

MAY 2009

# SOUP *for your* SOUL

TRUE LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!

Your gift of  
**HOPE**  
for generations

For their  
children, and  
their children's  
children...

Milwaukee Rescue Mission

# Life Retraining Brings Hope



**Patrick H. Vanderburgh**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

What's your favorite family heirloom? A chair from the old family farm, your great-grandmother's engagement ring?

Every family passes legacies from one generation to the next. Unfortunately, the "family heirlooms" of the men and women seeking help at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission often are things like poverty, drug addiction, lack of education, sexual abuse and a chaotic pattern of living.

Those legacies become even more disturbing when our guests pass them on to their children. We can already see the cycle beginning again in the sad eyes of our young guests.

Many parents don't even realize it. They've been so immersed in this lifestyle for so many generations. Men and women have a sense that something isn't right—that's what brings them to us in the first place—but the full scale of cause and effect from their parents' lives, to theirs, to their children's is too big to grasp on their own.

Our goal is to lift the burden of those "family heirlooms" and send our graduates out with a new legacy for their families. In a way, it's like life retraining.

And that's why the programs at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission are so comprehensive and exhaustive. When you support *Fresh Start*, *FOCUS*, CrossTrainers Academy or any of our other long-term programs, you not only help end poverty for our residents, but for their children, and their children's children. In fact, every gift you give has the power to last for generations!

Jesus Christ is a crucial part of that new legacy—the cornerstone of the secure new life we want every graduate to find. Psalm 127:1 tells us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." It isn't enough to take away the old, negative ways of thinking. Through Bible study and chapel services, we encourage residents to replace those elements that destroy lives with the self-worth that comes from knowing God's unfailing love.

Thank you for the vital part you play in helping break the cycle of poverty for men, women and families, opening up new opportunities for generations to come!

I thank God for you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. Vanderburgh', written in a cursive style.

# “I could change my situation... or my life.”

## Following a Sad Path

*The generational cycle of poverty.*

Evette didn't know it, but her family was a living definition of that unhappy phrase. “I grew up on welfare,” Evette says simply. “We always had no clothes, no shoes.”

Evette's father was killed by rival gang members, just one symptom of the larger turmoil in the family. Another terrible symptom was Evette's abuse by a family member, and how that family member introduced her to marijuana at age eight, “to help me deal with what he was doing to me.”

With that background, it's no wonder Evette lost all self-esteem in a fog of addiction. She became pregnant at 17 and lived with her boyfriend in a series of rat- and roach-infested apartments as he sold drugs to make money. Trying to be nice, she'd let friends and family stay, too. But when rent came due, no one would help, and finally Evette knew it was time to get herself and her kids out. Not only was her life following the same sad path so common in her family, but she witnessed her children growing up in an environment that would trap them as well.



**“Her children arise and call her blessed.”**

—Proverbs 31:28, NIV

## A Family Transformed

“I cried and cried and prayed and poured myself out,” Evette says of the week she spent in a hotel calling local shelters. She found a place here at Joy House and soon was discovering a whole new way to think and live through the *New Life* program. Your gifts to MRM helped provide this transforming opportunity.

“The teacher was so open, you could ask her anything, and if she didn't know she'd find the answer,” she says. “I really liked that all of the classes were biblically based. I learned that anything you need is in the Bible. Slowly but surely my spirit was growing.”

Once she completed *New Life*, Evette faced the choice of moving into her own housing, or learning more life skills in our *Fresh Start* program. “I had a choice to change my situation, or to change my life.” Evette chose to continue her journey towards a new life by staying at the Milwaukee

Rescue Mission and participating in *Fresh Start*, our transitional living program for families.

## Breaking the Chains

She's putting the extra time you've provided her to good use. “We are a happier family now,” Evette says joyfully. “I've become a different person; I've become what God wants me to be, not what the world made me to be. God is my shield, my protector and my strength, and no one can take that away from me.”

Now Evette lives in the hope of creating brand new family traditions for her children—traditions of success, education, stability and faith in Christ. And it isn't only her children who've benefited! Evette is glad to say that her sister has also accepted Christ.

“God bless all those who give,” Evette says. “It's an investment in my life and in my future, and your investments trickle down.” Thank you for giving Evette—and her children—the tools to break the cycle forever!



# Your Gifts at work for Generations

## Safe Harbor's *Focus* Program

When a man graduates from our year-long *LifeSkills* program, he can continue his personal development by signing up for our six-month transitional living program, *FOCUS* (Following Our Commitment Under Supervision) program. As they find outside employment and save money, *FOCUS* members receive additional support and guidance to make a successful transition back into the community. Its comprehensive services help men:

- Secure employment
- Manage their finances
- Find strength through Christian counseling
- Restore broken relationships
- Continue their education

## Joy House's *Fresh Start* Program

Graduates of our *New Life* program for women often want and need additional support in beginning their new lives. *Fresh Start* offers transitional living that helps families achieve long-term success. Women and their children in *Fresh Start* benefit from:

- Christian discipleship
- Employment opportunities
- Continuing education
- Healthy choice training
- Time and money management counseling
- Additional parenting skills
- Children's programs and tutoring

## SPRING Wish List

*Some of our most urgent needs are listed here. If you can help, please drop off your donation Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at our Kilbourn Ave. entrance. Thank you!*

- Socks (men, women, & children)
- Underwear (all sizes, but especially children's sizes 2-6, men's and women's large sizes)
- Juice
- Baby wipes
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6), Pull-ups
- Deodorant
- Hand lotion
- Kleenex (box and pocket size)
- Vaseline
- Toilet paper



Your generosity goes way beyond the dinner table to a whole host of life-changing programs at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Here are just a few of the ways you help break the cycle of poverty in hundreds of families every year!

## Joy House's Equip Program

This program for mothers and children in Joy House and in the neighboring community builds strong families by providing resources to help them move past poverty to self-sufficiency. Families who participate in Equip receive:

- Training in parenting, money management, computer literacy, health, nutrition, etc.
- Help with employment, childcare, housing, legal matters, healthcare and other critical issues
- After-school tutoring for children
- Food baskets and nutritious meals
- Field trips to local venues
- Mentor relationships
- “*City Camp*” summer school program for children

## CrossTrainers Academy

CrossTrainers Academy opened in 2006 to provide excellent Christian education to at-risk children in our community. Small class sizes and dedicated teachers help students succeed through a full range of classes, from English and math to Bible study, science, social studies, physical education and art.

As part of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, CrossTrainers Academy parents receive some financial aid from the state of Wisconsin. However, a significant portion of the funding for this ground-breaking school comes from concerned citizens like you.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Cold & flu medicines (non-alcoholic) | • Laundry and dish detergent             |
| • Pain relievers                       | • Fabric softener                        |
| • Thermometers (digital preferred)     | • Lunch bags and sandwich bags           |
| • Thermometer covers                   | • Disposable cups, plates and silverware |
| • Vacuum cleaners                      | • Working wristwatches                   |
| • Carpet shampooer                     | • Small clock radios                     |



# Volunteers—Helping Hands bring Peace and Joy

What would we do without our volunteers? Their diligent work saves thousands of dollars in costs every year—money you gave that can go directly into food, shelter, counseling and more. But more than that, their daily kindness and willingness to help brings a special kind of joy to our guests and residents. Homeless men, women and children, used to being overlooked or disrespected, experience one-on-one time with people who care, helping them heal deep wounds and restoring self-esteem. Thank you!



## Come On Down!

“Serving Saturdays” get your group in the “giving back” groove!

Every second Saturday of the month is a “Serving Saturday” at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. We invite groups of up to 15 people—families, church groups, clubs, coworkers, whatever!—to come by for one to two hours of service to the less fortunate.

We may ask you to:

- Sort school supplies or clothing
- Clean up the grounds
- Decorate MRM for a holiday
- Stuff envelopes
- Clean a classroom
- Paint a wall
- Mop a floor
- Wrap presents
- ...and so much more!

This is a great way to introduce young people (or anyone else) to the joys of “giving back” to the community. In fact, many of our volunteers say they get far more out of coming here, than they feel they give!

Work groups start anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. One-hour tours are also available to work groups. To sign up or learn more, call our volunteer office at (414) 935-0241 today. We’d love to see you!

# memorial & in honor of gifts

## In memory of:

(gifts received from January 1 through February 28, 2009)

*Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member.*

### Norman Berg

Lucille Temple

### Charlotte Bojar

Gregory & Kristine Voss

### Lowell Brown

Judith Poshepny

### Norma Brown

Mae Livens

Fern Nilsen

### Michael Bruno

Terry & Catherine Andrus

### Otto Christl

Chester Raasch

### Gary Cropper

LeRoy Mattmiller

### Eleanor Dargatz

Christopher Lagermann

### Robert Duncan

Gayle Claus

### Raymond Ervin

Stephanie Welsh

Charlotte Wendorf

### Jesse Ryan Gamache

Margaret Chyla

### Marilyn Gast

Phillip & Mary Dibb

William Gast

Donald & Sandra Hahn

W. Leo Kiely III & Susan Kiely

Lucian & Marsha Narloch

Tami Oenes

Marijo & Jeff Storment

David & Shelly Watson

Weber Accounting, Inc.

Jeff & Donna Weiler

### Eddie Glad

Vivian Glad

### Howard Gnewikow

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### Wife, Mary Hawkins

Merrill Hawkins

### M. Hoffert

Gary & Judith Dunn

### Husband, Jafri Jamaludin

Doreen Jamaludin

### Ralph Jansen

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Dan Armbrust of Granite

Microsystems, Inc.

John & Patricia Avery

Kenneth & Karen Baker

Paul & Lynne Berendsen

Raymond & Elaine Birck

Marian Brebrick

Carl & Constance Burghardt

Monique Charlier

Nancy & Larry Clancy

Enid & Sue Cottrell

Bernard & Lucille Daley

Ardell Egelhoff

Bill & Debbie Flynn

Paul & Linda Fritz

Betsy Harkleroad

Patricia Lawlis Hilbert

Lynn & Burt Hoffman

Paul & Linda Hopkins

Kenneth & Roberta Hypki

Jansen Construction

Carol Jansen

Jacqueline Jansen

Thomas & Debora Jansen

Michael & Pauline Jascur

Paul Karlen

Kotze Construction Co., Inc.

Daniel & Lynn Krueger

Regge & Karolyn Krueger

Thomas & Eunice Krueger

Corinne Laabs

Linda, Lisa, Stephanie & Danny Laev

William & Marian Laev

Langer Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

Annabelle Mathews

Jack Erdman & Mary Pat McGurk

### The Milwaukee Insurance

Foundation, Inc.

### Detlef Moore

Natural Resource Technology, Inc.

Ogden & Company, Inc.

Judith McGurk Papajohn

Darrell & Yvonne Paulsen

Bruce & Linda Ramme

Margaret Rice

William & Diane Risley

John & Margaret Rohatsch

Edwin & Bernice Rossini

Mike Rutherford

James Sadowski

John & Christy Schmalzer

Patrick & Karen Schommer

Joan Sharrow

Thompson – Wilson Family

Brian & Carrie Torkilson

Don & Cele Voith

Mark Zapp

### Joan Jassoy

Dorothy Rasmussen

### John Kantner

Bradley & Francesca Harring

### Carol Kruswicki

Jane Schubilske

### George Luba

James & Karen McNelly

### Michael Malaney

Gregory & Kristine Voss

### Chet Manchester

Glenn & Barbara Booth

Stan & Maria Buehrer

S. Michael & Rita Capriolo

Linda Hazard House

Margaret Howard

Brian & Christine Lake

Joyce Manchester

Joyce Manchester – Faith &

Hope Circle

Laurence Mlinar

Jane Mueller

Robert & Jacquelyn Quirk

Thomas & Eileen Rauman

Jack & Lura Stockinger

Paul & Lindalou Stockinger

### Marcia Newbury

Barbara Adkins

Stephen & Judith Flegner

John Grigg

### Anthony "Tony" Palkowski

Donna Palkowski

### Gregory Pluta

Barry & Shawna Young

### Jane Smith

Jennifer & B.J. Wakefield

### Ione Stock

Laurel Breit

### Ralph von Briesen

Bruce & Janice Maas

### Paul Walker

Vivian Glad

### Brad Wittemann

Jim & Cathy Liebert

### Carol Zutavern

Dorothy Schmidt

### Mother's Birthday

Joyce Johnstone

### Elmer

Randall & Marilynn Cech

### Sister

Joyce Johnstone

### Gram Emma

Michael & Kelly Fangmann

## In honor of:

(gifts received from January 1 through February 28, 2009)

*A gift to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a great way both to provide hope and to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion!*

### Megan Baxter

Kaitlin Baxter

### Allix Baxter

Paul & Sharon Baxter

### Roger & Kathy Dechamps

Tess Bigando

### Robert Flemming

Landon & Lisa Naffin

### Susan Haas

Travis & Sharon Haas

### Chad Heinen

Dale & Carolee Heinen

### Aaron Huber, Michael Huber,

Ryan Murray & Sean Murray

Michael & Barbara Huber

### Sherri Kasdorf's Birthday

Donald & Diane Behnke

Richard & Nancy Brophy

Peter & Jane Patricia Bunce

Leonard Hobert

Ann Kaiser

Gail Klaveness

Roger & Nancy Klein

Neal & Rita Larsen

James Liebert

Nicolas & Denise Shane

Donna Tyggum

Judy & Mick Von Bergen

### Jerome Margraff & Family

Jack & Barbara Pechacek

### James McDonald

Paul Wall

### Jeanne Meyer

Delores Riemer

### Steven Naffin

Landon & Lisa Naffin

### Franz Schultz

Truman & Barbara Schultz

### The Smith Family: Melanie,

Larry, Tracy & Colin

Robert & Tracy Sigman

### Cynthia's Birthday

Ronald Martenet

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

**Milwaukee Rescue Mission**

**830 N. 19th St.**

**Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**Or donate online at [www.milmission.org](http://www.milmission.org)**

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card. Please be sure to include their address.

# One Night, One Seed... One New Life!



You may have heard that one meal or one night of shelter can open the door to a brand new life. It might sound like an exaggeration, but in James' case, it's literally true!

## The Seed

Six years ago, James found himself stranded. He'd loaned his car to someone who didn't return it on time, and James had no way to get home. He happened to be near the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and came in, just for the night.

While here, though, James heard about our year-long *LifeSkills* program, the *FOCUS* transitional living center and our other life recovery services...and a tiny seed of hope for a better future was planted. James left MRM after his very short stay and for the next six years, he continued his lifestyle of addiction. But the seed slowly took root and grew.

## New Growth

At last, James says, "I decided to submit to God." And when he made that decision, James knew he could count on our community to provide the deep-down, serious help he needed here at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

"*LifeSkills* set a foundation for me," he explains. "A foundation to stop, read [the Bible] and pray in difficult situations. My goal used to just be that I didn't want to use drugs anymore. Now my goal is to know Christ more."

## The Fruits of a Better Life

James has already seen some fruits of his new way of life in his restored family relationships. "During my using, I abused my family by staying away and having them worrying. Now they can see a difference in me, and they support the change. When I have a pass, I choose to spend that time with my mother and sister."

Because he spent so long trapped in his addictions, James wants to enter the six-month *FOCUS* transitional living program after graduation from *LifeSkills*. There, he'll continue to be accountable for his behavior and participate in Bible studies and classes. He'll also have the chance to start working and save money for safe housing.

James knows he'll have to wait for many of the fruits of his new life. He wants to start his own janitorial company, a process he knows could take years. But he's learned patience and faithfulness at MRM and he's prepared to work hard for his goals—quite a change from the young man who dropped in six years ago!

James admits that without your generosity making a place for him at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, he'd either be in jail or dead today because of his addiction. On behalf of James and all the other men whose lives are changing with your help today, thank you!

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## Milwaukee Rescue Mission

830 N. 19th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 344-2211  
[www.milmission.org](http://www.milmission.org)



*Have you remembered  
the Mission in your will?*