

THE BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation
from Las Vegas Rescue Mission

EASTER EDITION

No More Running

*Overcome by the Mission's love,
Tiffany chose to stay with us
and face her issues.*

Tiffany did not want to change.

She'd served three different jail sentences on drug charges since she was 18. Now 36, she had another chance. The drug court program sent her to a halfway house to make sure she stayed on the right track.

She didn't. Before long, she ran away and was arrested again.

*"I was so consumed by my old
behavior and my addictions."*

A patient caseworker decided to give Tiffany another chance, this time sending her to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. Tiffany wasn't having it.

"I thought, *I'm just going to run again*," she says. "I was so consumed by my old behavior and my addictions. That was my mindset."

But then a funny thing happened at the Mission gate: Love overwhelmed her.

While her probation officer filled out paperwork, Tiffany, waiting just outside the entrance, was met by a wave of compassion. The pastor personally welcomed her. Staff members greeted her with a smile. Several guests came up and hugged her.



**Tiffany is grateful for
supporters like you,
who give her hope!**

Before she knew it, "I had a change of mind. These people welcomed me with open arms. They were talking to me like I was human, like I mattered."

By the time she was settling into her room less than two hours later, she had changed. "I felt a big weight lifted off me. The obsession to use drugs, my old lifestyle, all had lifted. I realized, I'm not going to run. That was really awesome."

"I Was Sad a Lot as a Child"

Tiffany was essentially born into the drug scene. Both parents were addicts, and her dad was a dealer. When they separated, Tiffany ended up with her mom, whose usage

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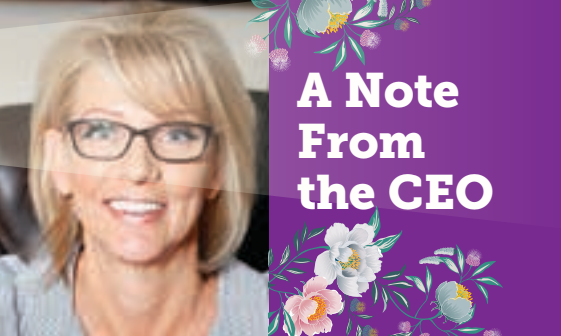
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A Note From the CEO

*Up from the grave, He arose
With a mighty triumph
o'er His foes*

So begins the chorus of "Christ Arose," a popular Easter hymn. The tune is about the Resurrection of Jesus, but it's a story we see frequently here at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

Here's how it typically goes: Someone comes to us in darkness. Maybe it's an addiction. Maybe it's depression. Maybe it's abuse. Maybe it's just one bad break after another that has left them desperate for help.

But this much is the same for all of them: *They are in search of new life.* They desperately need some kind of resurrection to see the light again.

That's just what you provide with your gifts to the Mission. You're making it possible for a broken person to be made whole again.

On behalf of all those you've helped here at the Mission, I am deeply grateful. And I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter!

In His service,

Heather Engle

Heather Engle
CEO

His own history of addiction helps Pastor Daniel earn trust with guests.



"To Just Love on People" *Pastor Dan, our chaplain, says it's his top priority.*

Pastor Daniel Ensing likes to be there when new guests first arrive at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission because it's a critical moment.

"Most people who come through the gates don't feel that they deserve love," says Pastor Dan, the Mission's chaplain. "They're at their lowest moments in life. They feel like they're unredeemable. It's humbling."

He knows because he's been there. One moment stands out: A little more than a decade ago, he drove to his drug dealer's house . . . with his wife and children, including a 2-year-old, in the car.

"I'm inside buying drugs and getting high," he remembers. "And my family's outside in the car. That was pretty much my lowest of lows."

Dan continued making poor choices till his wife had had enough. In 2010, she picked up the children and moved out. That's when he decided to make some changes. It was too late to save his marriage, but not to save himself.

He started recovery, got serious about his faith and, before long, he was leading the men's recovery groups at his church. He became the Mission's pastor in November 2020, and is now also pursuing a degree in ministry.

Dan says his personal history helps him to relate to Mission guests because he can truly say, "I've been there, right where you are."

At the Mission, Dan says he's "like spackle — I fill in wherever I can. If that means getting in the kitchen or covering security or helping unload a truck, that's my job.

"But my number one job is to just love on people — the residents, the clients, the staff, everyone — to let them know they are loved 100% with no conditions."

Thank you for your own ministry to our guests through your support! †

"Blessed by the Best!"

See how your kindness helped Jay in his road to recovery.

If you ever meet Jay and ask how he's doing, his response is immediate: "I am blessed by the best."

Pretty good outlook for a man who has battled depression, drug addiction and recovery from a gunshot wound. But that's what the Las Vegas Rescue Mission can do.

A DJ most of his life, Jay was spinning the tunes at a dance club a couple years ago when a fight broke out. Jay tried to break it up, and in the commotion that ensued, someone fired a gun.

Jay was shot in the foot, and the wound was severe. And he never fully recovered.

"I can't do the things I used to do, like play basketball and other things," he says. "It really got me down."

He turned to crystal meth to ease the pain, but things got worse: "It was tearing my body up. I was losing weight rapidly."

Friends told him to get help, but he resisted . . . for a while. Eventually, he realized they were right, and went to the Mission.

"I had heard that this was a good place for recovery," he says. "I know people who have been here, and they're doing good now."

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No More Running

escalated from cocaine to crystal meth to heroin.

"I remember being sad a lot as a child," she says. "And hungry."

Tiffany's own drug usage started at 11, and, like her mom, she kept moving on to harder and harder drugs, eventually getting addicted to heroin.

"Drugs didn't change my life," she says now. "They sculpted it."

She has had periods of sobriety over the years, but they never lasted long, and they were never prompted by any change of heart. "I was white-knuckling it," she says.

But not anymore. Tiffany says the Mission has not only helped her stay sober, but made her into a new person, one



Jay says he knew the Mission would be just the right place for him.

Jay is on that same track. The program has helped him learn some things about himself, uncovering some old emotional wounds.

"I had to work on those things," he says. "Now I face my problems head on."

When he thinks about the night he got shot, he realizes he's lucky; he could have been killed. "I think it was a message from God," Jay says, "telling me to spread my wings."

He doesn't know where he'd be without the Mission.

"I would be a mess," he says. "I needed help, and they've helped me tremendously."

Because of friends like you, men like Jay are putting their lives back together. Thank you! †

who wants sobriety and to make good choices. She credits those changes to the love and the people at the Mission.

"My history of drug addiction is kind of sad, but it also made me the person I am today," Tiffany says. "Because I'm here and in recovery, I've learned a lot and

I'm getting the tools that most people don't get. And I can use these tools in my daily life, even as a quote-unquote 'normal person.'

"Right now, I'm feeling free, fully free, for the first time in my life. I'm learning to live in the moment,

because that's the most freeing."

Thank YOU for helping women like Tiffany find new life this Easter season! †

"They Saved Me"

At the Mission and off the streets, Leonard found reason to live.

Leonard is crying. But they're good tears. When telling his story of how the Las Vegas Rescue Mission has helped him over the past couple of years, Leonard often gets choked up and sheds tears of gratitude.

"Please forgive me," he says, weeping, "but I'm doing the best I can."

It's easy to understand why Leonard gets so emotional. In 2019, he started losing weight rapidly and didn't know why. "I started disappearing," he says.

A doctor's visit explained it: Leonard had diabetes and cancer. And shortly after beginning treatments for those, he needed double hernia surgery.

He started losing hours at work, and eventually his employer let him go. "I started to see my life going down the drain," Leonard says. Unemployed, he soon became homeless and turned to drugs to ease his pain.

A cousin intervened and referred Leonard to the Mission, where things quickly began to look up. "I told them what I was going through," Leonard says through

Leonard used to believe no one loved him. "But now I know they do," he says!

tears. "They sat me down and we talked and I got all that negative energy out of me."

The Mission also helped Leonard apply for and receive disability income, which relieved much of his stress. He now feels hopeful about his future.

"My life is starting right now, at age 55," he says. "I'm thankful to God and the Mission. They never gave up on me. They had my back. They recharged my life."

"I wouldn't be here without them. They saved me."

Your support helps recharge neighbors like Leonard and give them hope. ✝

Catch the Vision

Save more lives by giving monthly through our Visionary Club!

Ending homelessness is hard, but donating is easy. Hope grows from envisioning a better tomorrow, and our Visionary Club members see their recurring commitment as helping foster hope every day.

To cancel or make adjustments to your recurring donation, please call 702-382-1766, ext. 1248



Becoming a Visionary Club member is easy!

- **SCAN the QR code** to the right with your smart phone's camera.
- **TAP the link** that appears for our donation page. (vegasrescue.org/donate/visionary-club)
- **GIVE a gift** to help your neighbors who are homeless, hurting and hungry. Thank you!



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