



THE beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

Holiday 2023

Don't miss...

Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas 2



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT! 2



"My biggest challenge was to find myself." 3



Thanks to you...

**APRIL HAS
HOPE THIS
Christmas!**



Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our homeless neighbors too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at Great Falls Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ's love and grace to our neighbors – like April (whose story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



“A Beacon of Hope Since 1963”

Jim McCormick
Executive Director

Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.49
for 1 hot meal



\$25.00
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

\$50,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous partner, **when you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and care... and above all *hope* for our struggling neighbors!

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 🖥 Give online anytime at greatfallsrescuemission.org.

**THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!**



“MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE WAS TO FIND MYSELF.”

From her first vivid memories at age 7, April's life was filled with chaos, dysfunction and neglect.

“My parents divorced and my dad remarried. My sister stayed with mom and my brother went with dad and I was dragged from one family member to another. I didn't have any parental guidance – **I felt like I was on my own.**”

With little attention or positive direction from adults who should have been caring for her, she began to mimic their actions instead: abusing alcohol and marijuana and pursuing unhealthy relationships.

“They would bring men and women home and I thought that was okay – I thought that was how you were supposed to be loved.”

As she grew older, her misguided beliefs and search for affirmation led her down a painful path. She gave birth to three children from different fathers who abandoned their responsibilities. April was unable to provide for her little ones on her own, and they were removed from her custody.

The loss left April devastated, and she spiraled further downhill until she found herself in dangerous surroundings. Fearing for her life but with nowhere to go, she came to the Mission... and asked for our help to change her life.

April soon felt comfortable in our faith-based environment, surrounded by people genuinely concerned about her spiritual, emotional and physical well-being – something she'd never experienced.

She embraced our Bible-based curriculum – life-skills training, work therapy and Christ-centered counseling – where she learned to trust the Lord and acquired a new outlook on life.

“Regardless of the circumstances that brought you here, what matters

is the outcome – what you put into it and what you are given by God.”

Helping in our kitchen and at the front desk, she found she enjoyed serving others and was skilled at providing comfort and encouragement. Her goal is to seek a counseling role so she can bring God's life-transforming love to others struggling with insecurity, addiction and chaos.

April has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life. “I used to see myself as horrible, unworthy, lonely, depressed, ugly. Now I know that I am beautiful, I am helpful, I am worthy, I am loved.”

“I WAS AT MY LOWEST POINT AND I THOUGHT, ‘WOW, I CAN'T DO THIS ANY MORE. SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE.’”

Colder Days = Increased Needs

Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 12° in North Central Montana – and added factors like rain, snow and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges as the weather sets in.

Help us bring them in from the cold at Great Falls Rescue Mission:

- **Safe shelter.** We provide a warm bed and a roof over their heads.
- **Hot food.** Each plate of food offers comfort to cold, weary neighbors.
- **Winter clothes.** Warm winter coats, clothing and shoes go faster than we can stock them.

To see our most urgently needed items, visit greatfallsrescuemission.org/needslist

YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION SPECIAL!

Christmas Morning: Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God's love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!