

# THE BEACON

Stories of light and transformation  
from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

CHRISTMAS 2021  
EDITION

## When Alcohol Consumes You

*How you helped Antoine stop drinking and start living again.*

Antoine had everything. A wife he loved. Two kids he adored. A well-paying job. A nice neighborhood. "A nice middle-class life," he says. "I had it all."

And then it all fell apart. Antoine says infidelity in their marriage led to a divorce, which led to depression, which led to drinking, which led to . . .

*"Instead of getting help, I used alcohol for help. And it just went downhill from there."*

"Alcohol had taken over my life," says Antoine, who had never had a drink before his marriage fell apart in 2008. "First it was just one beer. Then two. Then it eventually turned to liquor."

He drank to numb his emotional pain. And then, after back surgery, he drank even more to numb his physical pain.

"Instead of getting help, I used alcohol for help," Antoine says. "And it just went downhill from there."

He had been a driver for a local company, making \$70,000 a year. He never drank on the job, but at the end of the workday, he hit the bottle hard, got plastered, went

Thanks to support from friends like you, Antoine is a new man.

to bed, then got up to do it all over again.

"I couldn't wait to get home each day so I could start drinking," he says.

Eventually, it caught up with him. Not only had he lost his marriage, but he had damaged his relationships.

"When alcohol consumes you, you can't control it," Antoine says. "You need professional help. I had to set aside my pride and seek help."

When Antoine finally admitted that, a friend had a recommendation: the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

## Giving Back

Antoine walked through our doors in November 2020 a broken man, but with a glimmer of hope that he could turn things around.

"I was ashamed," he says. "And I was afraid of the

*Continues on page 3*

SEE INSIDE:

Brand New Start ..... Page 2  
"My Own Worst Enemy" ..... Page 3  
How You Can Deliver Christmas Joy ..... Page 4







## A NOTE FROM THE CEO

*“Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed ...”*

As that tune reminds us every Christmas, the baby Jesus was born into homelessness. Joseph and Mary had made their way to Bethlehem, with no place to lay their own heads, much less their soon-to-be-born child.

And so the Savior of the world was born homeless in muck and straw and dirt ... not too unlike a cold, dark, dirty back alley in any of our own cities.

Jesus knows homelessness. And Jesus knows our homeless neighbors, every single one of them.

This Christmas, as always, he calls them to Himself — and to new life. Your support helps make that happen.

*“The little Lord Jesus lay  
down his sweet head ...”*

Your gift today will give people not only a place to lay down their heads this Christmas, but also food, shelter, comfort, hope and joy. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Heather Engle  
CEO



Charmayne says her life is “going great now,” thanks to you.

## Brand New Start

*How you’re helping this single mom find hope after tragedy.*

Charmayne just wanted a place to start over. Her young children, all under age 10, had lost their father in a car accident, and she needed to get out of Kansas City.

She did some research, and settled on the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. She packed up the kids and headed 1,350 miles west, ready to begin again.

“I just stepped out in faith and did what I had to do for me and my family,” Charmayne says. “And we went from there.”

They were only at the Mission for about a month, but thanks to your help, it was a productive month. We helped her change her residency to Nevada, register her kids in school, update her resumé, find a job, qualify for subsidized childcare, and get into new housing — a 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo. We even gave her a furniture voucher from our thrift store.

Finally, we helped her find financial aid for school: Charmayne is now pursuing a degree as a phlebotomy technician at Northwest Career College.

“Pretty much everything is going great now,” says Charmayne. “Everyone at the Mission was so helpful, helping me reach my goal and get things done.

“Las Vegas Rescue Mission is a great place to find opportunity for people who are in different situations. They really helped out, and I love them.”

*Thanks to you, single moms like Charmayne find hope, healing and a new start. †*



## Volunteers Needed!

Now that the holidays are upon us, we need more and more volunteers at the Mission! If you would like to get involved, please visit [lvrescuemission.volunteerhub.com](http://lvrescuemission.volunteerhub.com)





## “My Own Worst Enemy”

*Garfield kept getting in his own way . . . till your love and compassion intervened.*

Going to prison is a rock-bottom moment for most people, a time for self-examination, a time to consider turning things around.

Not Garfield. He’s been to prison seven times, mostly on drug charges. Every time he got out, he immediately went back to his old ways.

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*“The Mission treated me with dignity and respect. They gave me hope and they inspired me ...”*

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But in January 2020, facing another charge, a wise probation officer gave Garfield a choice: Back behind bars. Or into the Las Vegas Rescue Mission’s rehab program.

Garfield reluctantly chose the latter. “I still wanted to do things my way,” he says. “But I’m my own worst enemy. I had to learn how to get out of my own way and just allow other people to help me.”

Garfield got the help he needed at the Mission, but it wasn’t easy.

“It takes a lot of hard work, but it’s worth it,” he says. “The Mission treated me with dignity and respect. They gave me hope and they inspired me that I was worthy and I could do better. But you’ve got to want it.”

At 54 years old, he had at last reached a point where he wanted it.

It’s no surprise that Garfield had little self-worth,



**Garfield now gives back as an assistant case manager at the Mission.**

considering his difficult childhood. His mother, a victim of domestic abuse, was a drug addict herself. She committed suicide when Garfield was 14.

“A lot of trauma,” he says. “Those things had an effect on me.”

Garfield says he was “spiritually dead” when he arrived at the Mission, but now puts his trust — and his life — in God’s hands. His turnaround has been so dramatic that he’s now on Mission staff as an assistant case manager, helping other men and women start anew.

“I’m giving back,” says Garfield, who is also pursuing a psychology degree and then his certification in counseling. “I think the main aim in life is to be of service and to love. After getting on my feet, I’m able to help others, and that’s the greatest gift right there.”

*Your support of the Mission is another great gift. Thanks to you, men like Garfield are finding new life every day. Thank you. †*

*Continued from cover*

## When Alcohol Consumes You

unknown. I’d never been in a rehab program before.”

He says it took a couple months before he fully bought into the system, got honest with himself, and addressed the “why” behind his addiction.

Through counseling, Antoine came to realize how much he had been hurt by growing up in a fatherless, and mostly motherless, home.

“I never met my father,” he says. “And that took a hold in my life that I never even realized. And my mother wasn’t always there. I was raised by my grandparents.”

Antoine says he’s learned a lot about himself at the Mission, particularly that growing up fatherless was not

his fault. “And I have to move on from it. Because if I keep it with me, I’ll pass it on to my children. But I’m here to break that cycle,” he says.

Now approaching one year of sobriety, Antoine credits the Mission and God for turning things around.

“The Mission saved me,” he says. And now he’s giving back — as a case manager for another organization.

“This is the kind of work I want to do,” he says. “I love helping people.”

*Thank YOU for giving people like Antoine the opportunity to turn their lives around. †*



# How You Can Deliver Christmas Joy

**T**he 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 to your neighbors in need.

Our annual Toy Giveaway, scheduled for **Saturday, Dec. 18**, is one of our biggest outreach events of the year. You can help by donating toys from Dec. 1–17. Gifts for children ages 11+ are the most needed.

We will also hold our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, though when this newsletter went to print, details had not been finalized due to the unknown effects of COVID-19 at that time. Please keep checking our website for updated information.

*To learn more about volunteering, please call 702-382-1766, email [volunteer@vegasrescue.org](mailto:volunteer@vegasrescue.org) or visit our website [vegasrescue.org/volunteer](http://vegasrescue.org/volunteer).*

*Thank you! †*



## PLEASE REMEMBER THE MISSION THIS CHRISTMAS!

- **Donate on GivingTuesday, Nov. 30**
- **Toy Giveaway, Saturday, Dec. 18**
- **Give anytime at [vegasrescue.org/donate](http://vegasrescue.org/donate)**

*Thank you, and Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!*



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