



# THE Great Falls Rescue Mission beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission  
Summer 2024

Don't miss...

Transforming Lives is Possible this Summer **2**



You can play a key role in Summer Camp **2**



"My heart is full of nothing but happiness now." **3**



## The love YOU share

gives neighbors like Keisha hope for a better life...





# A meal for \$2.49 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



## A Message from JIM MCCORMICK

### Thank you for **REMEMBERING** your neighbors this summer

What does summer mean to you? Family vacations... lazy mornings... afternoons at the park or by the pool. As a kid, you probably remember time standing still over summer. Yet, now these months seem to be busier than ever..

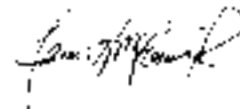
Between work, family and community responsibilities, endless "to-do" lists crowd our days. In some ways, the "lazy days of summer" may be a thing of the past.

We've seen this at Great Falls Rescue Mission for a while now. As supporters in our community stay busy with summer plans, donations tend to drop off. I'm thankful you haven't forgotten about the needs of your neighbors – and that you respond with a heart of compassion... which is why I need your help.

As we enter **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign, I hope I can count on you. Please give generously each month of this season** to help the men, women and children in North Central Montana who are hurting and homeless.

Thank you for remembering to share love with your neighbors in need this summer – no matter how leisurely or lively these months may be.

"A Beacon of Hope Since 1963"



Jim McCormick  
Executive Director

*"As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*  
- John 13:34b-35

## Give our youngest guests **a fun and enriching summer!**

**Our annual children's Summer Camp runs June 17 through August 15, 2024**, for boys and girls staying at Great Falls Rescue Mission Cameron Family Center. **Kids entering Kindergarten through 12th grades** will enjoy activities like swimming, gardening, field trips, crafting, Bible lessons, sports, hiking and family days with parents. Our summer camp season ends with a one-week overnight camp in August.



You can play a pivotal role in all of this!

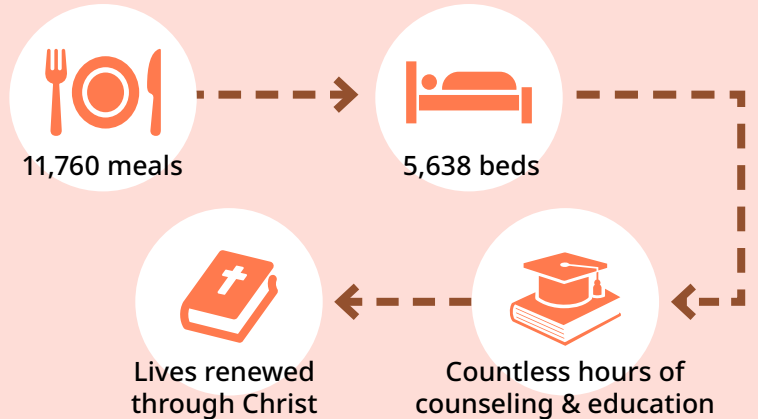
Sign up as a volunteer or camp counselor, and make cherished memories for these precious children. Volunteers will also supervise kids at our Cameron Family Center and other locations throughout the community.

To learn more, please visit [greatfallsrescuemission.org](http://greatfallsrescuemission.org) or contact Athena Ayers at [athena.ayers@gfrm.org](mailto:athena.ayers@gfrm.org) or (406) 205-0667.



## TRANSFORMING LIVES

is possible this summer... **thanks to YOU!**



**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**  
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

*At every step of their journey...  
YOUR gift helps change their lives.*

*Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!*

**Give now! [greatfallsrescuemission.org](http://greatfallsrescuemission.org)**



“My heart is full of  
**nothing but  
happiness  
now.”**



**K**eisha’s traumatic experience at just 10 years old led her to make bad decisions early in life. “I didn’t care. I just hung out with all the wrong people, doing all the wrong things, whether it was stealing, doing drugs or drinking,” she recalls.

She ultimately found herself in a situation where she needed to get herself and her kids out of a verbally abusive relationship. This meant leaving home with nowhere else to go. “My biggest challenge before coming to the Mission was finding a safe place for me and my kids.”

Everything changed for them when they walked through the doors of Great Falls Rescue Mission and entered our Cameron Family Center program. “It was like they’ve known us all our lives. They made us feel so welcome.”

Our faith-based environment helped lift the weight off her shoulders and brought her

back to God. “Nobody can live without God in their lives. Even my kids have learned that. God and family are most important, which the Mission is all about.”

Before Keisha moved out, she worked in our youth department, giving back to a program that made a big difference in her family’s life. “My kids and I have a really nice three-bedroom apartment. I couldn’t have done it without the Mission’s support,” she says.

“The Mission helps you learn to love yourself again,” she says.

“When your heart’s in a good place, and you have God with you, you’re good. **My heart is full of nothing but happiness.**”

**Keisha now has strength for her future because of your heart of compassion for her and other neighbors in need. Because you chose to share God’s love, she has a path forward in life.** “I can’t do anything without God. He has been with me through thick and thin. He brought me here for a reason.”

“The Mission is  
the best thing that  
ever happened to  
my family.”





Summer is in full swing, but the new school year will be here soon... Help local children and families in need prepare at our Back 2 School Blast!

Again this year, the Mission is partnering with Alliance for Youth, United Way of Cascade County, and Great Falls Association of Realtors & Alluvion to provide 1,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to help students in Great Falls start the school year on the right foot.

- Donate school supplies & backpacks.
- Volunteer to help fill backpacks August 5-9.
- Donate to sponsor the event.

Please contact Jason or Lynne in the Volunteer Office at **(406) 761-2653** with any questions or to sign up.

Our Back 2 School Blast event is on Friday, August 16, at 11 a.m. at the Mansfield Convention Center. This is a pre-registered event for school-aged children.

**Thank you for helping local children start the new school year strong!**



## You're allowing kids to dream again

Childhood is a time of innocence... unfettered hopes and dreams. A healthy childhood is foundational for overall development – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Yet children experiencing homelessness are robbed of this time. Without the stability of a safe home, they lose confidence in themselves and lose hope for their future.



Your support of Great Falls

Rescue Mission helps protect our youngest, most vulnerable residents by providing a safe, nurturing environment for children to learn, grow and thrive. Thanks to friends like you, we provide them with medical care, academic tutoring and social and spiritual encouragement – along with age-appropriate counseling for those recovering from past trauma.

Thank you for caring for children in our community whose futures are at risk. Together, we're providing child-focused care that restores their innocence and reignites their dreams.



**One of the best ways we can help children is by helping their parents! Find out more about how we support families at [greatfallsrescuemission.org](http://greatfallsrescuemission.org).**

