



THE BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation from Las Vegas Rescue Mission | CHRISTMAS EDITION



Holiday Volunteers Needed!

Now that the holidays are upon us, we need more volunteers!

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Mission; we simply cannot open our doors without them. There is always more work to be done than there are people to do it — especially during the holiday season.

Volunteering benefits the Mission, those in need and YOU — and takes as little as two hours. Everyone has a talent or gift they can share through volunteerism to make a difference and change lives.

Learn more at
vegasrescue.org/volunteer.



Thanks to you, Jayme has found new life at the Mission.

“I Was Hopeful”

When Jayme arrived, she knew something special had begun.

By the time she was 15, Jayme’s life was in shambles. She was already the mother of two children, a daunting task for anyone, much less a teenager. She took care of the kids during the week, and their father had them on weekends.

When Jayme went to pick them up one Sunday afternoon, they weren’t there. Neither was their father.

“The house was empty,” she says. “They were gone.”

She tried to track them down, but couldn’t. Distressed and depressed, she dove hard into drugs — meth, and later, heroin.

“I was so hurt,” Jayme says. “Everything went downhill from there. I was a mess.”

She gave up on the search for her kids, and never called the authorities. She would remain trapped in her addictions for almost two decades.

In her 20s, Jayme settled in with another man and even held a regular job. But when he suddenly left, Jayme spiraled even deeper.

She ended up on the streets, selling her body and stealing from stores to feed her drug addictions.

“It was very dangerous out there,” she says of her five years on the streets.

Right about this time last year, Jayme connected with another man — an old high

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Santa Claus has come a long way since 280 A.D.

That’s when the man who would later be remembered as St. Nicholas was born in a place we now know as Turkey. Nicholas, a Christian widely known for his kindness, supposedly gave away all his money and spent his life helping the poor and sick.

That’s the man that our modern-day (and over-commercialized) Santa is named for and modeled after. And it’s a man whose lifestyle we try to model here at the Mission — at Christmas and all year round. We want to be known for kindness and compassion — to the poor, to the homeless, to all who struggle and need help, hope and healing.

That’s our holiday prayer for everyone who walks through our doors. We want to be servants who deliver not just the material gifts that people need, but the spiritual — and eternal — gifts of love, joy and peace.

May that same spirit of Christmas be with you and your loved ones at this time.

Heather Engle

Heather Engle
CEO

“I Was Hopeful”, continued from front

school friend who’d found her on Facebook.

It was around Christmas time. And this guy ended up giving Jayme the best gift she’s ever received ...

A lifesaving ultimatum

When her new boyfriend found out about Jayme’s drug abuse, he gave her an ultimatum.

“He was like, ‘If this is going to work out between us, you’ve got to get some help,’” Jayme says. “So I thought about it for about 24 hours.”

And then she checked herself into a detox center. A few days later, she came directly to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

“I had a feeling this was going to be a wonderful new start of life for me.”

Thanks to the support of compassionate people like you, Jayme had found a place to heal.

“When I came through those doors,” she says, “I was hopeful. I had a feeling this was going to be a wonderful new start of life for me. And it has.”

Jayme says the recovery programs at the Mission have been life-changing. Now 33, she is enjoying sobriety for the first time since she was 15.

“Sobriety feels kind of weird, but in a good way,” she says. “Now I see how people are supposed to be. Normal.”

And she likes it.

Jayme has reconnected with her children — now in their mid-teens — via social media. They’re living with their grandmother in North Dakota, and she plans to reunite with them sometime after she’s done with her time at the Mission.

But for now, she’s busy planning a holiday wedding — with the man who helped save her life, the old high school friend who gave her that ultimatum.

“Without him and without the Mission, I’d be dead right now,” Jayme says. “I’m so grateful for this place. They’re wonderful!”

This Christmas, Jayme is thankful for friends like you! ✝



Doctors gave Bill six months to live. He’s far exceeded that.

“A Second Family”

After a cancer diagnosis, Bill decided to live out his final days at the Mission.

Bill first climbed into the cab of a semitruck in 1987, with America’s highways beckoning him to hit the road.

Thirty-five years, 48 states and 4.4 million miles later, Bill had to call it a day. Not because he wanted to, but because his body insisted on it.

He drove his last mile on January 15, when pain in his left hip sent him to the hospital. Eleven days and multiple tests later, he was essentially sent home to die.

“Prostate cancer that had become metastatic bone cancer,” says Bill, 59. “It had spread to my ribs, spine and kidneys. They gave me six months.”

Bill had nowhere to go. He’d been living on the road since a 1995 divorce, so he checked into a hospice facility. But he says the place was cramped and depressing, and besides, two months later, he didn’t feel like he was getting much worse.

So he asked the Las Vegas Rescue Mission if he could live out his last days there. The Mission welcomed him with open arms.

Bill has long outlasted those six months, and he hopes for many more. “I’d like to see another five years,” he says. “Ten years, I wouldn’t complain.”

Bill had already decided against complaining anyway.

“There’s a couple ways you can take it,” he says of his diagnosis. “You can be mean and hateful. Or you can accept it for what it is, and try to live your life normally.”

Bill decided against aggressive treatment, because he’s seen how chemotherapy can make people feel worse ... and that it often doesn’t extend life much anyway.

He says the Mission staff has been terrific, and if he were to die in the coming days (or months or years), he can’t think of a much better place to be.

“When you know you’re dying, that’s a very hard, emotional thing,” Bill says. “Having people to talk to makes all the difference. It’s good emotional, mental support.

They’re just phenomenal. They’re always so supportive. And for a person who’s been a truck driver his whole life, it’s like a second family.”

Thank you for helping Bill find peace and rest at the Mission. ✝





How You Can Deliver Christmas Joy

The holidays are a challenging time for homeless neighbors and for families struggling to get by — and with soaring prices this year, things are harder than ever. But YOU can help bring blessed relief to these neighbors in need.

Our annual Toy Giveaway, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 17, is one of our biggest outreach events of the year. You can help by donating toys from Dec. 1-16. Gifts for children ages 11+ are the most needed.

We will also hold our annual Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 23 and Christmas meal on Dec. 23. Check vegasrescue.org/events for updated information.

To learn more about volunteering, please call 702-382-1766, email volunteer@vegasrescue.org or visit vegasrescue.org/volunteer.

Please Remember the Mission This Christmas!

- Donate on GivingTuesday, Nov. 29
- Toy Giveaway, Saturday, Dec. 17
- Give anytime at vegasrescue.org/give



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

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS CHRISTMAS



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

To give online, visit
vegasrescue.org/give or use
your phone to scan this code
Thank you!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need this Christmas. Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$17.43 to provide 7 meals and care.
- ☐ \$22.41 to provide 9 meals and care.
- ☐ \$34.86 to provide 14 meals and care.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as much 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.