

# THE BEACON

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

## “The Mission was there when we needed them”

When Albert's family faced homelessness, your support gave them refuge.

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## “For the First Time, I Felt Safe”

After spending months in fear on the streets, Joy found family at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.



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[vegasrescue.org](http://vegasrescue.org)



# The Love I Found Here is Life-Changing”

*Joy felt all alone on the streets. You gave her a family.*

**“Y**ou really don't know how important family love and support is until you don't have it,” Joy says.

Up until about a year ago, Joy lived independently, supported by disability payments and sharing an apartment with her sister.

“I have a painful spine condition. I have to use a walker to get around and I can't work,” she explains. “Last year, our rent went up and we couldn't afford to pay it. My sister and I got evicted and we had to live on the streets.”

Six months later, Joy's sister couldn't take it anymore and moved in with her children — but they refused to house Joy.

“I don't know why,” she says. “They said they don't love me. So, I don't really have family. I spent another two months on the streets by myself.”

Terrified, Joy rode the bus every night and tried to sleep, but she rarely could. When a friend invited her to come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, she finally accepted.

“The first night I was here, I slept for 15 hours,” she says. “For the first time, I felt safe and I didn't feel like I was all by myself.”

But she found more than safety and support. She found family. “The people here were so warm and



*Thank you for giving struggling neighbors like Joy the love they crave.*

friendly,” she explains. “I call the other girls here my sisters because they became my family. They've supported me in ways my own family wouldn't. The love I found here is life-changing.

**“It's like waking up on Christmas and opening that gift you always wanted.”**

“The only way I can explain it is that it's like waking up on Christmas and opening that gift you always wanted,” she adds. “It's the gift of sleep, the gift of cleanliness, the gift of food and no longer feeling hungry. If I need soap or a toothbrush, they make sure I have it. The beds are fresh and clean every single night.

“The donors have given me a hope that never goes away. I'm just so grateful.”

*Thank you for loving neighbors like Joy! ✝*

# A Family's Thanksgiving Blessing

*When Albert's family had nowhere else to turn, you saved them.*

**O**nly a few months ago, Albert and his family, including his wife and three young children, faced overwhelming circumstances. They were homeless, living out of their car in a church parking lot. It wasn't supposed to come to this.

Albert moved his family to Las Vegas five years ago to help build the new Raiders Stadium. “I was working and doing pretty good. The money was great and we were able to rent a house,” Albert says. “But when the pandemic hit, construction companies started shutting down and everyone was getting laid off.”

Unable to pay rent, Albert's family lost their home and moved into an RV at a local campground.

“Just when we started getting stabilized, a big windstorm knocked a tree on our RV and destroyed it,” Albert says. “After that, we literally had nowhere to go. But this is how God's grace works. I've struggled with alcohol most of my adult life. But about a year and a half ago, God led me to this church, which helped me get sober. That same church let my family park in their parking lot, and then hooked us up with the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.”

Albert's family has resided at the Mission for about two months, while Albert continues to look for work.

“More than anything, though, I want to keep getting closer to God,” Albert says. “I feel like if I can keep building that relationship, everything else will follow. If it wasn't for God, I would have lost my sanity a long time ago.”

“The Las Vegas Rescue Mission was there for my family when no one else was. Without them, my family would have had no shelter, no safety, no place to lay our heads. If a family needs help, this is the place to come to.”

Only a couple of months ago, it seemed like Thanksgiving would be a difficult season. But today, Albert's family will have reason to be truly grateful.

“I want to thank all those people who support this Mission, and all those who were praying. Without them, there's no telling where we'd be.”

*Thank you for giving hope to Albert and his family. ✝*



**“If a family needs help, this is the place to come to.”**

# Heather's Thanksgiving Message



**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”**

— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

I love fall. After a long, hot summer, I'm so grateful for the gradual change in weather, the fall light and the opportunity to see how God blesses us through the coming months.

It also reminds me of how the many men, women and children we serve feel when they come inside the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. Some have endured years of “summer” misery — trauma, abuse, abandonment, violence, sickness, addiction and more.

But when they come into the Mission, it's like leaving their “summer” behind and stepping into a new fall. Here they find shelter, safety and meals. More than that, they experience open arms, love and God's grace. Maybe for the first time, they begin to hope again.

That's the kind of difference your support makes in the lives of neighbors experiencing homelessness at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. Thanks to you, they have a place to go where God's love and your compassion join together to create a profound difference in their lives.

God bless you for your kindness,

Heather Engle, CEO



## Come See the Work We're Doing!

Join the Las Vegas Rescue Mission in person on Saturday, November 9 and learn about how we're supporting your neighbors.

**Register online at [vegasrescue.org/open-house](https://vegasrescue.org/open-house)**



## I Want To Transform Lives This Fall

**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!**

VISA    MasterCard    Discover    American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV (security code) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

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