

On MISSION

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOME: YOUR CITY RESCUE MISSION UPDATE

"I FEEL WE'RE BLESSED"

This Thanksgiving, Steve is grateful for how far his family has come

Steve loves being a dad and soaks up every moment with his kids.

He laughs about how his daughter tends to make the decisions for her younger brother. He remembers the usual complaints about tired feet on family outings. And after one trip to the zoo, where the kids collected stamps for a chance to win a prize, Steve joked, *"Hopefully the prize is not another trip back to the zoo."*

These are the everyday moments Steve treasures with his children. So when the house his family was renting became unsafe for them, he faced a difficult choice. Keeping a roof over their heads mattered. But keeping his kids safe mattered more.

Steve decided they had to leave.

Steve made the difficult decision to move into a hotel, but he knew it wasn't a permanent home. Eventually, the family needed somewhere else to turn.

Continues inside ▶▶▶



**City
Rescue
Mission**

cityrescue.org

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1 (NIV)

"I FEEL WE'RE BLESSED"

(continued from cover)

That's when they came to City Rescue Mission where because of you, they found a comfortable place to sleep, good meals every day and so much more. The uncertainty they had been living with could finally begin to give way to something they desperately needed: stability.

For Steve, coming to the Mission didn't change who he was. He was still a dad taking care of his kids and working to get his family back on solid ground. And he wants other people who need help to understand there is no shame in coming here.

"Everybody needs help," he says.

With a safe place for his family to stay, Steve has been able to turn his attention toward what comes next. He's working with his case manager and the housing team as he puts plans in place and works toward a home of his own.

In Steve's words, he's getting his life *"back on schedule."*

He's seen what that kind of progress can look like, too. Steve remembers people who came through the Mission around the same time he did. Now, some of them have great jobs and are moving forward with their lives.

Steve can see progress in his own life, too.

"I feel like I've been a long way," he says.

He and his children aren't at the end of their story yet. Steve is still working toward that next big step: a home for his family.

But now he's working toward that goal from a much different place. His family has stability. His children have a safe place to stay. And with people beside him to help navigate the road ahead, Steve has the footing to keep moving toward housing.

Through it all, he gets to keep doing the job that mattered to him from the beginning: being Dad.

"I feel we're blessed," he says.

Thanksgiving is a time to look at what we have and remember what matters most.

Steve has plenty to be grateful for as he looks at how far his family has come and where they're headed next.

Your compassion helped make that possible.

Thank you for giving families like Steve's somewhere safe to turn when they need help. Because you care, parents can find stability, take the next steps forward and keep working toward home with dignity and hope.

You can help another neighbor take that first step forward. Your gift today can provide a Thanksgiving meal and help create the stability someone needs as they work from homelessness toward home.



MISSION OF HOPE: THE ROAD HOME

What a night—and what a community!

As we celebrated 66 years of City Rescue Mission with a little Route 66 fun, we were reminded once again how many people it takes to make this work possible. To every sponsor, attendee, auction donor, bidder and volunteer—thank you.

Funds raised will help provide safe shelter, warm meals, case management and the individualized support our neighbors need as they do the hard work to end their homelessness.

For 66 years, our community has shown up for City Rescue Mission and the people we serve. We never take that generosity for granted.

Thank you for helping more of our neighbors make the journey from homelessness to home.

Hope Lives Here.



RIDE ALONG WITH RAYMOND AND THE HOUSING TEAM

The Keys Aren't Goodbye

Getting the keys to a home is a huge victory. But the housing team knows there's another victory worth celebrating: **staying housed.**

That doesn't happen by accident.

After someone moves into a home, their relationship with us doesn't end. The housing team keeps in touch. They call, visit and connect in person, making sure people are doing well and helping them work through challenges that could affect their new stability.

It's the same personal, ongoing care that has always defined this team. They're there to remind people they still have someone in their corner.

Recently, Raymond received a call that showed just how much that stability can mean.

A father the Mission helped house called with wonderful news: **he was getting guardianship of his children back.**

That's bigger than a set of keys.

A home can become the foundation for rebuilding a life and bringing a family back together. And continued support helps make sure that foundation lasts.

Your generosity helps make these relationships possible. You're not simply helping people move from homelessness to home. You're helping them build lives of lasting stability and independence.

Thank you for helping make home truly feel like home.



SHARE THE JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

There's something special about gathering around a table for the holidays. At City Rescue Mission, you can help make those moments possible for neighbors experiencing homelessness.

This Thanksgiving and Christmas, we invite you to come serve alongside us.

Holiday meals at the Mission are about more than what's on the plate. They're filled with conversation, laughter and the warmth of people coming together. Families gather around tables. Kids get to be kids. And volunteers help create an atmosphere where everyone can feel welcomed and cared for.

You can be part of it.

Serving a holiday meal is a meaningful way to share your time and compassion with neighbors in our community. You may arrive ready to lend a hand, but you could leave with something special, too: memories of conversations, smiles and a holiday spent connecting with people you might not otherwise meet.

We'd love to have you join us this Thanksgiving or Christmas!

Visit cityrescue.org/volunteer to see available holiday volunteer opportunities and sign up.

Come share a meal, share some joy and help make the holidays at City Rescue Mission feel a little more like family.



The Christmas Wish Shop is just one of many volunteering opportunities this holiday season. Find your place with City Rescue Mission this holiday at: cityrescue.org/volunteer.

MY FAVORITE DAY AT THE MISSION

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite days at City Rescue Mission.

My whole family usually comes to serve, and even though there's plenty happening all around me, it doesn't feel like work. I don't feel like the CEO. I just feel like I'm part of this wonderful community.

That's what I love most about Thanksgiving here.

I walk through the room and see tables filled with people laughing, talking and enjoying each other's company. Kids are playing and running around the tables just like my own kids would (and did!). Everyone is together. In fact, if you didn't know better, you couldn't tell who came to volunteer and who came for a meal.

We're just one community sharing Thanksgiving together.

That means so much to me because many people who come through our doors have experienced holidays in isolation. Thanksgiving should be different. A plate piled with good food can satisfy someone's hunger, but sitting around a table with people who genuinely care can offer something else, too: belonging.

It says, *"You matter. You're welcome here. You're not alone."*

And you help create that feeling.

Your compassion helps make Thanksgiving a day filled with food, laughter, family and community for our neighbors. I wish you could see all those smiles for yourself.

I'm so grateful you're part of our Mission family. Thank you for helping make my favorite day so special.

With gratitude,



Erin Goodin
President/CEO

MAKE CHRISTMAS MORNING SPECIAL FOR A CHILD

At City Rescue Mission, Christmas morning starts long before December 25.

Soon, parents staying at the Mission will have the opportunity to step into our Christmas Wish Shop to choose toys and gifts for their children—something their son has been hoping for or a surprise that will make their daughter light up. Then they'll wrap the gifts and have them ready for Christmas morning.

For a family experiencing homelessness, that simple tradition brings the dignity and joy of choosing something special. And on Christmas morning, kids get to tear into wrapping paper and simply be kids.

You can help make those moments possible!

Please donate new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages at:
831 W. California Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK

Your generosity can help a parent give their child a Christmas morning filled with joy, love and wonderful memories.





Your \$2.65 Thanksgiving meal gives a neighbor food, care and a foundation for moving forward.

GIVE THANKSGIVING MEALS!

Thanksgiving at City Rescue Mission is a feast. Plates are piled high. There's laughter, conversation and plenty of dessert. It feels like family.

Yet many of our neighbors are facing Thanksgiving without a meal, without stability and without much hope for tomorrow.

For just \$2.65, you can give someone a Thanksgiving meal served with dignity and care.

Your generosity gives them more than a special holiday. A good meal and a safe place can provide stability when life feels uncertain.

That stability matters.

Having basic needs met gives people a foundation to focus on the hard work ahead. At the Mission, people receive help as they work toward housing and a new life. People like Steve show what can

happen as someone finds their footing and is able to start moving forward.

Without that foundation, taking those next steps can be much harder.

Will you give Thanksgiving meals today?

Each \$2.65 you give can provide a feast, show someone they are loved and help them take a step toward independence, healing and hope.

Scan to give
securely online! ▶ ▶ ▶



**City
Rescue
Mission**

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Oklahoma City, OK 73106
(405) 232-2709

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Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more at cityrescue.org



CITY RESCUE MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

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