

# THE BEACON

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



## “I Knew Something Had To Change”

When impossible tragedy tore Vanessa's life apart, you helped her begin to pick up the pieces.

### ALSO INSIDE

## “Then My Life Would Be Complete”

After a life of self-destruction, Marshall found healing at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.



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





# Then My Life Would Be Complete”

*Marshall felt worthless from a young age. You showed him the path to hope and healing.*

**M**arshall can trace his self-destructive behavior all the way back to childhood.

“I didn’t have much guidance in my life and quickly found myself doing the wrong sort of things,” Marshall admits. His father was in prison. His mother habitually abused drugs ... and even allowed Marshall to do the same. “I got taken out of her custody when I was 11 years old, but my behavior didn’t change. I continued to use drugs. I was attempting to act out to validate the belief that I wasn’t worth it.”

At 20 years old, Marshall got married and later had a son. But his wife also had a history of addiction, and they both struggled. “It was a toxic relationship,” he says. “Things were seemingly good because of the intense joy that I was feeling around having my baby, but I was still dealing with a lot of mental health issues. I was looking for any solution, and toward the end of our relationship, I started drinking. It destroyed me, and immediately, I was back on the path to destroying myself.”

Marshall completely fell apart. He had suicidal thoughts, he stopped eating and he ended up in the hospital. Had he not been arrested after turning once again to drugs, that might have been the end of his story.

But through the compassionate support of friends like you, Marshall found the hope and healing he needed.

“I was looking to find a place where I could refocus,



*Thank you for giving struggling neighbors like Marshall the chance at a new beginning.*

change some issues that I have and be a good father from now on,” he says. Thanks to you, he has.

**“They treat you like a person. The love here is real. I’m very grateful to be here.”**

“The fact that the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and your generosity is here is a blessing,” Marshall says. “They clothe you, they feed you, they look out for you. They treat you like a person. It’s seriously a genuine place. The love here is real. You can feel it. I’m very grateful to be here.”

What does Marshall want for his future? “I’m hoping to make amends. If my son can know in his heart without a doubt that I love him more than anything in this world, then my life would be complete.”

**Thank you for giving neighbors like Marshall hope! ✝**

# “I Knew Something Had To Change”

*When tragedy tore Vanessa’s life apart, you helped her pick up the pieces.*

**T**he loss of a child is devastating for any parent. But losing two? That was Vanessa’s unimaginable nightmare.

Even from a young age, Vanessa overcame terrible pain. The child of a teen mother, she was initially raised by her grandmother. After her grandmother passed away, Vanessa lived with her mom whose boyfriend molested her.

Unable to deal with the trauma, Vanessa soon fell into substance abuse. “I would gravitate toward drugs whenever there was a problem,” she says. “Whenever I felt lost, whenever I felt unloved, whenever I felt like I wasn’t enough. Whenever I was going through something emotionally and felt like I wanted to escape, then I would use drugs. And then it became a habit.”

When she became a mother herself at 22, Vanessa was able to temporarily keep her addiction at bay. But over the years, one struggle after another cut her down.

First, her son, an aspiring musician, was shot and killed soon after signing a record deal. Vanessa managed to stay clean. About six months later, she was diagnosed

with stage 3 breast cancer that required aggressive treatment and a double mastectomy. Again, Vanessa managed to stay clean. Then came her breaking point.

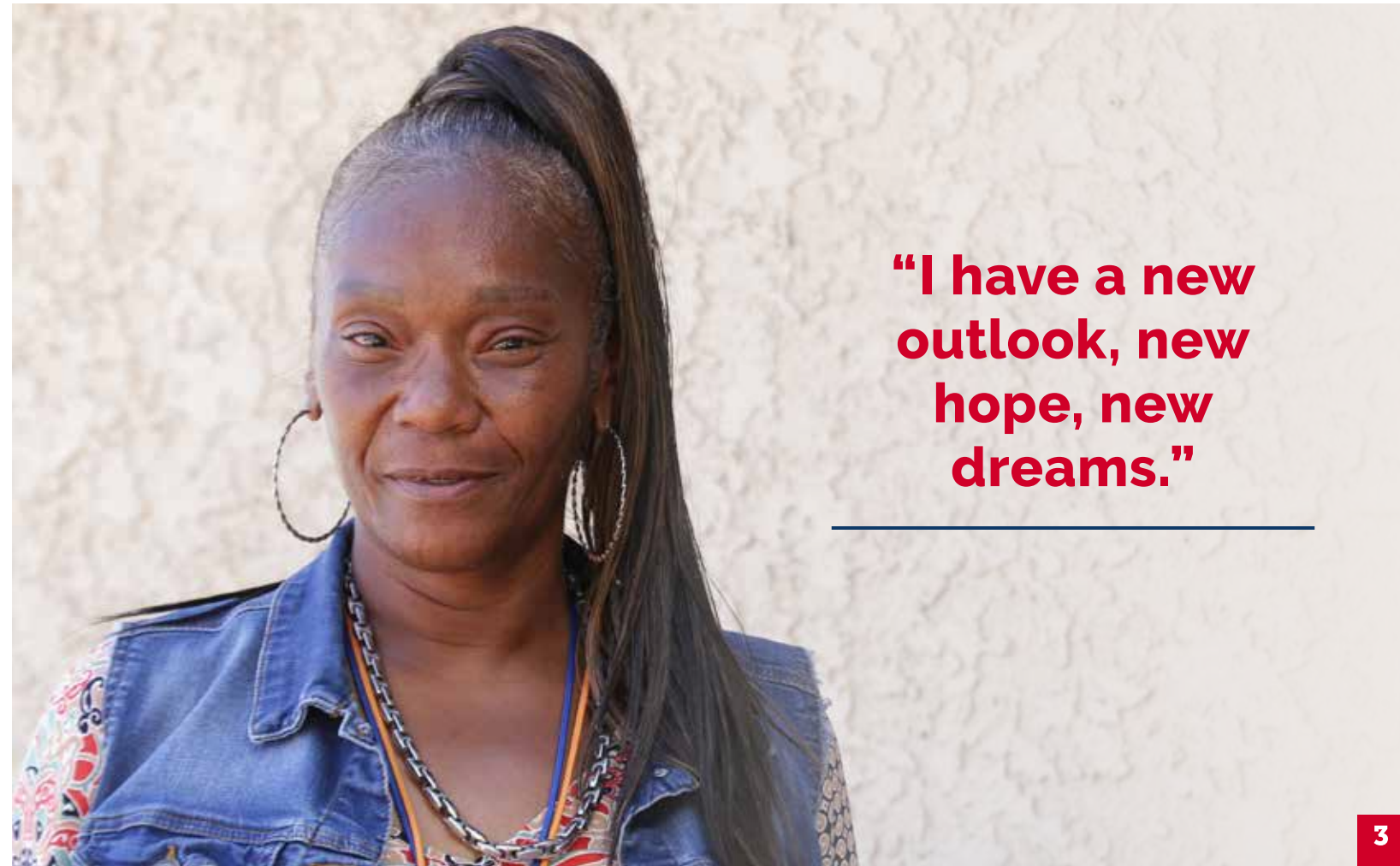
While attending a child’s birthday party, Vanessa’s daughter — who was herself a mother — was hit and killed by a stray bullet during a drive-by shooting. “When my daughter died, I lost it,” she says. Vanessa relapsed into drug use and eventually became homeless.

Thanks to the kindness of friends like you, Vanessa found the hope of a new beginning here at the Mission. “I knew something had to change,” she says. “The people here helped me see that God’s been with me all along. He never walked away from me, I walked away from him. And he’s been waiting on me to come back.”

Vanessa also remains grateful to you for saving her.

“Because of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, my life has been recreated,” she says. “I have a new outlook, new hope, new dreams, new desires and greater days.”

**Thank you for giving hope to people like Vanessa. ✝**



**“I have a new outlook, new hope, new dreams.”**

# Heather's Special Message



**Thank you for bringing help and hope to the homeless and hurting.**

Christmas is such a wonderful time when we show an abundance of love and generosity to others. As we prepare for this joyful season, I am reminded of Jesus' words in Mark 12:30-31:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Your support of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission reflects the true spirit of Christmas year-round. You are showing your love for God by loving and helping your neighbors.

I am so very grateful for your generosity and compassion as you share help and hope with hurting individuals and families in need.

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 see firsthand how you are changing lives!

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



## I Want To Transform Lives This Holiday Season

**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** or use your phone to scan this code. **Thank you!**



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Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227

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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Email Address