



THE Beacon

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

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Giving thanks for YOU

INSIDE: Raymond shares how your support changed his life!



Giving thanks for YOU this fall



A Message from JIM MCCORMICK

Sometimes I wonder, what would become of the struggling neighbors Great Falls Rescue Mission cares for if it wasn't for your compassion and generosity?

I think of people like Raymond, whose story you can read on Page 3 – his testimony is a powerful reminder of how the Mission's faith-based environment can have a positive influence on even those who follow different faiths.

I thank God for how YOU are providing hope, help and healing to people who are hurting in our community.

From the essentials of food, warm clothing and safe shelter... to long-term healing and stability through our

recovery program – with you beside us and Christ as our foundation – our ministry can provide all this and even more life-changing services this fall.

As we prepare to serve an estimated 25,000 meals to our hungry neighbors, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent and gifts with our ministry, knowing God will use your blessings to restore hope in many lives.

Thank you for giving me – and countless guests at Great Falls Rescue Mission – a reason to give thanks this fall!

“A Beacon of Hope Since 1963”

Jim McCormick, Executive Director

♥ CURRENT NEEDS ♥

Donate essential items this fall!

During the busy fall season, the number of guests we welcome at Great Falls Rescue Mission steadily increases! And with more people to care for, our needs also increase.

There are 3 key items that consistently appear on our list of needs:

- Toilet paper
- New underwear and bras
- Body wash, shampoo & conditioner

Imagine trying to get by even a single day without these essential items! Sadly, the struggling neighbors we serve often arrive at our doors with little but the clothes on their backs.

This fall, you're invited to give thanks by giving back! Help us meet these and other immediate needs of our neighbors. Visit greatfallsrescuemission.org to see our current needs list.

Join Our

2024 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

25,000

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 just \$2.49, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift welcomes someone who is hurting to our table and surrounds them with life-changing care:

Safe, welcoming shelter	Warm clothing, coats & shoes	Classes & job training	God's unconditional love

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2024 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at greatfallsrescuemission.org.

Scan to see how you can help this fall!

“I’m reaching my goals and I’m proud of myself.”

For Raymond, being raised in a family that used alcohol and drugs led him to believe that it was normal. “I followed that path growing up,” he says. Raymond was only 13 years old when he started selling drugs, eventually dropping out of school and getting caught in the cycle of being in and out of prison. “I lost my cars and my apartment with everything I had,” he says. When he was released from prison early, his probation officer called Great Falls Rescue Mission to see if there was room for him.

“My biggest challenge before coming to the Mission was knowing I needed help and asking for it,” Raymond admits. Finally, he told himself, “You have nothing. There’s no one out there to help you. You burned your bridges with everyone... **I swallowed my pride and accepted the help.**”

When he arrived at the Mission, the man at the desk helped put him at ease. “He said, ‘I know this is not something you’re used to or looking forward to, but we’re here to help,’” Raymond recalls.

Now, Raymond is helping others – it’s one of the most important things he has learned. He volunteers at the front desk, which includes assigning jobs to others at the Mission. “The highlight of my day is when I find these people something to do,” says Raymond. “I used to be selfish, now I like to offer help.”

Although Raymond follows a different religion, he feels that the Mission’s faith-based environment has had a positive influence on him. “I was astray, but seeing everything revolve around religion brought me back to my faith,” Raymond shares.

He has also found a supportive community with whom he can exchange stories, advice, and encouragement.

This fall, Raymond gives thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have helped change his life. “Before I came to the Mission, I wanted to give up. I was sick of the cycle. They gave me hope.”

“Going to the chapel helped me realize that the Mission is not just a helping hand, it’s a life plan.”



EMPLOYEE *Spotlight*



Katie Maphies

Katie was born and raised in Great Falls. She started out her career as a hairdresser. That's where she learned "that everyone has a story and sometimes all people need is just someone to listen."

Katie began as a college intern via the University of Montana BSW program and was hired on as a supervisor at the Cameron Family Center. Katie graduated in May of this year and remains employed at Great Falls Rescue Mission working and supporting families and helping our parents.

"We are transforming the hungry, hurting and homeless through Jesus Christ's love. It works and I've seen it work," she says.



Scan to find out how YOU can make a difference!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you're looking for ways to volunteer in November, here are some fun opportunities to consider.



Thanksgiving Food Drive
Help us fill stomachs with a delicious Thanksgiving meal by donating traditional Thanksgiving food.



Thanksgiving Day Meal Serving
Join us at our shelters by serving our residents and members of the community.



Cat Vs. Griz Food Drive Collection
We'll need volunteers to collect the canned food at Albertson's on November 15.



For More Information
Contact Lynne Staigmiller, Volunteer Coordinator at (406) 205-0691 or lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org

408 2nd Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59403
(406) 761-2653, volunteer.gfrm.org



tributes

Gifts given on or after May 1, 2024 will appear in our next Newsletter.



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