

# THE BEACON

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



## “ My Life’s Completely Turned Around”

Patrick was trying to escape a harmful cycle caused by trauma — and found a refuge at last.

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## “ I Didn’t Want Anybody to Know”

The moment Tamera lost everything, God intervened to give her hope.



480 W. Bonanza Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
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# I Didn't Want Anybody to Know"

*The moment Tamera lost everything, God intervened to give her hope.*

Tamera's journey to the Mission was nothing short of miraculous. When her ongoing health struggles with neuropathy and heart failure got so bad she couldn't work anymore, Tamera found herself suddenly homeless. "I literally got kicked out of my place," she says.

That's when her miracle happened.

"I have two suitcases on the side of the road, and this lady appeared out of nowhere," Tamera recalls. "She was walking in front of me as I'm walking down the sidewalk carrying my luggage, and she stopped and turned around and asked me where I was going, and I started crying. I said, 'I don't know, I've never been homeless before. I was just evicted.' She says, 'Well, let me help you. Let me get you over to the Mission. It's the best place you can go.'"

When Tamera arrived, she was overwhelmed, but quickly found the warm welcome she needed. "I was still crying because I'd literally been evicted for three hours, but everybody was so nice," she recalls. "The person who met me didn't treat me like I was less than a person."

At first, Tamera felt guilty and embarrassed, and tried to hide her new situation. "I didn't want anybody to know I was homeless," she says. "I changed my phone number and erased myself off Facebook, because I didn't want anybody to feel like they had to take care of me."



*Thank you for helping your neighbors find their way!*

But "taking care" is exactly what friends like you allow us to do for neighbors like Tamera when life takes a sudden and unexpected turn. Your compassion, plus a touch of divine intervention, has given Tamera hope.

"I asked God every day, 'Why? What are you doing to help me? Can you direct me in the right way?' I felt so alone until that day that I became homeless. It's like it was meant to be. I'm always going to believe that God intervened that day. I've had faith ever since because of it."

## "I asked God every day, Why?"

Now, with faith in her heart and your support fully behind her, Tamera has a new lease on life.

"Thanks to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, I'm getting the medical attention I need, which is wonderful," she says. "I have a chance to live. Without them, I don't think I would be here much longer."

**Thank you for giving neighbors like Tamera a new chance to live and helping them find hope! †**

# "My Life's Completely Turned Around"

*Patrick was trying to escape a harmful cycle caused by trauma — and found a refuge at last.*

It took Patrick many years to confront the trauma of his childhood.

"I was born and raised in a very abusive family situation with my stepfather until I was about 15," Patrick says. Unable to escape his surroundings, Patrick began drinking to numb the pain. "I struggled with alcohol from my late teens up until my early 40s. For many years, that's how I dealt with my feelings."

After decades of fighting this battle on his own, Patrick finally reached a low point after getting fired from his job. "All I was doing was drinking and gambling and feeling sorry for myself," he recalls. "I knew that was not a good thing, so I checked into the Las Vegas Rescue Mission."

It wasn't easy in the beginning. Patrick needed time to heal and rebuild his life from the ground up.

"When I first got here, I definitely had no hope," Patrick recalls. "I had no place to go. I figured if I'm going to get on my feet and do this right, I've got to come through the program. I've got to stop drinking. I wasn't sure if everything was going to work out, but I knew it was better than what I was doing."

And thanks to friends like you, Patrick was able to find that better way — and the hope he was lacking when he first arrived.

"My life's completely turned around," Patrick says, amazed. "Sober. I've got a great job now. I got my head on my shoulders. Back in church. Getting reconnected with God was a big thing with me. That's why I celebrate recovery so much. The reconnection with God and church has just been a great blessing."

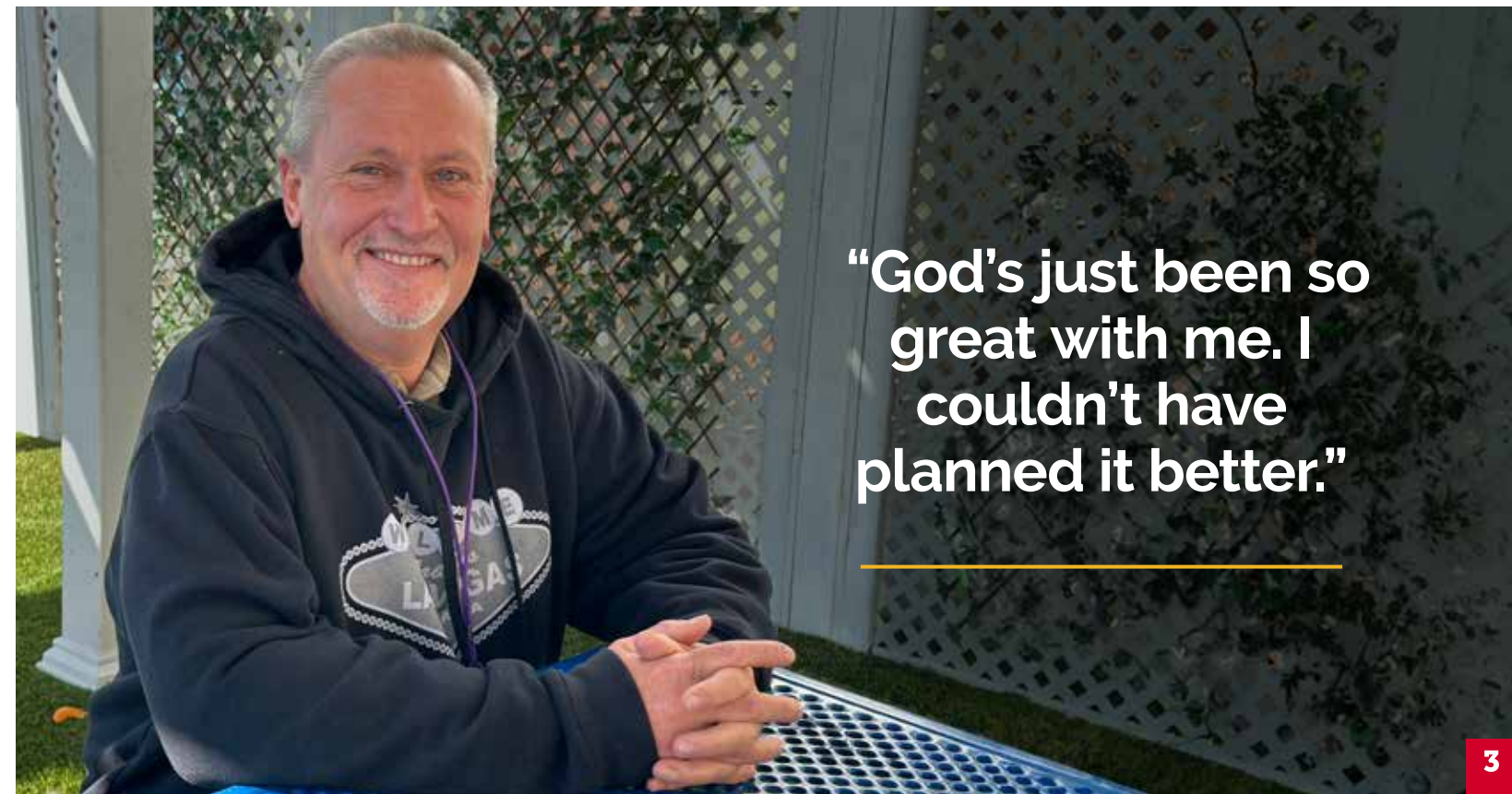
Patrick credits a big part of his success to the support system of people like him at the Mission: "That's what we do here — we encourage each other and we help each other. We keep each other accountable."

Beyond that, he's grateful for how the Mission gave him the tools he needed to work hard and break the cycle he was in. "The whole program structure was great," he says. "That's why I'm so successful now. It's definitely been a great journey. I'm not going to say it was easy."

Of course, Patrick thanks God for his perfect plan. "Things have worked out so well," he says. "God's just been so great with me. I couldn't have planned it better."

Last of all, Patrick wants to express his gratitude for you and your generosity. "Thank you," he says. "You are helping people who cannot help themselves."

**Thank you for sharing support and compassion for neighbors like Patrick! †**



**"God's just been so great with me. I couldn't have planned it better."**

# Heather's Summer Message



**Whatever is true,  
whatever is noble,  
whatever is right,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is  
admirable ... think  
about such things.**

— PHILIPPIANS 4:8

As we do our best to lift up those less fortunate each and every day, we are grateful that you have joined us as a friend and supporter — standing by us and our work across Las Vegas and Southern Nevada.

Even during times that continue to be difficult for so many, my thoughts remain on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable — all the many acts of kindness that donors like you have made possible for our neighbors in need.

After all, what is more true than showing love to your neighbor? What could be more noble than offering a meal to a hungry family, or more right than providing shelter to a family in need? Is it not pure to give hope to someone who has lost their way? And isn't it lovely to see someone's face light up when they receive the care they need?

It is truly admirable that you — through your generosity — have done all these things to demonstrate your compassion for those in need.

God bless you for your kindness,

Heather Engle  
CEO

## I Want To Transform Lives This Summer

**Yes! I will help neighbors in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada who are facing hunger and homelessness.**

**Here's my gift of:**

\$17.43    \$22.41    \$34.86  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible.

I'd like to give monthly. My first *Visionary Club* gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
 I've enclosed my check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.  
 Please charge my credit card.



To give online, visit [vegasrescue.org](https://vegasrescue.org)  
or use your phone to scan this code.  
**Thank you!**



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