

THE

BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation
From the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

THANKSGIVING
EDITION

“Dying Twice Gets Your Attention”

Darrell’s excessive drinking nearly killed him. But then you came to his rescue.

You might think that drinking a gallon of vodka every day would essentially amount to a self-imposed death sentence.

But that’s just what Darrell did . . . for five years. And yet he lived to tell the tale.

Barely.

Last summer, while visiting his mother, Darrell got very sick. He became dehydrated, started having seizures, and then his heart stopped. Twice.

His mom performed CPR until an ambulance arrived, and the paramedics picked it up from there. He made it to the hospital and recovered.

“I have a brand-new perspective on life.”

“But dying twice tends to get your attention,” Darrell says today.

He’d been an alcoholic for years, his addiction fueled by an inheritance that paid his bills but also enabled his drinking — and his lack of responsibility.

“I knew I was lost in my alcoholism,” he says, “but I never felt like I had a way out.”

But Darrell’s near-death experience forced him to seek a way out . . . and his mom had an idea: Go to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.



Because of you, Darrell has found sobriety and turned his life around.

That was a year ago. He hasn’t had a drink since.

Moral of the story: Always listen to your mother . . . even when you’re 38 years old.

“I Was Scared”

Darrell says when he first walked through the doors at the Mission, he wondered, *What have I gotten myself into?*

“I was scared,” he says, “because I hadn’t been sober in a long time. I didn’t remember what it was like to be sober. I was afraid of how my body would react, how

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A Note From the CEO

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

— Psalm 107:1

Alcohol is like a lot of things: It’s fine when enjoyed in moderation, but in excess, it can ruin everything.

That’s just what happened for the three success stories you’ll read in *The Beacon*. Darrell, Teri and Eric all had battles with the bottle, all with awful results.

But there’s a reason we call them “success stories.” Thanks to the loving support of friends like you, all three of them found help, hope and healing at the Mission. All three have found sobriety and new life. All three are radically changed!

Our fourth story is about a faithful volunteer who has also found a kind of healing here — through volunteering! Read Adele’s story on the right side of this page.

I hope you’re encouraged by these stories. I know I am! As we enter the Thanksgiving season, I’m also encouraged by friends like you. And I’m so thankful.

Sincerely,

Heather Engle

Heather Engle
CEO



Adele shares your love for people who are hurting.

Born a Servant

This volunteer channels her pain into helping others.

Adele volunteers about 10 hours a week at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission because she likes helping people who are hurting.

“Because I’ve been there myself,” says Adele, 72.

When her husband survived the war in Vietnam, life went well for Adele and her family for the next few decades. But in 2003, their 34-year-old son was murdered, leaving behind a pregnant wife and a 5-month-old son. That same year, Adele lost a sister, a brother and a nephew.

She was devastated: “I’d never experienced pain like that.”

Adele and her husband spent much of the next two years helping their widowed daughter-in-law raise her two young children. But then Adele’s husband got cancer and died in 2005. More devastating pain.

Friends and family helped Adele during her time of grief. And she soon began pouring herself into others as part of the healing process. She volunteered in a women’s prison ministry. She volunteered in a home for senior citizens. And she started volunteering at the Mission.

“I’ve always been a helper,” she says. “I think I was born a servant.”

At the Mission, Adele works on Mondays in the kitchen, prepping and serving meals. On Wednesdays and Fridays, she helps in the thrift store.

“I just love people,” she says. “I may not know what they’re going through, but whatever it is, I’ve been there. Volunteering here is a blessing in my life.”

Thank you for sharing Adele’s love and compassion for those in need. †



Volunteers Needed!

Now that the pandemic seems to be behind us, we’re welcoming volunteers back to the Mission! If you would like to get involved, please visit lvrescuemission.volunteerhub.com

“I Didn’t Want to Go Back to My Old Life”

And thanks to friends like you, she didn’t have to.

Teri can hardly remember a time when she didn’t drink.

“My mom opened up a bottle of wine when I was five years old,” she says. “And she just sat there and laughed and watched me drink it.”

Teri does remember how the alcohol made her feel that day. “And ever since then, anytime I got a chance, I was drinking.”

That was more than 50 years ago. Teri got married and had a family along the way, and even enjoyed a few stretches of sobriety. But her addiction kept getting the best of her, ruining relationships — including her marriage — along the way.

When her mother died last year, Teri hit rock bottom. “I just stayed in bed and drank and didn’t get up. Finally, my roommate said, ‘Get out.’”

For the next three months, Teri lived in her car with her dog, Buck. She tried moving in with her son, but he wouldn’t put up with her drinking and brought her to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

“I wasn’t happy about that,” Teri says. “But I had run out of options, and I understand why he did it.”

Before long, Teri was embracing her new situation.

“I didn’t want to go back to my old life,” she says. “I



Teri is enjoying new life, thanks to the Mission . . . and YOU!

decided to do everything they asked, go through the programs, everything.”

And now?

“I love it here,” she says. “Everything you need, it’s here. Meetings. Counselors. Built-in friends. Food. You couldn’t ask for anything more. It’s awesome.”

Teri’s car has since been sold, and Buck was adopted by an older couple. (“They tell me he’s very happy,” she says.) But she’s looking forward, not behind.

“I want to spend the rest of my life helping others, doing the kind of work they do here,” she says. “I like to help people get better, and I see that here every day.”

Thanks to the support of friends like you, stories like this do happen every day at the Mission. And people like Teri are eternally grateful for your kindness. †

Continued from cover

“Dying Twice Gets Your Attention”

my mind would react, how I would speak, walk and act. I was pretty nervous.”

But it didn’t take long for him to realize he was in exactly the right place.

“First of all, I figured that I must somehow be favored by the Lord for surviving what I’d been through,” Darrell says. “Most people’s hearts don’t stop twice in one day and then live to talk about it.

“So there must be something here that I was meant to do. I knew I wasn’t done. I just had to figure out what I had to live for.”

Part of it was to build up his faith. Another part was to build up himself, and to learn how to properly

care for his body and mind.

The Mission has helped with all of that, he says.

“They’ve worked with me so well that I’m not afraid of failure when I leave here,” he says. “I know I have the tools and mindset now to do it.

“I’m a new person now. I have a brand-new perspective on life. I really know what gratitude is now, and how to be humble and grateful.

“I love this place, and I’m a lot better person for having been here.”

That’s what your support does: You help make people better! Thank you! †

“Headfirst Into Oblivion”

Eric had lost all hope . . . till your love welcomed him to the Mission.

Many who struggle with substance abuse can point to something that triggered their addiction — maybe an abusive childhood or a personal tragedy.

But not Eric.

“I’ve had an extraordinarily normal life,” he says. “I came from a very loving family.”

Eric, 50, says if anything jump-started his battle with the bottle, it might have been an overactive brain.

“I majored in philosophy and religion,” he says. “I got to thinking too much, and I became overwhelmed with some sort of existential angst.”

He rarely drank in moderation.

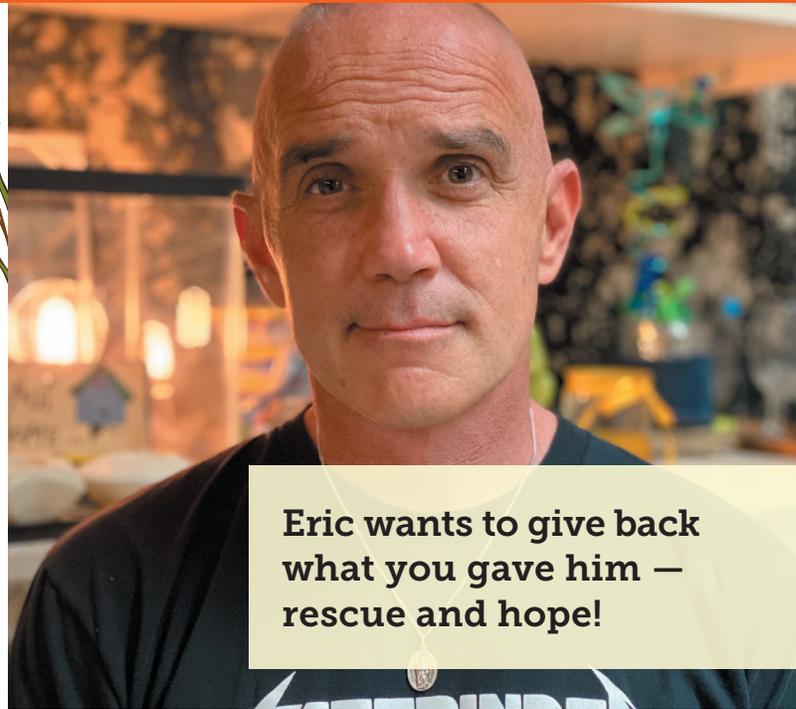
“The amount of vodka I’ve consumed could probably kill a whale,” he says. “I don’t know why I’m still alive.”

Along the way, Eric’s alcoholism cost him several jobs as an insurance claims adjuster. Worse, it cost him some close relationships, including two engagements.

The second broken engagement, not too long ago, really left him reeling.

“I became overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness,” he says. “I no longer cared about anything. That’s when I went headfirst into oblivion.”

Soon thereafter, Eric came to the Mission.



Eric wants to give back what you gave him — rescue and hope!

“I was nervous,” he says. “But I knew I needed to do something. Now I wish I’d done it sooner.”

Eric says the Mission not only helped him find sobriety again — he hasn’t had a drink in about a year and a half — but helped him find purpose, too.

“Working in claims was rather soulless,” he says. “Now I want to get a job in recovery because of the experience I’ve had at the Mission. In an effort to make up for some of the damage I’ve done with my drinking, I want to do something where I’m a benefit to others.”

“Without the Mission, I’d be in the streets, suffering. Now I want to give back what was so freely given to me.”

Eric, and many others like him, thank YOU for freely giving to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, where your support turns lives around every single day. †

▼ ▼ PLEASE DETACH 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 my neighbors in need this fall 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. **Thank you!**
To give online, visit vegasrescue.org