



Great Falls Rescue Mission beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

Holiday 2021

Don't miss...

Celebrating rebirth
this Christmas. **2**



"Everybody just
kept lifting me up." **3**



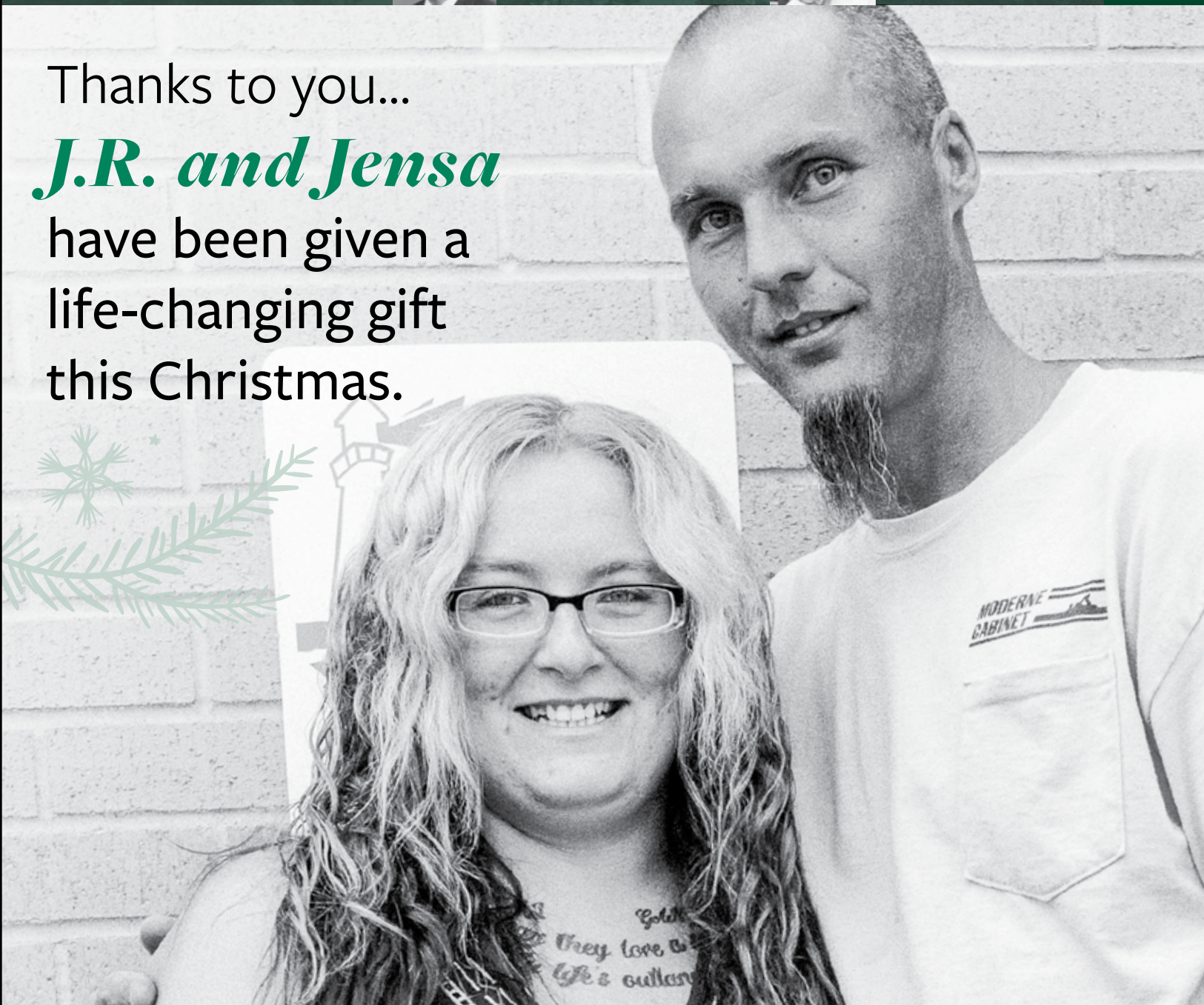
Giving
Tuesday **4**



Thanks to you...

J.R. and Jensa

have been given a
life-changing gift
this Christmas.





“I never opened up a Bible in my life until I got here,” says J.R. “Now I see myself as God’s child. It’s given me hope... I can be anything I want now.”

J.R. and Jensa married two years ago, happily creating a new family with her son and daughter and his two daughters. But not long ago, both were in danger of losing custody of their children...

Jensa and J.R. each grew up in homes where family members used drugs, so it seemed normal to try drugs at a young age. But they both got caught up in an addiction and experienced years of heartache.

“It caused a lot of chaos in my life,” Jensa says. “Drug use, violence and homelessness.”

J.R. echoes that sentiment, saying, “I was miserable. In and out of jail most of my adult life. Everything was just havoc... there was no normalcy.”

The couple met when they each came to our Cameron Family Center, looking to restore their lives and regain custody of their children.

In our care, Jensa rededicated her life to the Lord and J.R. became a believer for the first time, surrendering his heart to God!

The couple met through our discipleship program. Jensa graduated from the program, learning skills to be a better mother and develop healthier behaviors. “I’ve grown a lot. I really learned to put all my trust into God,” she says.

They married about a year after they met and are working to raise their children in a stable, Christ-centered home. They credit their time at the Mission with restoring their hearts and families.

“Everybody just kept lifting me up. The words of inspiration helped me a great deal,” J.R. says.

Today, J.R. has a steady job working with a local cabinet company. Jensa is currently staying at home with the kids but plans to go back to school to pursue a degree in nursing.

It’s going to be a Christmas filled with joy for J.R. and Jensa – and their blended family – and they are so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life. “It changed my life! I got a bigger family out of it... my husband and my extra daughters. I know that this was God’s plan.”

Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says,
“Behold, I bring you good tidings
of great joy, which shall be to all
people.”

During the Christmas season,
we hear a lot about joy. It has me
thinking about how joy is something
all people can have in their hearts.
This time of year, our greatest joy is
celebrating the birth of our Savior
and the eternal life we have been
freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts
Christmas morning... and, hopefully,
every day of the year. It's the same
joy I see on the faces of the children,
women and men that have come
to Great Falls Rescue Mission and
experienced God's life-changing love
up close and personal. The joy YOU
help them experience through your
heartfelt prayers and support.
This Christmas, as you reflect on the
“reason for the season,” I hope you
will remember our neighbors who
are hurting. As J.R. and Jensa's
story shows, your generosity offers
help, healing and a chance to be
held in the arms of a loving God.
I am continually humbled by the
faithfulness of friends like you who
joyfully bless others. Thank you, and
may God fill your heart with peace
and love.



“Jesus is the
Reason for the
Season”

Jim McCormick
Executive Director

A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy
of Christmas, please remember our
hurting neighbors. It's been another
really tough year for so many in our
community – and the very best gift
you can give them is the help they
need right now!

Just \$1.89 provides a meal and care for
one person.

That meal is often the first step
toward a new life through God's love.



\$1.89
for 1 hot meal



\$22.48
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**

**Healing
Hope
And a Second
Chance!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

**SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE
J.R. AND JENSA'S LIVES!**

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and
be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

-Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

*Wishing you and your loved ones a
Merry Christmas!*

During this joyous holiday season, our prayer is that God will richly bless
you just as you have blessed your hurting neighbors. Your incredible
generosity has opened the door for healing and transformation through
God's unending love by providing 100,000 meals and 65,000 nights of
safe shelter this year.

May His face shine upon you and bring you peace, comfort and joy...
today and all throughout the new year. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Give 2X the *Help* on GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 30

Giving Tuesday is the perfect time to give back... especially because of our **\$5,000 Matching Challenge** from a long-time donor and our Board! During this special day of giving, your dollars will double to provide life-changing essentials and services. That's 2x the meals... 2x the shelter... and 2x the recovery services that help people right here in North Central Montana.

This is a time for neighbors to help neighbors – especially those who are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives on solid ground.

Why Wait? Celebrate GIVING TUESDAY Now!

- ✓ Add your special Giving Tuesday gift on the reply card and send it today.
- 📧 Give online at greatfallsrescuemission.org.

3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

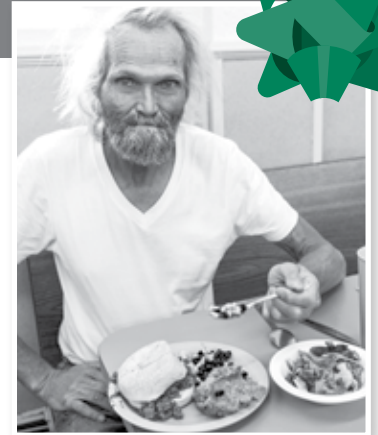
FEED HUNGRY FOLKS



Want to nourish your neighbors? Donate these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season. Please deliver them to

408 2nd Ave S in Great Falls, at the back door in the alley.

turkeys & hams * boxes of stuffing * bags of potatoes * canned fruits and vegetables
coffee, creamer & sugar



MEET BASIC NEEDS



Looking to cover the basics? These essential items keep Mission guests safe and comfortable during their time in our care. Please drop off donations at **408 2nd Ave S, East Entrance, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

garbage bags * paper towels * laundry detergent * twin & double sheets * standard pillow cases * standard pillows

GIVE GIFT CARDS



No time to shop? Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts as well as year-round necessities.

Gift cards should be mailed to **PO Box 129, Great Falls, MT, 59403** or dropped off at **408 2nd Ave S, East Entrance.**

Walmart * Target * Amazon * T.J. Maxx * Ross * Local Businesses

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS A TIME OF JOY!

tributes

Gifts given on or after July 1, 2021 will appear in our next Newsletter.



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STEP-FATHER
EVELYN WIDHALM

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MS. MARIAH MYTON
ANONYMOUS
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Great Falls Rescue Mission is a non-profit Christian organization committed to serving North Central Montana. Our mission is transforming the hungry, hurting and homeless through Jesus Christ's love.