



Great Falls Rescue Mission The Beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

Fall 2021

Don't miss...

Join Our Campaign **2**



"I have goals and a future now." **3**




Our Thanksgiving Needs **4**



**GRATEFUL
THROUGH IT ALL:
Cristy is especially
thankful for YOU!**

Your compassion &
support change lives.



“I have goals and A FUTURE NOW.”



The loving mother of three precious children, Cristy's first priority was to provide them a stable home and meet their every need. But her challenges were unrelenting.

Dysfunctional adult relationships. Struggles to find and hold a job. Housing issues that resulted in unsuitable living arrangements for her little ones... and sometimes even homelessness.

“My life was spiraling out of control,” Cristy says.

After years of facing obstacles at seemingly every turn, she decided to seek help for the sake of her sons and daughter. When they came to our Women's and Families Shelter, wary yet hopeful, we welcomed them through our doors.

“At the time, I felt kind of sad and depressed in a way, too, because I couldn't provide adequate housing over my children's heads. But at the same time, we felt safe and secure here. It was a blessing.”



Through partnerships with other agencies, we helped Cristy and her children secure affordable housing. Through work-therapy opportunities in our Thrift Store, we provided the training and tools she needed to build the stable life she longed for.

As Cristy demonstrated her ability to accept responsibility – and a love for working with people – she was hired full-time as head cashier, a position she continues to embrace. “Getting to know the people who come in here and what they're going through, it gives me a sense of being able to help them, because I've struggled too.”

Today, not only has the Mission given Cristy renewed hope, it's had a positive impact on her children as well. “They're doing well in school, and to look at their faces and see a smile is just incredible.”

As Cristy celebrates this Thanksgiving, she feels deeply thankful for your compassion and support – and how it's given her a fresh start. “I feel like things are really coming together. I have goals and a future.”

GIVING THANKS FOR ALL GOD'S BLESSINGS

It might surprise you that in another year filled with hardships and uncertainty, the overwhelming messages I hear are ones of gratitude and hope.

Despite the challenges we still face as a community – or perhaps because of them – we remain connected to each other in a spirit of love and generosity. ***Your care and compassion have never been more evident here at Great Falls Rescue Mission than right now, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season.***

You have stepped up to help our hurting neighbors as God has called us to do. Provided nourishing meals. Safe shelter. Life-restoring guidance. More than that, you've prayed for our ministry and guests. Encouraged others to join our mission to transform lives. Your love has made it possible for hearts to be restored and lives rebuilt. Now that's something to celebrate!

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, you and other faithful friends are at the top of my list. As you enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, both near and far away, I pray God will fill your heart with joy, peace and the comfort of knowing that lives have been changed thanks to your kindness.

I am grateful for you... today and every day. God bless!



"A Beacon of Hope
Since 1963"

Jim McCormick
Executive Director

2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors...

24,500

Meals Needed by Thanksgiving

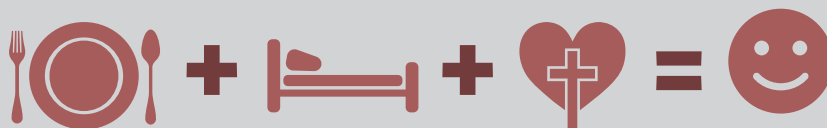
Many of our neighbors are still struggling... trying to get back on their feet... trying not to lose hope. Today, YOU can help them!

For just \$1.89, you can provide a nourishing meal for a hungry neighbor this Thanksgiving season. And that meal opens the door to so much more...

- Safe, welcoming shelter
- Warm clothing, coats & shoes
- Classes & job training to help them get back on their feet after another tough year
- A chance to experience God's love that changes lives



YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



Please – help us be ready to serve thousands of meals to our homeless and hurting neighbors during the busy holiday season!

Rush your 2021 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

💻 Give online anytime at GreatFallsRescueMission.org.

**READ CRISTY'S STORY
TO LEARN MORE!**

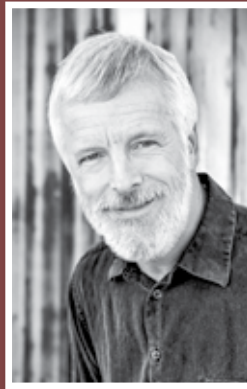


57TH ANNUAL BANQUET

Monday, October 11, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. | Heritage Inn
Guest speaker: Frank Peretti

You are invited to our 57th Annual Banquet! Join us for a delicious meal and hear personal testimonies about how your support of the Great Falls Rescue Mission is impacting the lives of homeless and hurting people in our community.

We are honored to welcome as our guest speaker Frank Peretti, *New York Times* bestselling author of Christian fiction. He is most well-known for his two spiritual warfare novels, *This Present Darkness* and *Piercing the Darkness*. Here's what he shared about his heart for ministry:



Jesus said that “the poor you have with you always,” acknowledging that poverty and homelessness are a given, but he also taught and practiced benevolence and caring for the poor. Even as there are always those in need, there are always those whom the Lord uses to care for them and lift them up. For the followers of Jesus, this is a way of life.


I appreciate the Mission model at Great Falls Rescue Mission: you don't just throw money at the problem or enact policies that only make it worse. We meet these people – reach out to them on a practical and spiritual level to restore them as human beings.

The longer I live, the more the Lord impresses upon me the Long Term Perspective: how God's plans and His unfolding of history reach far before and beyond our own lives, works, growth and accomplishments. We have no idea how much of the good we do now is going to play out over the coming years and in the lives yet to come. God will accomplish His purpose; there is a Joy to come.

We are so excited to hear Frank Peretti and our other guest speakers, and hope to see you there! To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit www.grfm.org/banquet or contact Carrie Matter at (406) 205-3842 or carrie.mattter@gfrescuemission.org.

OUR THANKSGIVING NEEDS LIST

There's still so much to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season! Please consider shopping or hosting a food drive for these critically-needed items.



Turkeys	Cranberry sauce
Cans of sweet potatoes or yams	Cream of mushroom soup
Boxes of Stove Top stuffing	French fried onions
Turkey gravy	Potatoes
Brown sugar	Baked pies
Butter	Cool Whip
Apple Cider	Coffee
	Creamer

Drop off your donations at
**408 2nd Ave S at the back door
in the alley.**

THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

