



THE beacon

A newsletter for friends and donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

Fall 2026

Don't miss...

No one should face hunger alone. **2**



"I have a safe place to heal." **3**



Become a volunteer **4**



GIVING THANKS FOR YOU!



INSIDE: Cecelia is counting her blessings this fall.



Overflowing with thankfulness... **for you!**



A Message from CARRIE MATTER

I can't help but feel grateful this time of year. Yes, it's a busy season – but there's so much to look forward to: Thanksgiving, Christmas and the outpouring of generosity we see at year end. I imagine you're equally excited about enjoying these holidays with loved ones.

But it's important to pause and give this month the attention it deserves. September is Hunger Action Month – it's our invitation to consider how hunger impacts hurting neighbors... and our community as a whole.

When someone is hungry, they can't think of anything else. Shelter, hygiene, health care and employment can be addressed only after hunger is solved. Your gift of just \$2.49 can provide that solution with a meal for a man, woman or child in North Central Montana.

It's about more than providing nourishment. For a neighbor experiencing homelessness, **a meal is relief, dignity and the first step toward stability** – as it was for Cecelia, whose story you'll read on page 3.

Thank you for your heart for our hurting and hungry neighbors. Your care and compassion are a powerful response to being rooted in Christ, as we read in Colossians 2:6-7...

"Continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

"A Beacon of Hope Since 1963"

Carrie Matter, Executive Director

OUR CURRENT NEEDS

Donate essential items this fall!

This fall, we'll welcome even more guests. And more people means we'll need more to care for them!

Our 3 most needed items:

- ☐ New Men's & Women's Underwear
- ☐ Shampoo, Conditioner & Body Wash/Soap
- ☐ Diapers & Wipes

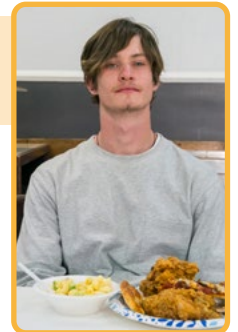
You can make a difference in our guests' lives by providing these and other immediate needs.

Visit **gfrm.org/current-needs** to see our current needs list.

NO ONE SHOULD FACE HUNGER ALONE.

MEALS NEEDED BY SEPT. 30!

When someone is hungry, nothing else matters. Once that need is met, they can begin to rebuild their life – to find shelter, seek recovery and take steps toward lasting change.



September is Hunger Action Month... and your chance to make sure no one has to face hunger alone.

Just \$2.49 provides a nourishing meal that offers relief and hope when it's needed most.

Send your gift to help hungry neighbors today OR give online at **give.gfrm.org**.

Scan to take action now!



“The Mission
gave me **a
safe place
to heal.**”



Cecelia's childhood was filled with confusion and trauma. Her parents divorced when she was just two, so she spent years splitting time between her mother and father.

Unfortunately, neither environment was healthy. Her mother was distracted by her own trauma and even experienced homelessness for a short time. “Generational trauma really does get passed down,” Cecelia says.

Neglected by her mother, she would turn to her father for comfort. But her father controlled and abused her. Though she repressed the memories, it still took a heavy toll. **“I was always anxious and afraid,” she says.**

As she grew up, Cecelia's distorted view of love led her into a dysfunctional relationship. When she finally found the courage to leave, she moved in with a relative. However, when that situation turned unsafe and she had to leave, she had nowhere to go.

Cecelia came to Great Falls Rescue Mission looking for a new start, and she encountered a love and support that she had never experienced before.

For the first time, memories of her past came to the surface and she was finally able to process her pain.

Through faith-based counseling and chapel services, Cecelia learned that God's love is unconditional.

“This was a safe place to land,” she says. “When you don't have to worry about food or shelter, you can work out the other details that are important in your life.”

“

Without the Mission, I wouldn't have been able to get back on my feet.

”

Today, she is no longer anxious or fearful, and she's opened her heart to the Lord. Settled in her own place, she is excelling at her job and living the life God intended for her.

Because of you, Cecelia is experiencing Thanksgiving in a whole new way this year... with a fresh perspective on life and a heart of gratitude. “I'm an independent, strong and confident woman. I've been made whole.”

YOU can lend a hand this fall!

***“The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.”***

The Mission is always in need of caring, compassionate volunteers to lend a hand in all areas:

- Serve a Meal
- Thanksgiving Day Lunch
- Cleaning Service Projects
- Wrap Christmas Gifts
- Sort & Organize Donations
- Christmas Day Dinner

For more information about how you can help with any of these immediate needs, visit volunteer.gfrm.org or contact Lynne Staigmiller at (406) 206-0691 or lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org.



October 10 is World Homeless Day

World Homeless Day is a powerful reminder of the realities of homelessness... and that we can ALL be part of the solution!

On any given night, hundreds of individuals and families in our community don't know where they'll sleep.

You help make many stories of hope possible. And October 10th is your chance to help even more neighbors in need. Whether you donate, volunteer or raise awareness – your support helps restore dignity and hope to hurting men, women and children.

Together, we can turn compassion into impact... and create lasting change in North Central Montana.



Learn more about how Great Falls Rescue Mission addresses the root causes of homelessness at greatfallsrescuemission.org.