

# THE BEACON



Stories of Light and Transformation  
From Las Vegas Rescue Mission

EASTER EDITION

## “A Life of Chaos”

*Your support helped Sheri find hope, peace and a new life*

After decades of running, lying, stealing, using and living in fear, Sheri is at last finding rest for her body, mind and soul.

“Mine was a life of chaos,” she says.

Sheri started using drugs as a teenager in New York ... and pretty much never stopped. She would lie and steal — even from her own parents — to feed her habit. She was always looking over her shoulder, living in fear.

## “This place is a lifesaver.”

She fled to Vegas to escape her demons, determined to get clean, but she got in even deeper. Finally, in the spring of 2019, she had had enough, so she contacted Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

She had been to the Mission before, but didn't commit to the program and had relapsed hard. This time, she texted a staff member at the Mission, saying, “Please! Do you have a bed for me?” Desperate, she stared at her phone for what seemed like an eternity before it went *ding*.

“Yes.” That one-word text was loaded with meaning: *Yes, my child. We have a bed for you. We have food for you. We have love for you. Come, bring your burdens, and we will help you find freedom.*



*Thanks to your kindness, Sheri has turned her life around.*

“I couldn't believe they said yes,” Sheri says. “They told me to hurry up and get there. I said, ‘I'm on my way, I'm on my way.’ And when I got there, she was standing right there in the lobby, waiting for me. I ran right into her arms and cried and told them everything.”

## A Difficult Journey

Later this spring, Sheri, 55, will celebrate two years of sobriety. It's been a difficult journey, she says, but totally worth it.

“When you first get there, they want to see how badly you want to change,” she says. “Before, I didn't want it bad enough. This time, I showed them how bad I want it.

“So you begin the process, starting with decompressing

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## A Note From the CEO

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

— 2 Cor. 5:17

One of the great joys of working at a rescue mission is that you get to experience a taste of Easter all year round . . . and I’m not talking about chocolate bunnies and jelly beans! I’m talking about resurrection and new life . . . like the stories of Sheri, Jeff and Judy in this edition of *The Beacon*.

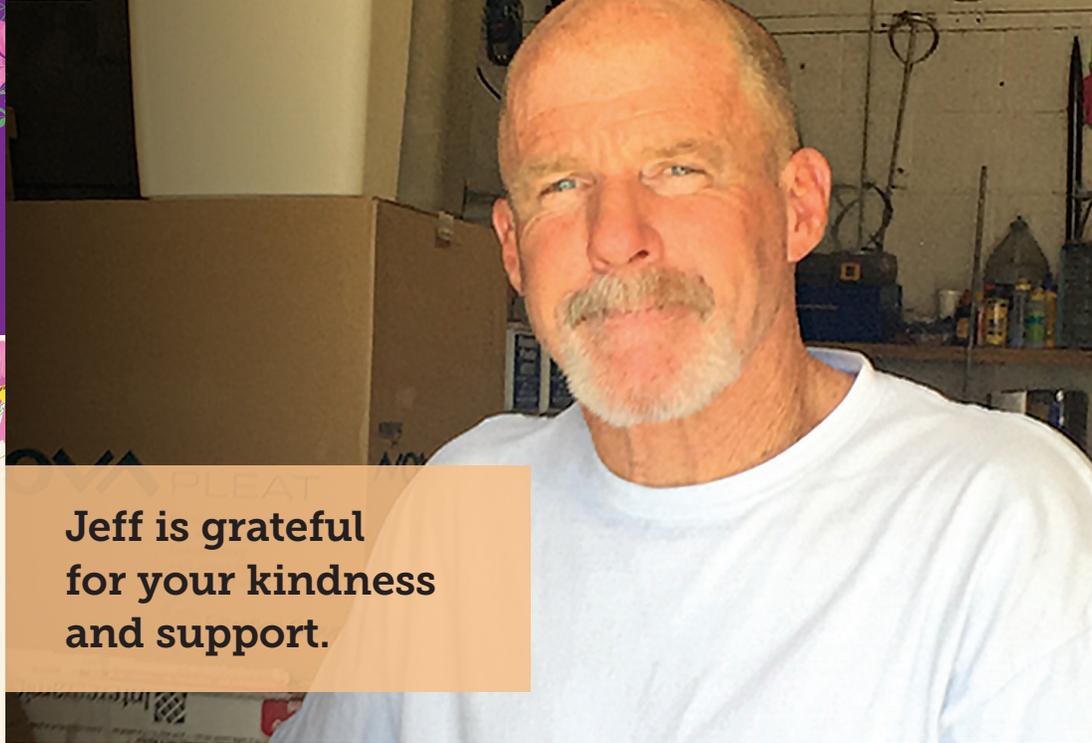
They’re just three examples of the stories we see all the time here at Las Vegas Rescue Mission, stories of lives changed, of finding God, of emerging from darkness into life. Like Paul wrote to the believers in Corinthians, “the new creation has come!”

These new creation stories wouldn’t be possible without your support. Thank you, and happy Easter to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

*Heather Engle*

Heather Engle  
CEO



**Jeff is grateful for your kindness and support.**

## “I Was Fed Up With Life”

*How you helped Jeff find hope at the Mission*

Jeff spent 24 years in a California prison for what he calls “a stupid crime,” and upon release, he moved to Las Vegas to find a brand new start. But when a beloved aunt died, he spun into a deep depression, drowning his grief in alcohol.

He lost everything, and spent more than five years homeless on the street, “fed up with life,” he says. “I didn’t like anything.”

One day, he decided to pray: “Maybe there’s a higher power.” He prayed and wept till he fell asleep. The next morning, “Everything was crystal clear,” Jeff says. “I didn’t want alcohol or a cigarette. I can’t explain it. I felt God’s presence.”

Jeff says God led him to the Mission, where he joined the recovery program. That was four years ago. He finished the program and was immediately hired as the Mission’s maintenance man.

“I still have no desire to drink or do drugs,” he says. “Everything that bothered me in life, I’ve addressed. The Mission has been so kind to me. They gave me the ability to be me. You can’t find a better recovery center than this place. It doesn’t get any better.”

**Thank YOU for helping men like Jeff turn their lives around! †**

## Volunteers Needed!

There’s always a need for volunteers, during the Easter season or at any time of year. If you would like to get involved, please visit [lvrescuemission.volunteerhub.com](http://lvrescuemission.volunteerhub.com) for more information.

**Upcoming Events:**  
**EASTER COMMUNITY MEAL**  
Friday, April 2 (3 p.m. — 6 p.m.)



# An Extreme Makeover

*Shelter of Hope refurbishment makes the facility shine with love*

If you ask Aly Martinez, our Clinical Director, why work needed to be done at the Shelter of Hope — our facility for women and children — she gets right to the point.

“For someone who hasn’t lived on the streets, and it’s their first time being homeless, they don’t want to walk into a building that’s completely trashed,” Martinez says. “They’re already scared, wondering *What’s going to happen to me? Will I be safe here? Should I even stay here?* We wanted to take all those worries away from the moment you walk through our doors. And we’ve done that.”

We’re thrilled with the thorough refurbishment of the building, making it much more attractive and affirming for our residents. We’ve opened up the main floor to make it more spacious and inviting. We’ve remodeled four bathrooms, added new flooring, and made many more improvements.

The year-long project was completed in November, bringing the facility back to its full capacity of 68 beds. During construction, capacity was cut approximately in half.

Before the makeover, the aging Shelter of Hope — built in the 1980s — didn’t communicate much in the way of “shelter” or “hope” because of its condition. But now, it’s brimming with hope and love.

CEO Heather Engle gives a big shout-out to the PENTA Building Group, which donated a lot of labor for the project, along with many subcontractors and those



**Aly says that the refurbished Shelter of Hope is a welcoming, safe space for homeless women and their children.**



who donated materials too. “We’re very grateful,” says Engle.

The Shelter of Hope refurbishment is just the first step in a multiple-phase building project at the Mission. A renovation is planned, and more space is needed for additional beds to serve the community.

***These upgrades at the Mission are made possible only through your support. Please consider another gift today as we begin future phases of rebuilding and renewing our aging facilities. Thank you! †***

*Continued from cover*

## “A Life of Chaos”

from fear. Once you know that no one can get into here after you, once you know you’re safe, then the drugs and alcohol still have to come completely out of your system. Then you’re on the way.”

Sheri says she reached a point where she “got centered,” where she could “work on the mental, the physical, the social and the spiritual” matters.

“You have to be truthful, all the time, even when it feels like a detriment,” she says. “But it’s not a detriment. It’s like putting mirrors up all around you. No matter

where you look, you’re looking at yourself.”

Sheri can’t say enough about the help she received at the Mission.

“This place is a lifesaver,” she says. “I’ve been broken down completely, and I’ve been reborn. That’s what this place does. They’re angels on earth.”

***You’re also an angel on earth, thanks to your support of the Mission. Your kindness helps many people like Sheri find hope and healing. Thank you! †***



# “I’m Filled With Gratitude”

*You offered Judy a helping hand when she needed it most*

**W**hen 80-year-old Judy fell and got a cut on her forehead, she walked into a nearby drug store and said, “I need a Band-Aid.”

The pharmacist took one look at her and said, “You need more than a Band-Aid.” He called an ambulance and Judy was taken to the hospital, where a battery of tests revealed that she had cancer.

Judy spent most of the next 45 days either in the hospital or rehab, and her medical bills exploded. She lost everything — her apartment, her furniture, her clothes, *everything* — and ended up homeless, on the streets.

She slept on cardboard and a concrete slab behind a restaurant for a few weeks, and then turned to Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

While Judy continued her recovery at the Mission, she enjoyed having children around: “They all called me Grandma,” she says. “Everybody there called me Grandma. It was heartwarming.”

Judy says that without the Mission, “I’d still be on the streets. And it’s terrible on the streets. But this place offers a helping hand to people in need. They’ll do everything they can to help you.



*Thanks to your caring support, Judy recovered and received the help she needed.*

“The Mission makes you feel at home. And I’m filled with gratitude.”

*Judy would thank you in person if she could! Thank you for your support! †*

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

## I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS EASTER 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 Easter season. Enclosed is my gift of:**

- \$17.36 to provide 8 meals and other assistance.
- \$28.21 to provide 13 meals and other assistance.
- \$56.42 to provide 26 meals and other assistance.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as much 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](http://vegasrescue.org)  
**Thank you!**