

THE BEACON



Stories of light and transformation
from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

FALL EDITION

"I Would Be Lost on the Street"

After two years of homelessness, Jesse now has his life on track.

Jesse had a sales job that sometimes paid well ... and sometimes didn't pay at all. He was eventually evicted for failure to pay rent, and spent the next two years on the streets.

Two years of sleeping in his van, on the bus, on park benches, in a tent — "anywhere I could before I was asked to leave," he says — had worn him out. "I was having a very difficult time there for a while."

"It was fantastic how much they helped me in so many ways."

So, early this year, he took a friend's advice and went to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission where, thanks to your help, he started turning his life around.

The Mission helped Jesse get some vital documents he lacked — a Social Security card, his birth certificate, a driver's license — as well as Medicaid, food stamps, and a job with a local car dealership where he was selling automobiles.

"It was fantastic how much they helped me in so many ways," Jesse says.

All was going well until mid-March, when COVID-19 changed everything. The car dealership closed, and Jesse was out of work again. While unemployed, he studied for and got his real estate license — again with the help of the Mission.



Because of you, Jesse now has a future filled with promise.

"I'm a salesman at heart," Jesse says. "Selling real estate has been a lifelong dream. And I think I've finally matured enough to handle it."

Jesse plans to find his own place soon. In the meantime, he's grateful for friends like you who helped make it all possible.

"If it weren't for the Las Vegas Rescue Mission," he says, "I would be lost on the street with no place to go, no place to sleep, and nothing to eat. The Mission has been wonderful. Thank you!"

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

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A Note from the CEO Grateful Anyway

This year has been challenging, to say the least. COVID-19 brought unprecedented difficulties, and stretched our resources like never before.

Nevertheless, I'm grateful anyway as we head into the Thanksgiving season. I'm grateful for the way our team has risen to the occasion to meet the needs of our neighbors.

And I'm particularly grateful for your support, because our work doesn't get done without you.

I know there are plenty of men, women and children who have come through our doors who are thankful for you, too. And I wish you and your loved ones a happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Heather Engle

Heather Engle
CEO



How We're Responding to COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic changed the way we all live our lives, including the way the Mission runs its operations and serves our neighbors in need.

Since March, we've had to limit the number of new clients in our shelter and recovery program. We had to cancel volunteer shifts for months, shut down our Thrift Store and postpone or cancel a number of events. We've even had to delay renovations to our Shelter of Hope.

And, of course, we've been using rigorous safety and sanitizing practices as outlined by health experts. We take the temperature of anyone who comes onto the property, and we've quarantined any guests who have shown symptoms of the virus.

Meanwhile, our costs have increased. While guests stay on-site during the day, we've had to acquire more personal protective equipment — like masks and gloves and other items — to prevent the spread of the virus. We're also serving more food — at one point as much as seven meals a day — and that has driven our costs up, too.

Local partners like Zappos and nearby casinos have donated food regularly. And thanks to donations from Get Fresh, we were able to start a temporary produce distribution program on site.

Our chapel services have continued, but without in-person guest speakers. Instead, we've been streaming services from local churches.

We expect the effects of the pandemic — and widespread unemployment — to continue, and even worsen, as more individuals and families become homeless. The demand for food and shelter will likely get worse before it gets better.

But we are confident that, with God's grace and the faithful partnership of good friends like you, we will be able to keep up with the rising need. Please consider giving again today. Thank you! †

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever..."

— Psalm 107:1



A Fresh Start

A single mom of a child with a disability, Debs has found new life.

Eighteen years ago, life took two dramatic turns for Debs. First, her daughter Rylee was born with Down syndrome. And second, within weeks, her husband left.

She's been a single mother of a child with a disability ever since. But Debs says her journey got really difficult in 2012 when her mother died, sending her on a downward spiral of battling addiction.

"I couldn't cope with my mother's death," Debs says. "But I can't blame that on my own bad choices."

She had a few stretches of homelessness and was in and out of rehab until she decided to come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission in 2019. It was Debs' third time with the Mission over the years, but she's convinced that,

this time, she's turned the corner for good.

"I've been sober for more than a year now," she says. "I feel good for the first time in a long time. The Mission has been so much help. I don't ever want to go back to those old ways again."

Rylee graduated from high school in June, and Debs plans to make up for lost time with her daughter.

"Thank God for the Mission," she says. "Because I'm clean, I've been able to start anew, and to make it better each and every day for my daughter and for me. The Mission has given me that. Thank you!"

Debs is grateful to supporters like you who made her transformation possible. Thank you for your compassion! †



Your Support Makes All the Difference!

Here's what YOU helped make possible from July 2019 to June 2020:



338,250
Meals Served



51,500
Beds Provided



3,400
People Received
Free Clothing



315
People 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!



“The Mission truly saved my life ... Because of their love and support, I have hope.”

— Bonnie

“I’ve Finally Fully Surrendered to God”

Because of you, Bonnie no longer lives a life of pain.

As a child, Bonnie was sexually abused by a family friend.

“And that’s what started me drinking,” she says today. For decades, Bonnie drank and used drugs to numb her pain. And still, she couldn’t escape the abuse.

“I’ve had a bad track record with relationships,” she says.

A little over a year ago, Bonnie decided she’d had enough. She left an abusive marriage and came to the Mission. She left substance abuse behind, too. And with the Mission’s help — and the support of caring friends like you — she’s been sober and safe ever since.

“With counseling,” she says, “I’ve been able to really dig deep and deal with the issues that were causing me to want to self-medicate. It’s been a painful but necessary process in order to heal. Now I’ve finally fully surrendered to God, and I’ve let go of a lot of things. I don’t feel like I have the weight of the world on my shoulders anymore.”

Happily, Bonnie is now a member of our staff! She says, “I believe the Mission truly saved my life. Without them, I’d be dead. But because of their love and support, I have hope.”

Thank you for helping Bonnie turn her life around!” †

▼ ▼ PLEASE CUT OFF THE REPLY FORM BELOW, AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU. ▼ ▼

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS THANKSGIVING!



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



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

YES! I want to help provide warm meals and care to my neighbors in need this Thanksgiving. Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$17.36 to provide 8 meals and care.
- ☐ \$28.21 to provide 13 meals and care.
- ☐ \$56.42 to provide 26 meals and care.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as many meals and care as possible.
- ☐ I'd like to give monthly.

My first gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.
To give online, visit vegasrescue.org