to land.

"I Feel Like Something Good is Going to Happen Every Day"

Janice* was halfway through her senior year of high school, looking forward to prom, graduation and moving on to cosmetology school where she'd build on her already impressive talents as a stylist.

"I can do hair," she says. "That's a skill I have."

But trouble at school and home resulted in a difficult decision to leave both behind and start down her own path. She found a steady job but struggled with occasional homelessness, sometimes couch surfing from house to house.

"I'm so glad I'm here. It takes a weight off my shoulders."
— Janice

When Janice had a son at 19, she felt overwhelmed with the realities of being on her own as a single mother. She needed help, safety and stability — for herself and her baby.

"Everything was happening all at once," she says. "And I didn't have any support system."

But thanks to friends like you, Janice, now 20, has a place to turn, where she gets the support she and her son need. After spending just one night in City Rescue Mission's family shelter, she felt like things were already turning around.

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*Janice recently overcame homelessness at City Rescue Mission. Because she shared personal details of her story and is now rebuilding her life in the Oklahoma City area, she requested privacy, so we have changed her name and photo.

Safe at Last

How you helped this domestic abuse victim find refuge

Anna* is tired of running. But she couldn't escape her abusers ... until now.

A single mother of young children, Anna fled domestic violence and moved in with a family member, only to face more abuse. She's fled to at least three different states, trying to get away from her abusers, even from a family member who threatened to kill her.

When she heard about City Rescue Mission's family shelter, she packed up her kids and came as soon as she could. Here Anna has found a place of refuge.

"I have suffered a lot," Anna says through tears, "But I feel safe here."

Here, she has access to programs that help with finding work and affordable housing. And her children don't have to worry about meals, clothing or a safe place to sleep.

Anna says that if it weren't for the Mission, she and her children would've ended up with no safe place to go. Instead, thanks to your kindness, and our compassionate staff, she and her kids are safe and ready to flourish.

"Thank you," she says. "I'm grateful that the Mission is here for me, no matter what."



**"I have suffered a lot.
But I feel safe at City Rescue Mission."
– Anna**



You're Giving Kids a Head Start for This School Year

It's August, and that means students are getting ready to go back to school. And thanks to your generosity, it also means you're helping kids at City Rescue Mission prepare for the academic year. Here's how:

First, you're creating a **safe, stable environment** for kids who've experienced the uncertainty of homelessness. This gives those children the best possible chance to excel in the classroom.

Second, you can **provide essential school supplies**. [LINK HERE....](#) By relieving that burden from struggling families, you're helping them 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.

MISSION OF HOPE 2024



City
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SAVE
THE DATE
09.26.2024



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Join Our Friends of the Mission for Year-Round Impact



We invite you to become a **Friend of the Mission** today, in order to bless our neighbors facing hardship through monthly giving. Your consistent support helps struggling men, women and families overcome challenges and regain a future of independence and hope — all year long.

Your monthly gift will help provide:

- meals and shelter
- clothing and hygiene items
- housing assistance
- employment readiness



To join, scan the QR code or go to cityrescue.org.



"...Something Good is Going to Happen Every Day"

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"I'm so glad I'm here so I don't have to worry about where I'm going tomorrow or the next day," she says, "It takes a weight off my shoulders." She's beaming as she says these words.

Your support helps break the cycle of homelessness and poverty by equipping individuals like Janice with the tools she needs to thrive as a single mom. She eventually landed a job and independent, affordable housing, paving her way to stability and future success. The Mission provides

her with life-transforming resources that will help her reach her goals of earning her high school degree, going to cosmetology school and giving her son a future filled with hope.

"But for now, it's baby steps for me," Janice says, "I feel like something good is going to happen every day for me from now on. I've just got to go step by step."

Janice feels hope because YOU provide it through 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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