

# THE BEACON



Stories of light and transformation  
from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

FALL EDITION

## “The stress just lifted”

*A family gets the chance to pick themselves up after tragedy*

**K**risten and her husband have a big family, but they’ve always been able to make ends meet. Then the unthinkable happened and everything changed.

While moving into a new place, Kristen’s 4-year-old son fell into a pool. “He suffered what they called a non-fatal drowning. He was on life support for a week and in a coma for two and a half weeks,” Kristen says. “He survived, but he has no fine motor skills. He can’t walk or talk. He can’t take food by the mouth. He’ll need support the rest of his life.”

After the accident, Kristen and her husband spent so much time with their son that they lost their jobs. “They said I wasn’t stable enough to work,” she remembers. It didn’t take long before the family lost everything. They ended up bouncing from friend to friend, eventually sleeping in cars and even breaking into vacant apartments just for safe shelter.



*Thanks to your generous support, Kristen and her family were able to receive the help they needed.*

“It got to the point where I couldn’t feed my kids. I was failing. I told my husband we had to go to a shelter because we could not live like this any longer. We had to get past the stigma of homeless shelters. So we came to Las Vegas Rescue Mission,” she said.

Kristen says the kids hadn’t eaten all day. It was mid-July and they were hungry, hot and exhausted. “Right away, they said to us, ‘Come get out of the heat, get some water and cool down. We’ll find a place for you.’”

*Continued on next page >*

*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

### Happy Thanksgiving!

I'm so grateful and blessed to have the support and partnership of this wonderful community and generous friends like you. THANK YOU!

God is doing incredible things through people like you, moving hearts and transforming lives.

So many people come here broken and lost. They get a warm meal, a friendly smile and unconditional love. Everything starts to change.

It's amazing what a little love and support can do for someone who is hurting and alone. I hope you understand what a difference you make and how many people are thankful for you this holiday.

Sincerely,

*Heather Engle*

Heather Engle  
CEO

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

— Psalms 107:1



Kristen

> Continued from the cover

### "The stress just lifted"

It took some rearranging, but thanks to support from friends like you, the Mission was able to take Kristen's whole family in and give them a place to be safe and fed while they get back on their feet.

"When they said they had a place for us, it was like the stress just lifted. If I hadn't been able to come here, I probably would have lost my kids," she says. "Now I can provide for them and get my other son back from the state. They've had him in a care facility because I wasn't stable. Now I can get my baby back and know that I can take care of him."

Kristen's family is back on their feet and putting their lives back together. And this holiday, they're thankful for people like you who helped them.

**Your support makes everything we do at the Mission possible. You help save lives. We're counting on you this holiday season! †**

### Interested in being a volunteer or mentor?

Mentors provide life-changing spiritual and mental guidance to clients in our recovery program. We're also looking for volunteers for our dining hall and thrift store. See all our volunteer opportunities, and sign up through our new volunteer portal at [vegasrescue.org/volunteer](https://vegasrescue.org/volunteer). Thank you!

# “This place saved my life”

*A grateful former client gives back to help others*

**T**oday, Geoffrey works at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. But just a few years ago, he came here in the back of a police car with an ankle monitor on.

Geoffrey didn't have a typical childhood. His dad was a Harley mechanic and biker who worked hard all week and partied harder all weekend. His mom was a drug dealer.

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

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“Drugs weren't just a way of life — they were our livelihood,” Geoffrey says. “As far back as I can remember, maybe 4 years old, I remember seeing drugs on the kitchen table.”

Geoffrey started doing drugs at just 12 years old. And eventually he followed in his mother's footsteps, until he wound up in jail.



Geoffrey

***Thanks to your support, Geoffrey was able to enroll in a recovery program that gave him a new path in life.***

When he was released, he had nowhere to go, so police brought him here to the Mission. After attending a chapel service, Geoffrey says he had “a soul-awakening epiphany.” He realized the road he was on would never lead to anything good. So he enrolled in our recovery program, and that's when everything changed.

“I wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for the Mission,” he says. “The year before I enrolled in the recovery program, I overdosed three times. This place — and the people who support it — saved my life.”

**Geoffrey is so grateful to supporters like you who made his life transformation possible. We're grateful too! Keep up the good work! ✝**

## Your support makes all the difference!

Take a look at what you helped make possible from January to June 2019.



**200,620**  
Meals Served



**32,452**  
Emergency Beds  
Provided




**2,547**  
Individuals Received  
Free Clothing



**150**  
Individuals in  
Recovery Programs

**It only takes \$11.66 to provide a night of shelter, a shower and two healthy meals for a person in need. Think of the impact you can make this holiday season!**



*Your support helped Matthew turn his life around.*

## “I know my future holds something better”

*Matthew finds help and hope in our recovery program*

**M**atthew grew up in a small town where opioid abuse was prevalent, and his friends were no exception.

He started with prescription pain medication and moved on to heroin. His addiction brought him to Vegas when his parents could no longer watch him ruin his life.

He tried many times to turn his life around — he even joined the Marines. But that led to a dishonorable discharge when he was caught using drugs.

When Matthew brought the woman he loved into his addiction, he knew he had to change. He tried

other rehab programs, but Matthew says, “They didn’t stick — I think because God wasn’t present in those programs.”

So he turned to the Mission for help. Now he’s in our recovery program and feels hope for the first time in a long time. “Addiction has taken everything from me,” Matthew says. “But I already feel a change. I know my future holds something better.”

Matthew says he’s reconnecting with his family and has a support network unlike anything he’s ever had. “It’s like family — a brotherhood,” says Matthew. “This place means so much. The Mission truly saves lives.”

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

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



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

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

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

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

### Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need this holiday.

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 Las Vegas Rescue Mission.