

the BEACON

Thanksgiving Issue 2014

a newsletter for friends and donors of **Great Falls Rescue Mission**

Healing broken lives is like baking a very complicated cake. You need exactly the right ingredients. You must mix them in a very specific order. Then, you have to allow time for them to bake at the proper temperature.

Miss a step or omit a vital ingredient and you're risking disaster.

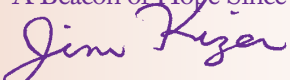
Here at the Mission, we're not just healing lives: we're healing minds and bodies destroyed by alcohol, addiction and neglect. We're restoring souls wounded by abuse and abandonment. The ingredients are not complicated: food, shelter, time, encouragement, counseling, care and a huge helping of God's love.

But there are no short cuts, no substitutions.

This Thanksgiving season, many broken bodies and souls will come here to the Mission. Whether you volunteer your time, take part in a special event, donate food or send a gift, you play a vital role in making them whole again.

Let the healing begin!

"A Beacon of Hope Since 1963"



Jim Kizer
Executive Director

**"Life has gotten better
for our
family"**



When Shellie and her husband moved with their children to Great Falls more than a year ago, her in-laws offered to help them out. But even with her husband working, the family couldn't save enough for a place of their own.

After 10 months of living in a motel with one room for themselves and their four children, Shellie and her husband decided they had to try something new. That "something" was the Mission's Women & Families Shelter.

While her husband moved in with a friend to be closer to his work, Shellie and the children came here to the Mission. "Not only has it given us an opportunity to save money to get a place of our own," Shellie says, "but it has redirected me closer to God. **I have been able to renew my relationship with Him!**"

Being here at the Mission has also benefitted the family's four children, especially around the holidays. "Christmas was wonderful," Shellie says. "One of the things I appreciated is that it was about the real reason Christmas is celebrated... that's something I've always taught my children."

Shellie's two older children have been able to attend the same school on a regular basis, and the two younger children have "calmed down" now that they're no longer confined to a single hotel room. "They have a routine now," says Shellie. "[Being here at the Mission] has allowed me to put our life back in order. There's not quite so much chaos."

"I'm looking forward to being on our own and being able to incorporate the things I've learned here into our home life!"

“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.” Psalm 146: 7

This season, thank you for providing:

- 25,750 meals
- 11,000 nights of shelter

Your gifts are the fuel that enables us to bring hope and help to hungry, homeless neighbors.

Thanksgiving Shopping List

Please add one or more of these items to your grocery list and donate them to the Mission:

- Turkeys
- Real potatoes
- Canned green beans
- Boxed dressing
- French fried onions
- Rolls
- Baked pumpkin pies
- Cool Whip
- Coffee, creamer & sugar

Donations can be dropped off at the back door of the Mission, 326 2nd Ave. S. If you have items that need to be picked up, please call **(406) 761-2653**.

You shop. Amazon gives.

Welcome to **amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know you can benefit Great Falls Rescue Mission when you shop online at Amazon?

You get the same products at the same prices, PLUS the Mission gets a donation from Amazon on all your eligible purchases.

Sign up today at www.smile.amazon.com.

Tell a friend about...

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

Far too many of our neighbors live in poverty. Some have trouble “making ends meet.” Others “do without” to pay rent or utility bills or buy medicine. Many are homeless, fighting for survival each and every day.

You may not see these neighbors every day, but they are here, and Great Falls Rescue Mission is working hard to help them.

We are grateful that you work with us to end hunger and homelessness year round! **So Nov. 15-23 is a great time**



to encourage others – friends, family and coworkers – to join you, and help fix the problems that cause hunger and homelessness by volunteering, organizing a clothing or food drive, or making a special donation to the Mission.

If you're on Facebook or Twitter, **please, urge friends to help.** You can even give them our website address, **www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org**, as a place to get more information. THANKS!

Attention Volunteers!

We need your help to prepare meals, serve food, decorate the Mission and wrap gifts during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.



This is a great way to spend time with family, friends, your church group or coworkers, and do something very special for folks in need. Volunteers are needed to lend a hand with:

- Thanksgiving Food Box Distribution

- Decorating the Mission
- Christmas Card Party & Caroling
- Sorting & Wrapping Gifts
- Children's Christmas Escape
- Women's Christmas Party
- Family Christmas Party & Gift Giveaway
- Joy to the World Dinner
- Serving Meals

For more information, call Athena, our Volunteer Coordinator, at **(406) 761-2653** or toll-free at **(877) 205-5303**, or visit **GreatFallsRescueMission.org**.

Your Legacy



Several families and individuals have established legacy gifts to benefit the Mission or have named the Mission in their wills. This enduring support is a true blessing, as well as a lifeline for men, women and children throughout North Central Montana who are hungry and homeless.

For those who are still considering ways to leave a lasting gift to continue your care for those in need, our Development Director, Carrie Sunwall or Controller, Jeremy Trebus have some suggestions. Call him at **(406) 761-2653**. There's no obligation.

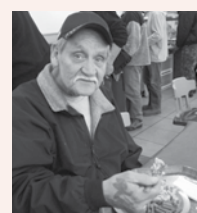
Breakfast, Lunch or Thanksgiving Dinner – Still Just \$1.79!

Some of us still remember when a soda was 5¢. Or a time when you could get a burger for a quarter. These days a plain cup of coffee can set you back \$2 or more!

But here at Great Falls Rescue Mission, you can still provide a hot, wholesome, home-cooked meal for just \$1.79.

We'll be serving a lot of those great meals this Thanksgiving season, including hundreds of festive Thanksgiving Dinners with turkey and all the trimmings!

Your \$1.79 gift can provide a meal that's a turning point in the life of a person who's lost all hope, along



with the care and counseling that helps end homelessness and addiction.

If you think that's amazing, imagine what a gift of \$25 or \$50 or even \$100 can do!

Please share your blessings by making a special gift today to feed and begin to change the lives of as many people as possible. Use the enclosed envelope, or make a safe, secure donation on our website at **www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org**. THANK YOU!