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the ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION
rescuer

GRATEFUL & BLESSED

Brian Celebrates a Season
of Thanksgiving and Hope



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Our Thanksgiving
Campaign Has Begun!

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"The Mission is a lifeline
God sent to me."

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The Treasure You
Should Never Bury

Sad news serves as a reminder



A Message from CEO SHERRY PITNEY

As we planned this issue of The Rescuer, we received awful news. A young man who went through our Life Recovery Program a few years ago died from a drug overdose.

We have seen several of these tragedies in recent years. They hurt, deeply. They also remind people living in addiction of the incredible danger they face. Brian, whose story is featured in this issue, came to the Mission because he didn't want to die. Heroin, cocaine or crystal meth are dangerous enough, but today users play a deadly game of Russian roulette because dealers often lace their products with fentanyl, the opioid responsible for so many overdose deaths.

The Mission sees so many success stories – more than most addiction treatment programs, in fact – but there's a share of heartache, too. I'm so thankful for Brian and the many others like him who are seeing their lives transformed. And I'm so glad that our programs focus on bringing people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Those of you who support the Mission in prayer, financially and through volunteering share in that work. It helps us all remember, through our own experiences and those of loved ones, that we are not as strong as we think we are. We truly need the Lord and each other.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
CEO

2022 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

YOU can give our hurting neighbors reason to celebrate!

44,740

Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

Thanksgiving can be another difficult day for our neighbors struggling to overcome homelessness... poverty... addiction. But you can change that!

Just \$2.05 provides a hot, nourishing meal. Your gift welcomes someone to our table and leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming
shelter



Warm clothing,
coats & shoes



Classes & job
training



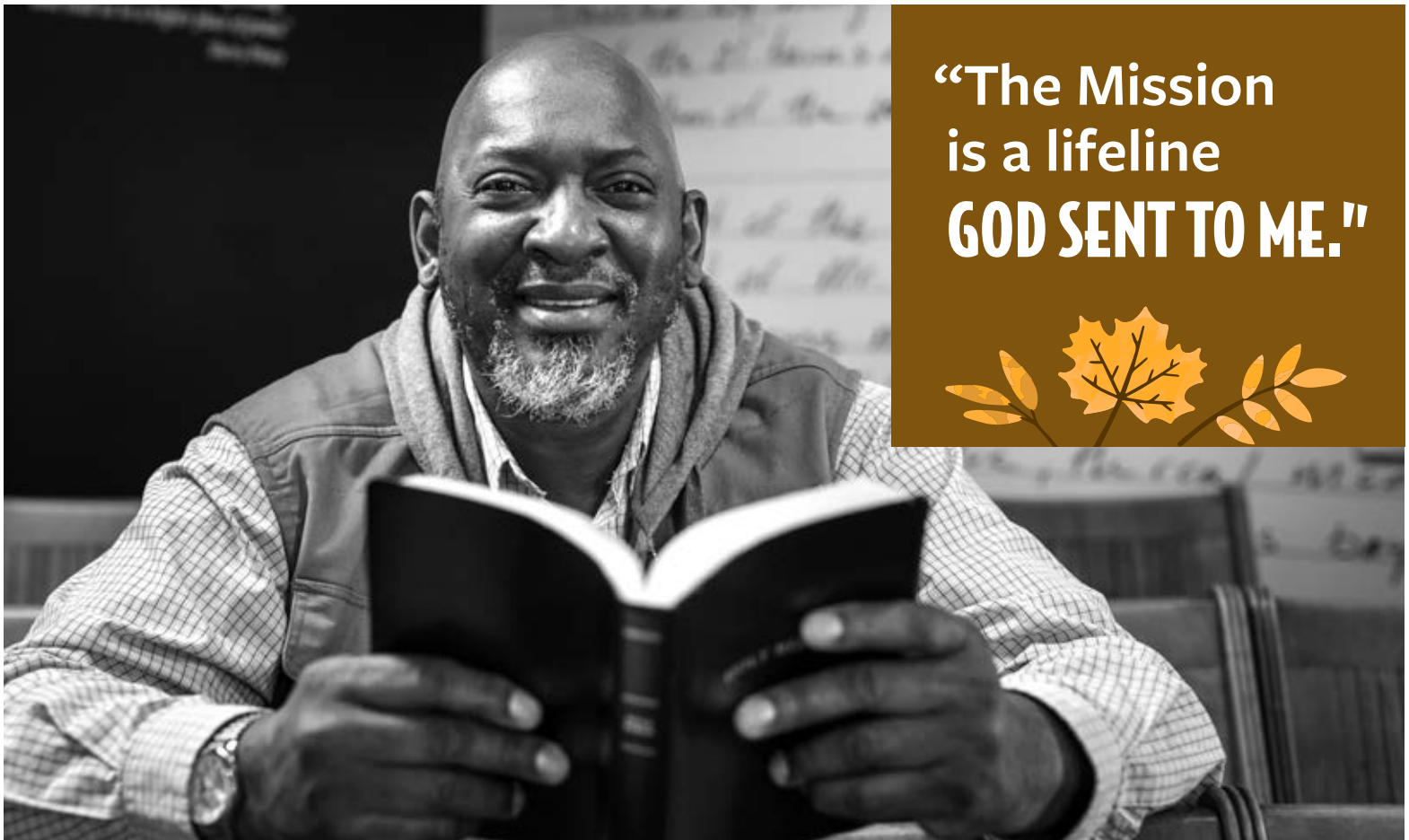
God's life-
changing love

We need your help to serve thousands of meals this holiday season! **Please rush your 2022 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at rockfordrescuemission.org.**



Read Brian's story – a life you helped change!





**“The Mission
is a lifeline
GOD SENT TO ME.”**



Brian was a teenager when he first started using drugs and alcohol. It was something he did for fun until he got into his early 30s. When he was introduced to harder drugs, his life quickly took a turn for the worse.

“Before I knew it, I was hooked. Within six months, I was addicted and my life spiraled out of control.”

What followed was a struggle with addiction for many years. Brian tried several treatment facilities and would achieve periods of sobriety... then life would get hard and he would fall back into bad habits. Though he didn’t realize it at the time, his relationships were heavily codependent, and that also fueled his desire for substances.

Brian’s turning point came from an unexpected source. While watching TV one day, he saw a commercial with a hotline to get help. He screwed up his courage, dialed the phone and was referred to Rockford Rescue Mission.

“I called the Mission and the person I talked to was so calm and soothing. She told me about the program and what I needed to do. ... I was so happy because it was just what I needed.”

Brian entered our Men’s Life Recovery program, and God immediately began working in his heart. He recommitted his life to the Lord and began growing in



I knew that if I didn’t get help, I could die. The Mission was about recovery and getting better, so I packed my bags and was ready to go.



faith and fellowship.

“It was a lifeline God sent to me because I was serious about being done with drugs and alcohol.”

Through the Genesis program and other classes, Brian was able to discover the root of his addiction and begin healing. “That’s key because if we don’t get to the crux of what’s really going on, we’ll never be able to solve our problems,” he says.

As he’s growing stronger and enjoying his newfound sobriety, Brian is working toward getting a stable job again and a place of his own.

Brian’s heart is overflowing with gratitude this Thanksgiving because YOUR loving support gave him the place and time to allow God to rebuild his life. “The Mission’s program has offered me hope. It gives you structure and we can boldly say the name of Christ and see where God is guiding our next steps.”



Volunteer Spotlight

Terrance Davis first volunteered at the Mission about seven years ago with co-workers. The experience meant so much to him that now he's sharing it with his kids, Draton and Arisela. He brings them one late afternoon each week to help the food service staff as volunteers.

"It's something small, but it goes a long, long way if we can make somebody's job easier," Terrance says.

Volunteering weekly helps him show his kids that giving back to the community can be part of their regular rhythm. "It comes with a variety of different blessings," he says. "When we give to the community and help bless others, we get blessed ourselves."



Rockford Rescue Mission earned a 2022 Gold Seal of transparency! Learn more about our organization's impact through our Nonprofit Profile on GuideStar's website: [guidestar.org/profile/36-6132381](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/36-6132381)

The Treasure You Should Never Bury

In 1982, Byron Preiss released a book containing 12 puzzles. If solved correctly, each puzzle would lead to a different park in a North American city where he'd buried a small treasure. To date, only three have been found.

While this modern-day treasure hunt is exciting, there's another form of sleuthing no family should ever have to do – sifting through a loved one's estate without a will. Here's how you can avoid it:

1. **Create or update your will.** Many people put off creating their estate plan because they think the process will be complicated, but it's usually quite simple.
2. **Create a love drawer.** Leaving a legacy is about more than financial inheritance. It's pulling together important documents, passwords and even handwritten letters into one place.
3. **Communicate your plans.** No one likes to talk about mortality, but it's important to share your plans and intentions with family. You can clue them into your investments, any gifts you've included to a charity like Rockford Rescue Mission, and the personal values that have driven your decisions.

For the full version of this article, **request a FREE copy of "A Treasure You'd Never Want to Hunt" by contacting Ted Tomita at 815-965-5332 or tedtomita@rockfordrescuemission.org** – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at christianwill.org/rrm.

Become a Hope Giver

Life transformation here at the Mission is no quick fix. It takes prayer, perseverance and partnerships with a caring community. That's why we rely on Hope Givers – friends who give to the Mission monthly, assuring our residents and guests that they are loved and cared for.

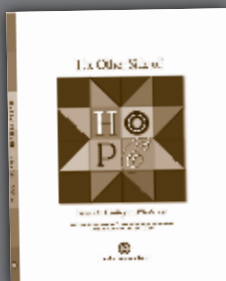
By giving monthly, you'll walk alongside men, women and kids, cheering them on through their recovery and restoration process. You'll help a woman like Gené to rebuild relationships with her family. Or a single mom like Samantha through the process of getting her own apartment again. Or people like James, Chelsea and Mike to receive vocational training and guidance in getting full-time jobs.

Please consider becoming a monthly Hope Giver. Whatever amount you choose, it's a local investment with eternal impact.

To sign on, please visit rockfordrescuemission.org/give-help/hope-givers.



hope givers



On Sept. 15, Rockford Rescue Mission will release *The Other Side of Hope*, a book featuring the incredible stories of seven women with close ties to our ministry. All have experienced deep suffering. Through it all, though, they chose to walk into their true identities as children of God.

Books are available for purchase. Please visit our website for more information.