

# THE BEACON



Stories of light and transformation  
from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

CHRISTMAS EDITION

## “It’s like I’m starting over”

*Randy learns to forgive himself and repair the damage*

When Randy’s marriage of 18 years fell apart, he turned to alcohol to cope. “It became an addiction,” he says. “I eventually lost my home, my vehicle, my boat, my family. But at that point I didn’t care. I was more concerned about where my next drink was coming from.”

*“I wouldn’t be alive today if it weren’t for the Mission.”*

It would be years before Randy hit rock bottom, and in the meantime, his addiction destroyed everything he loved. He was in and out of jail and in and out of homelessness.

“There’s so much shame. You can’t look yourself in the mirror. It just breaks you,” Randy says.

His family tried to help him for years, but he says he burned every bridge he had and they finally had no choice but to shut him out. “I have two grandchildren I’ve never met,” he says, choking up. “Thinking about



*Your support gave Randy a new start.*

them leaves a hole in me.”

After trying other programs and failing, Randy found his way to the Mission, and thanks to people like you and your support, we were able to take him in to our recovery program.

Randy recently celebrated a year of sobriety, rekindled his relationship with his Mom, and is ready to try again with his kids and be a grandpa to his grandkids for the first time.

“This program has meant life to me,” he says. “It’s like I’m starting over. I have so much to look forward to and to build. I’ve accepted what I’ve done and my addiction and I’m better for it.”

**Your support makes the help Randy receives possible. Your support saves lives. We’re counting on you this holiday season! †**

*Want to attend a service at the Mission?*

You’re always welcome. The services below are open to the public, so come in and feel the power of God’s love!  
Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.





## A NOTE FROM THE CEO

### Merry Christmas!

As we celebrate the birth of our savior, I see the miracles that occur here at the Mission through His unconditional love.

There is not a day that goes by that I am not in gratitude for what you do for us. Your care and kindness, as well as every meal, blanket or bottle of water that is provided through your support, allows a soul to have respite and begin to shine with pride. And it returns some hope.

Everyday life can be difficult when you are in despair. However, during the holiday time, the feeling of being alone and lost are greatly magnified. We have all had dark times and that is why your support and grace are so very important now. You enable us to reach out to as many as we can to open their hearts to our savior's love, acceptance and forgiveness.

The real transformation begins at the very moment they take our hands for refuge. Without you, this would not be possible. Thank you for all you do in opening your heart and showing how much you care. Please continue your support as we head into the Christmas season and brand-new year.

Sincerely,

*Heather Engle*

Heather Engle  
CEO

*Your generosity enables children to have a brighter Christmas.*

## You Can Make Christmas Brighter

The holidays are a challenging time for our homeless neighbors and for families struggling to get by. But YOU can help bring tidings of comfort AND joy for your neighbors in need.

There are so many ways you can get involved this Christmas season.



**Send a gift today to help provide meals, shelter, recovery help and more.**



**Sign up to volunteer at the Mission to help wrap toys (call 702-382-1766 or visit [vegasrescue.org/volunteer](http://vegasrescue.org/volunteer)).**



**Drop off a toy between Dec. 2 and Dec. 13. Gifts for children ages 11+ are the most needed.**

Your gift is an act of love this Christmas and will bring so much joy. Thank you for all you do! †

## Holiday Happenings

**Thanksgiving Community Meal:**

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 3pm-6pm

**Christmas Toy Giveaway:**

Saturday, Dec. 14, 8am-11am

**Christmas Community Meal:**

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 3pm-6pm





JESUS  
AVES

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.”*

— Psalms 107:1

## On the road to hope

**F**rank started drinking when he was 21, socially at first, but it got out of control as he got older.

He has always loved the work he does in IT, thinking on his feet and solving problems. So when he was laid off 15 years ago, it sent him on a downward spiral.

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*“It was the day after Christmas, and I was kicked out of the place I was living. I drank my last penny away.” – Frank, recovering alcoholic*

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“I had good severance and plenty of money in savings, but emotionally, I couldn’t get past it,” Frank says. “In every job I ever had, I was stepping up, advancing in my career and then this big setback hit.”

He spent his newfound free time drinking more

and more frequently and even getting a few DUIs. Frank bounced around from job to job, continuing to drink. He was divorced in 2013 and hit rock bottom soon after.

“It was the day after Christmas, and I was kicked out of the place I was living,” says Frank. “I drank my last penny away. I had quit my job because I was drinking all day and I didn’t want to drink and drive and I wasn’t going to quit drinking.”

Frank lived in his car for a while and then when his family saw the condition he was in, they brought him to the Mission for help.

Frank still has a long road ahead of him to recovery, but for the first time, he’s hopeful. “I feel different — mentally and emotionally and spiritually,” Frank says. “This is the first time I’ve taken recovery seriously.”

**This holiday season, Frank has hope for his future for the first time in a long time — thanks to you! Your support helps Frank and so many others. †**



*Thanks to you, Sheldon was able to recover from addiction.*

## Sheldon learns to escape from “panic mode”

*“It feels like night and day”*

**S**heldon has battled addiction most of his life, starting back when he was just 11 years old.

“I’d drink with my dad and did weed and methamphetamine with my brother a lot back then,” he says. “I was a really bad meth addict by 16.”

Sheldon says when addiction takes hold, it dominates your thoughts and when you can’t get the drugs or alcohol you want, you go into panic mode.

“It’s a dread I’d feel inside. I’d feel a complete panic. My mind races. I’m completely lost. I don’t even know who I am — my only mission is to drink,” he says. “It’s panic mode. You sweat, you run, you hide. You’re paranoid.”

When Sheldon walked into the Mission about a year ago, it wasn’t his first time. But it was a completely different experience. Before, he said, he was just going through the motions, thinking about how he just needed to get a job and then he’d start drinking again. He never intended to stay sober.

But this time? “I’ve noticed a huge improvement in my attitude,” Sheldon says. “It feels like night and day. Now I have hope that I can live a semi-normal life without being in panic mode.”

Sheldon couldn’t be more grateful for the support people like you have given him to make his recovery possible. *“For you to give up your money, your prayers and your heart, it means so much. Thank you.”* †

▼ Please cut off the reply form below, and return it with your gift. ▼

## I want to provide meals and more this holiday season!



480 West Bonanza Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV  
89106-3227

**Yes!** I want to help provide warm meals, shelter and care this holiday season!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$17.36 to provide 8 meals and care this holiday season.
- \$28.21 to provide 13 meals and care this holiday season.
- \$56.42 to provide 26 meals and care this holiday season.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many meals and care as possible.

I’d like to give monthly. My first gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

To give online, visit [vegasrescue.org](http://vegasrescue.org)

Thank you! Please make your check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_