



# THE BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission | **EASTER EDITION**



Richard found hope and help because you care.

## When Carefully Laid Plans Unravel

*Richard moved to Las Vegas in search of a new beginning — and found one he never expected.*

**R**ichard has lived an impressive, storied life. He was a medic in the army. He worked in security for years. He was an ER nurse. He's lived in Washington, California, Texas and Germany, among many other places. But recently, he found himself facing something entirely new — homelessness.

A few months ago, he struck up an online romance with a woman in Las Vegas. He was living in Texas at the time. Finally, he decided to make the move and see if their budding relationship had real potential.

Soon after he arrived, all his hopes and anticipation were dashed. He's retired now and living mostly on social security, which lasted him a few days in a motel. Then, he was living on the streets. Additionally, for

decades Richard has been a functioning addict, consuming some form of amphetamines off and on for almost 50 years.

Richard had heard about the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and decided to see if they could offer him some assistance. He found so much more.

He was given food and a safe place to sleep, as well as a case manager to help him file for documents, enabling him to work in Nevada. He got sober and, through the support of the Mission, has maintained it for several months now. They also helped him enroll in SNAP and Medicaid, and provided resources as he began searching for a job.

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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 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Nothing sums up my passion for helping men, women and families quite like the verse above. At the Mission, we share this message every day as we help guests who have found themselves facing hard times. They simply need a helping hand, and a reminder that a fresh start is possible.

When Easter arrives each year, we all have the opportunity to cast out the old and embrace the new. This is especially true for neighbors who are navigating big challenges. Spring temperatures arrive, flowers start to bloom and we can say, “The new is here!”

Yes, Easter marks a miraculous rebirth, but the truth is I see miracles every day at the Mission. Good people finding their way out of addiction and homelessness through the grace of God.

It’s also made possible by supporters like you. I’m grateful to see the renewal that occurs in the lives of guests at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, and I’m so blessed to have you join us on this special journey. Thank you and Happy Easter!

*Heather Engle*

Heather Engle  
CEO

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“My first 2 ½ weeks here I got more accomplished than I did in the last two years in Texas,” he says of the paperwork needed to help him thrive.

With his vast wealth of experience, it wasn’t long before several employers were offering him jobs. Currently he has an on-call position as a bellman and is training to become a security supervisor.

Most importantly, “I dedicated my life to Christ and basically put everything in his hands,” Richard says of his future. “I was actually going to be moving to South Dakota. That was my goal. And he kind of opened those doors for me ... so it looks like I might be staying in Vegas for a little while.”

Eventually, Richard would love to apply for a security job at the Mission. He also enjoys helping mentor younger men who are in recovery alongside him.

**“I dedicated my life to Christ and basically put everything in his hands.”**

“If a person wants help and is truly dedicated ... they’re going to change,” he says of their shared journey. “Because they have to understand that it’s just like turning life over to Christ. You have to submit.”

Once, the future was filled with uncertainty and fear, now, says Richard, “I’m getting my life back on track.”

**Thank you for sharing support for neighbors like Richard! †**

## Crossing the Country To Start Over

*Dolores left everything behind to reclaim her sobriety — and her faith.*

Dolores never saw addiction coming. As a 72-year-old retiree, it somehow managed to sneak up on her. Finally, one day, she found herself alone in her New York apartment and decided she’d had enough.

She reached out to her daughter, who works as a nurse in Las Vegas, and opened up about the struggle she was going through. They quickly came up with a plan. Her daughter sent her a plane ticket and Dolores flew to her daughter, who took her to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

“I got sick and tired of being sick and tired,” Dolores says of her headspace when she decided to leave everything behind in New York and seek help in Nevada.

**“I don’t have to run. I can face reality.”**

Since, she has dedicated herself to getting sober and focusing on her well-being going forward. She enrolled in the recovery program at the Mission, which she has found incredibly helpful. “We have classes, we have speakers,” Dolores says of the experience. “We go by different stages, rope that you wear, and I’ve got two more ropes before I graduate.” She is inspired and motivated by the experience.

This period of introspection and recovery has also helped her uncover what led to addiction. Dolores has a granddaughter who attends college in upstate New York. Dolores suspects that she might have gone through some trauma or sexual assault, which shifted her personality, and put a strain on their relationship. Her granddaughter found help in counseling, but Dolores escaped into substance abuse.



Your support helps women like Dolores land on their feet!

Now, at the Mission, she is rededicating herself to God as she works to heal and look ahead. “I totally submit my darkness to God. I gave it all to him,” she shares. “I needed that for me to be a whole person and as a grandmother and a mother, I don’t have to feel like that.”

When she leaves, she plans to continue working on her recovery, and intends to be a source of strength for her granddaughter.

“I don’t have to run. I can face reality,” she adds. “I can hug my granddaughter.”

**Thank you for sharing compassion and helping people like Dolores find support! †**



# Taking Detours While Chasing Dreams

*Maria's family had a rocky start in Las Vegas, but they found a community that cares.*

When Maria and her husband came to Las Vegas from Illinois, they planned to start a food truck selling their own brand of barbecue. However, their dream quickly became a nightmare.

The pair moved to Las Vegas with another couple who quickly changed their minds about their business venture and left town. Maria's family was left scrambling, and she was pregnant with their first child. When their savings ran out, they found themselves facing homelessness in a strange, new city.

That's when they visited the Las Vegas Rescue Mission in the hope that they could help.

"They were very nice," Maria says of her introduction to the organization. "I was like, 'OK, we can go to the Mission. That's the best place right now.'"

There, they were given meals and a safe space for this growing family to get back on their feet. Maria's husband found a job, and they got a good place to live after their baby arrived. However, several months later they discovered that the individual they were subleasing from wasn't paying their bills, and they were evicted.

Once again, they received a warm welcome at the Mission, where they were able to start again, participate



Your support helps families through tough times.

in programs and transition to a safe living situation. Soon they'll move out and Maria is hopeful they will land on their feet. And she still intends to introduce Las Vegas residents and tourists to their barbecue someday.

"I already have the whole business plan," says Maria. "I keep telling myself it's not my timing, it's God's and when it's the right time, it'll happen."

***Maria and her family were able to get through difficult days, thanks to you! †***

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

## I Want To Transform Lives This Easter

**Yes! I will help neighbors in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada who are facing hunger and homelessness. Here's my gift of:**

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☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible.

☐ I'd like to give monthly and have filled in my information on the back of this form.

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