



# THE beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

Fall 2023

**Don't miss...** Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun! **2**



Help Us Get Ready! **2**



"I am redeemed, blessed and loved." **3**



## A Heart of Thanksgiving

Lori wants to share how your support changed her life!



# Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving



## A Message from JIM MCCORMICK

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at Great Falls Rescue Mission, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

Outside, the weather is starting to cool. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as **we get ready for the many men, women and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

Each time someone comes to the Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and struggle that

they may not have anticipated and certainly didn't desire – and they **choose** a season of support and recovery. **I truly believe this is God's hand at work through your partnership in this life-giving ministry.**

Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 24,500 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every struggling man and woman who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. I'm thankful for you now, and always.

"A Beacon of Hope Since 1963"

Jim McCormick  
Executive Director

## ♥ HELP US GET READY! ♥

Thanksgiving is nearly upon us and **we need your help.** Host a food drive or shop for these critically-needed items, then drop them off at **408 2nd Ave S at the back door in the alley.**

Don't have time to shop? Send a gift in the envelope provided to help us purchase what's needed on our food list. Your generosity means so much to so many!

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

Join Our

2023 **Thanksgiving** CAMPAIGN

**24,500**

**Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season**

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families for the holidays.

**For just \$2.49, YOU can provide a meal** to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting people with loving care that leads to a better life through:

Safe, welcoming shelter

Warm clothing, coats & shoes

Classes & job training

God's life-changing love

**Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season!** Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at **[greatfallsrescuemission.org](https://greatfallsrescuemission.org)**.

*Meet Lori – who is thankful for your support!*



# “I am redeemed, blessed and loved.”



A string of challenges and tough choices left Lori and her four children in a toxic environment and volatile living conditions.

“I knew I was walking in disobedience,” Lori says. “But sin blinds you.”

As she began to realize the gravity of her situation, she contacted her mother and a Christian mentor who advised her to leave the situation immediately. With no resources to secure a place of her own, she brought her frightened children to Great Falls Rescue Mission. “I felt relieved when I walked in the doors, because I knew we were in a safe place.”

Lori had been to the Mission years earlier – after separating from her children’s father – and had finished college while she worked to get back on her feet. But this time she knew she needed more.

“Coming back here, not having a job, housing or much more than the clothes on our backs, that gave me an opportunity to say, okay, I need my whole foundation reinforced.” With her children’s encouragement, she entered our Discipleship Program.

Through Christian mentoring, spiritual guidance, life- and job-skills training, financial education and parenting modules, Lori is rebuilding all aspects of her life and a solid foundation for her future. Most important, she says, is her acceptance of God’s forgiveness for the mistakes of her past.

“The shame debilitates you... it brings you down. But now I am redeemed. I am a victor. And I see a success story within me.”

After graduation, she plans to save for a home for her family and use her story to help others restore the foundation of their own lives. “Here at the Mission and even out in the world, I can speak more confidently to people and encourage them in ways I’ve never done before – because of what God has done for me.”

**Lori is filled with thanksgiving for God’s redeeming love in her life – and your incredible generosity and support!** “This was my time of resetting my life and moving forward. I’m in awe because I used to be that person looking up to someone else and now people look up to me.”



**“I felt tattered...  
wounded...  
broken. My whole  
foundation was  
crumbling.”**



# OUR 2023 ANNUAL BANQUET

## *Celebrating 60 Years of Serving our Community*

Join us for food and fellowship, and hear personal testimonies highlighting how support from friends like you has allowed Great Falls Rescue Mission to bring hope to the homeless, hungry and hurting in our community for more than six decades.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

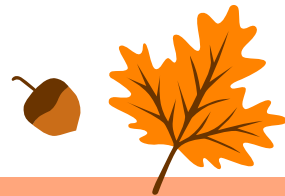
**Place:** Heritage Inn

**Special music:** Tom De Vries

The President/CEO of Citygate Network, Tom De Vries has served as a church planter, multi-site church lead pastor and church multiplication movement leader. Recently, Tom filled the President/CEO role at the Global Leadership Network (GLN), an international ministry producing training and equipping through the Global Leadership Summit. Prior to the GLN, Tom was the General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America. He holds a Doctorate in Ministry from Western Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Seminary and a B.A. from Wheaton College. Tom has a track record of innovation, strategic planning and leading high-performance teams for increasing ministry impact.



For questions about your table sponsorship or purchased seat, please contact our Administration Office at **(406) 761-2653** or **samantha.lodge@gfrm.org**.



## **Volunteers needed... like YOU!**

Ever thought of how you can do more for men, women and children here at the Mission? Come serve as a volunteer! There's plenty to do, and no experience or skill sets required... just open hands and a willing heart. We'd love to have you!

*Sign up now!*

Contact us today to see how you can help...

Call: **Lynne Staigmiller at (406) 761-2653**

Email: **lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org**



# tributes

Gifts given on or after June 22, 2023 will appear in our next Newsletter.



## memorials

### IN MEMORY OF

MARK P. ALLEN  
RON ALLES  
LORRAINE BAKER  
DONALD M. (DON) BATISTA  
HAROLD BERNIER  
ROBERT D. (BOB) BLOSSOM

DEBRA E. BRODERICK  
BRIAN BURCHAK  
DWIGHT BURCHAK  
ELEANOR R. BUSH  
MILLIE CLARK  
DUANE S. COOPER  
MR. CURTIS  
DONNA DRAKE  
THOMAS ECKSTEIN  
SHARON ELLIS  
QUINTON C. (QUINT) FARR  
EMMET FILLMORE  
TOM FLYNN  
RICHARD (DICK) FORSTER  
WILLIAM P. (BILL) FURA  
RICHARD A. (DICK) GANNON

RONALD GARRICK  
LEONARD (BUD) GERHART  
MAY GERTSON  
HELEN GERVAIS  
PAUL L. GHEKIERE  
LARRY GOFF

PATRICIA H.  
THELMA LOU (OWINGS) HANE

DEAN HANSEN  
VIVIAN HARRINGTON  
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DANELLE HILL  
ARNOLD HOKANSON  
JOHN D. HOLZBERGER  
WALTER GEORGE HOPKINS  
CHARLOTTE HOVDE  
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DAVID INMAN  
GEORGE JACKSON  
FRANK JASICKO  
SAMUEL A. JOHNSON  
KATHLEEN K. JURICH  
ROXANNA KIMMET  
DARLENE KOLOBAKKEN  
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MRS. JOYCE RYAN

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JOSEPH (JOE) MALSAM  
PATRICIA (PAT) M. MARONICK  
SHERYL WIEDERRICH MASON  
ASUNCION (CHONY) MAXWELL  
HAROLD & EVELYN MEREDITH  
ROBERT O. (BOB) MERRY  
CATHERINE MORGAN  
A. CURTIS MYHRE  
AMELIA (AMY) T. MYHRE  
MAE NELSON  
MYRT NELSON  
MAUREEN NEWMAN  
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HELEN SHANAHAN  
ALAN SHAW  
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CHARLOTTE (CHARLY) SIMONSON  
CRAIG SIMONSON  
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ELOISE WESTLER  
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# honorariums

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THOMAS H. BRYANT  
ELLIE EDENS BIRTHDAY

JUDY ERICKSEN  
KEVIN GILLASPIE

GRANDMA TONI  
EVA HURD  
SAMANTHA LODGE

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JEFFERY FARIS  
MR. & MRS. JIM & SHARON KIZER

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LEAH ZBINDEN MART

OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST  
DEB RAPPE

TIFFANY SHANAHAN & RYAN MURER  
GEORGE WILLETT

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MR. TROY NESHEM  
BECKY LOOMIS  
BRANDY PIENO  
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