



# THE beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

Holiday 2024

**Don't miss...**

Double your impact on Giving Tuesday! **2**



"I'm more hopeful, more joyous." **3**



Give a meal. Spark a miracle! **4**

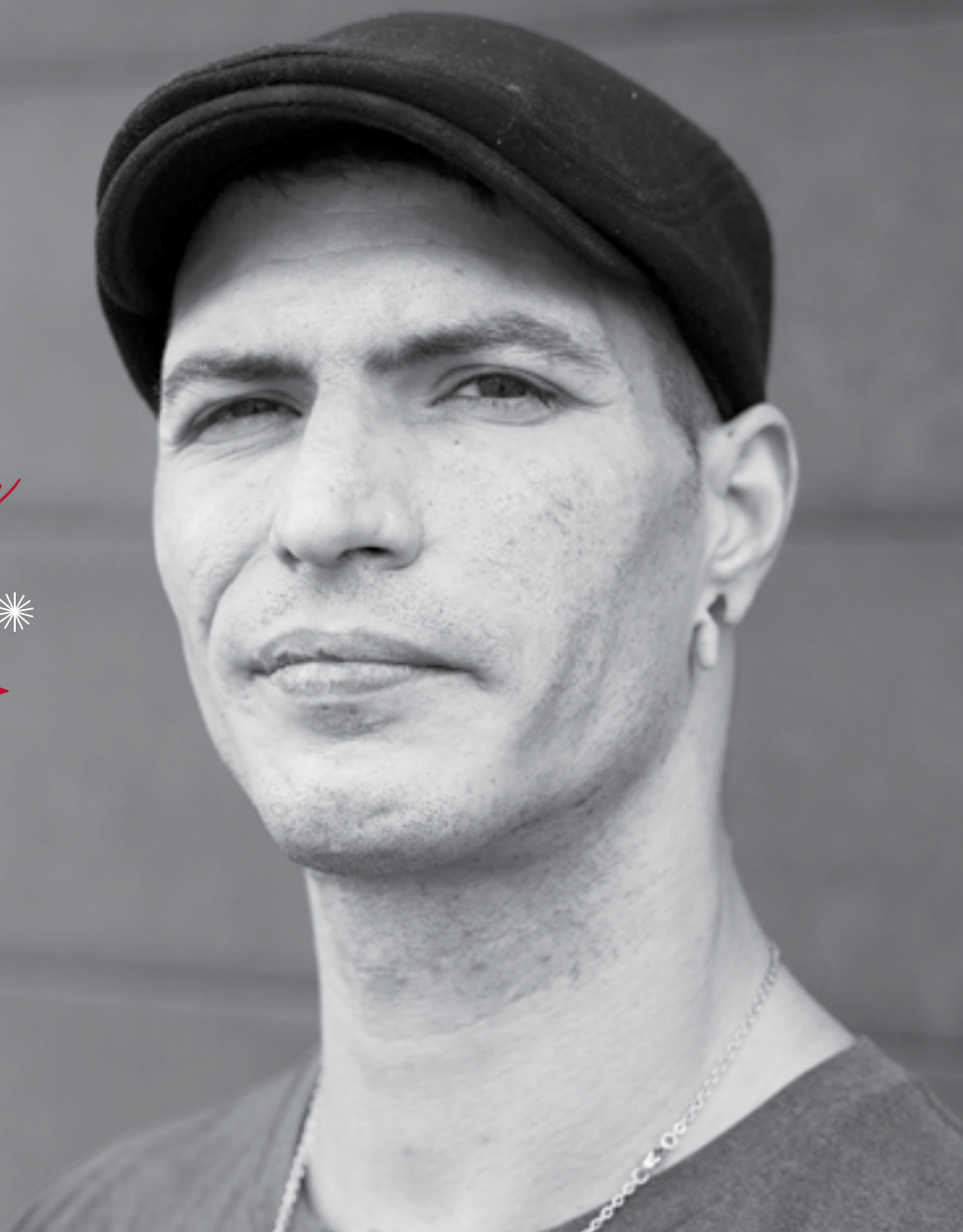


THANK YOU FOR  
GIVING DARIN

*a life-changing*

GIFT THIS

*Christmas!*



*You help make  
Christmas  
miracles possible*

Get ready... the busiest time of the year is upon us! I imagine your calendar is filling up quickly. But **before the year ends, please save a few moments for our neighbors who are homeless.**

I know you agree no one should live in a car... in a tent... or outside in the cold. Certainly not a child. Being homeless means living with constant fear and uncertainty. It's a terrible way to spend any day... much less Christmas Day. If there's anyone in need of a miracle, it's them.

You can make a Christmas miracle possible for a neighbor who is homeless by giving \$2.49 to provide a hot meal at Great Falls Rescue Mission. It may not seem like much – but each meal you provide can be someone's first step toward recovery and a new life. Where you see a meal, a hurting neighbor sees a miracle.

With your support, no man, woman or child in North Central Montana has to be hungry or homeless this Christmas. People like Darin (whose story is on page 3) can find the miracle of hot meals, safe shelter and Christ-centered care at the Mission this holiday season... and all year round... thanks to you!

"Jesus is the Reason for the Season"



\*Jim McCormick  
Executive Director

*Double your impact on Giving Tuesday!  
Tuesday, December 3*

# 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!*

## \$30,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



BIG NEWS to end the year: **When you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and life-changing care for our struggling neighbors!

**DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31**

- ✉ Return your special year-end gift in the reply card today.
- 📄 Give online at [greatfallsrescuemission.org](http://greatfallsrescuemission.org).

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



*“I’m more hopeful, more joyous.”*



**I**t is a miracle that Darin is alive to tell his story. Four years ago, he had a brain aneurysm that resulted in a stroke. “I was technically braindead for about three days after surgery,” he explains. He woke up just when he was being taken off life support.

Darin defied the odds but grew reliant on pain medication after surgery. “Pain became something that I wanted to escape from,” he shares. This combined with depression tore his family apart. His wife left him, and he didn’t see his three kids for months. **He was ready to give up on life.**

Then his friend brought him to Great Falls Rescue Mission, and he is now in our Christian Discipleship Program. “Before I came to the Mission, all I did was hurt people. I couldn’t take care of my wife and children,” says Darin. Now he wants to help people. **“It’s more therapeutic for me to serve others, and serving God is so much easier.”**

The Mission has helped Darin find his faith again. “I don’t think about my problems as much, but rather what I can do to help others,” he explains. **“God told us to love one another. I’d like to open a church and teach.”** The connections he has made at the Mission, especially with pastors and leaders within the community, are helping him move toward that goal.

Darin is thankful for the struggles the Mission has helped him overcome. “They reminded me that it is worthwhile to fight for your health and for God,” he shares.

**“The program is reconnecting me with God and helping me see that I CAN DO WHAT I THOUGHT I COULDN’T DO.”**

**This Christmas, Darin is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God’s unending love.** “I’m thankful to the Mission because they helped me through my depression and showed me that I’m capable, worthy and wanted.”

# Give Relief From Colder Days

## Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 15° in North Central Montana – and added factors like rain, snow and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges this winter.

You can give them relief from the cold at Great Falls Rescue Mission:

- **Safe shelter** includes a warm bed and a roof over their heads
- **Hot food** offers comfort and nourishment to cold, weary neighbors
- **Winter clothes** like coats, clothing and shoes are in high demand

To see our most urgently needed items, visit [greatfallsrescuemission.org/Needs](http://greatfallsrescuemission.org/Needs)

## Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're homeless or hungry. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term recovery program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal for \$2.49... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



**\$2.49**  
for 1 hot meal



**CAN SPARK  
A MIRACLE**



**That leads  
to new life!**

**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**



**GIVE HAPPY**  
THROUGH THE COMBINED  
FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

The State Employee Charitable Giving Campaign (SECGC) is an annual opportunity for Montana state employees to **donate to Great Falls Rescue Mission via payroll deduction, cash, check, credit card or debit card.** It runs annually for six weeks. Since 1990, Montana state employees have donated over \$10 million to nonprofits in the state. It's easy for you to give, too! **Great Falls Rescue Mission's SECGC number is 5126.**

Are you a Federal employee or retiree? Then GIVE HAPPY to us through the CFC using charity code 62551.