



The Rescuer



Jerald's life
has been made
New this
Easter!

Thank you for sharing hope
for his fresh start.

Easter
2026





A Message from CEO SHERRY PITNEY

A SEASON OF Possibility...

A lot changes this time of year. We're moving into a new season. Days are getting longer, and new life is springing up around us. It's a reminder that even in darkness, beauty and hope are just around the corner.

The Easter season is also a reminder of Christ's sacrifice... and the hope for new life and renewal.

Renewal is happening inside Rockford Rescue Mission as well – in the lives of the men and women who come to us in their darkest hour. Each person who walks through our doors is a story of resilience and possibility, like Jerald, whose story you can read on page 3.

Through the support of friends like you, these men and women can rise above their circumstances and rebuild their lives. Because our recovery program is more than meals, safe shelter and care. It's about finding faith that a new life is possible.

Thank you for empowering our guests along their journey from darkness to light... from despair to hope. Your generosity gives them the tools they need to move from the shadows of homelessness or addiction, into the light of stability and hope.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
CEO



Our Hope Givers!

Many men, women and children walk into the Mission with just the clothes on their backs. They're homeless, abandoned by friends and family. They have nowhere else to turn.

Our job is to take them into our family and make them feel at home. Feed them. Shelter them. Share the love of Christ.

Thanks to a very special group of people who really have faith in our work here in the Rock River Valley, we have the resources to do just that.

These people are members of our Hope Givers monthly giving club, and you're invited to join them!

To learn more about becoming a member of this extraordinary group, contact FirstName LastName at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or email **name@URL.org**. To join now, visit **rockfordrescuemission.org/monthly**.



This Easter... **EVERY MEAL MATTERS**

Just \$2.44 for a meal & hope for a new life!

Each meal served with love at the Mission is so much more than a plate of food. It can also open the door to life-changing services like safe shelter, Christ-centered care and healing in our recovery programs!

For just \$2.44 each, you can provide a hot, nourishing Easter meal to someone in need... and share hope for a new life in Christ.

- ✉ Share a gift now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- ✦ Share a gift online anytime at rockfordrescuemission.org.



“I’M
Blessed
BEYOND
MEASURE.”



As a child, Jerald’s friends often asked him, “Where’s your dad?” Not wanting to admit the truth, he masked the pain of what was missing. From the outside he seemed fine, but the absence of his father was a void that eventually led him to substance abuse.

By the time Jerald was married with a home of his own, addiction was interfering with his life. “I was buying drugs instead of paying rent. My wife could see something was wrong, but she didn’t know what it was. It caused a lot of friction.”

Jerald came to Rockford Rescue Mission to get his life back on track, but shortly after returning home, he went back to his old lifestyle. Only after losing several people close to him did he recognize how much he needed help. And he knew where to find it.

“I felt so much shame about coming back to the Mission,” he says. But he was welcomed with open arms.

In our Mid-Life Recovery Program, Jerald found healing in Scripture, community and honest self-reflection. He rekindled his relationship with God and began serving others with joy by washing dishes, vacuuming hallways and stepping into ministry with a new passion.

In hindsight, Jerald realizes the adolescence he lost to substance abuse. But he’s determined to live the years he has left with purpose, “to be the best man, the best dad and the best grandad I can be.”

This Easter, Jerald has a new direction for his life. Thank you for lighting the path forward for him to experience a future of hope and peace! “I feel great. I’m blessed beyond measure,” he says.

“I WAS TOTALLY BROKEN
AND SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT,
BUT GOD IS GOOD.”

May we shine the light of Christ.

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:4–5

HELP WANTED



Serve a meal. Organize a collection drive.
Help out by tutoring men, women and
children in our program.

There are as many ways to help at the
Mission as there are days in the week!
One of our greatest needs is for extra
hands in the lead up to Easter, when we
welcome even more neighbors through
our doors than usual. Gather your family,
your church group or organization and
help make this Easter extra special for our
neighbors in need!

Find more information about how you
can help online at
rockfordrescuemission.org/volunteer.

FIND A
BARGAIN.
BLESS A
LIFE!



When you make a donation or shop at our Thrift
Store, you bless others in so many ways!

Our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet
find well-priced necessities. Our program guests
receive on-the-job training. And Thrift Store proceeds
support our ministry that saves and transforms lives.

Shop or drop off your donations at 2710 20th Street
in Rockford, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Monday through Saturday (closed Sunday).

For more information, contact us at
☎ (815) 316-0607.

