

SOUP *for your* SOUL

NOVEMBER 2009

TRUE LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!

May Your Days Be
MERRY
and **BRIGHT**

You Bring the Joy of the Season to People in Need

Milwaukee Rescue Mission

A Christmas to Remember



Patrick H. Vanderburgh
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

—LUKE 2:10-11, NIV

What’s your favorite Christmas memory?

Maybe it was years ago, when that shiny new bike you’d wanted for months showed up under the Christmas tree. Or more recently, when you saw the joy of the season through the eyes of your first child or grandchild.

Someday, the men, women and children at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission will have fond memories of this Christmas. That’s because this holiday season, our guests have taken the first steps towards a new life with stability, promise and hope.

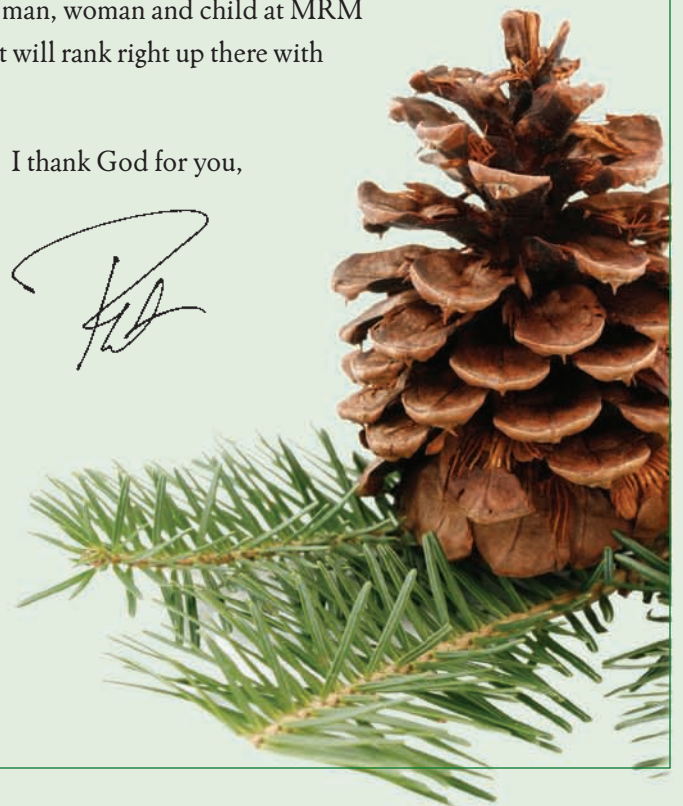
With help from caring friends like you, people who might have slept in a doorway will wake up in a warm bed on Christmas morning. They’ll have brightly wrapped gifts to open and a delicious meal to share with one another.

Please consider a gift to help our needy neighbors this holiday season. Just to provide meals—including Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner—will cost \$64,063. A gift from you will give someone a reason to be thankful and joyous.

Together, let’s give every man, woman and child at MRM a Christmas memory that will rank right up there with their favorites!

I thank God for you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Vanderburgh'.



A New Focus on the Future

For years, Phil viewed life through the lens of a video camera. Today, this professional videographer now looks through the eyes of faith.

Raised in a Christian home, Phil always believed in God, but he says, “I had it in my head, not my heart.” Still, his upbringing helped Phil resist the temptations of alcohol and drugs during a five-year stint as a bartender. Speaking about how he’d seen alcohol destroy the lives of the people around him, Phil says, “I got first-hand knowledge of how Satan works. He makes the apple look so good!”

Eventually, Phil took a bite of that apple himself. He began drinking when his mother died of cancer in 1995. “It tore me apart,” he remembers. “I tried to be strong, but the day she died, I got drunk. I didn’t get a chance to say goodbye.”

Five years later, Phil’s father also succumbed to cancer. “It was like

Troubled Waters

At this point, Phil went from being a “functioning alcoholic” to drinking a fifth of brandy every day. He knew he had a problem. He tried prayer and various outpatient programs, but was never able to stay sober longer than six months.

Things began looking up for Phil last year when he landed a job shooting video for a major cruise line in Alaska. He was overwhelmed by the majestic scenery and wildlife. “You can’t see this and not know there’s a Creator!” he says.

Unfortunately, alcohol was far too available onboard. “That first drink was all it took. It led to a second, then a third...and I didn’t get up in time for my shift. That raised some alarms, and they let me go.”



Two weeks later Phil started our LifeSkills program. He’s since graduated and is now in our FOCUS program for men. “It wasn’t by chance that I got here. MRM was part of God’s plan for my life. I rediscovered the Lord here in a stronger way. I’ve learned to take God’s promises at heart. In the eyes of God, there’s nothing so terrible that He won’t forgive you!”

Phil plans to use his video skills in the service of the Lord, producing and directing spiritual programming. He also wants to go back to Alaska to capture the beauty and wonder of God’s creation on film.

Phil’s message to you is, “Thank you so much! People think MRM is just a place to eat, sleep and get away. But it’s a chance to renew not just your mind and your body, but your soul.”

**“I sought the LORD, and He answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears.”**

—Psalm 34:4, NIV

a replay of when my Mom died. I asked, ‘Why is this happening?’ When I finally got my life together, it seemed like God was taking away the things that meant the most to me,” including his television job, and unemployment only compounded Phil’s troubles.

“MRM was part of God’s plan.”

Phil returned to Milwaukee, where he’d been living with his brother. “He kicked me out of the house!” says Phil. “He brought me to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. I was angry, upset, confused. I didn’t think this would happen to me!”

You make the **SEASON BRIGHT** at MRM!

The holidays at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission aren't really all that different from the celebrations in your home. True, we have a lot more people to serve! But there's still plenty of thankfulness around our Thanksgiving table, and lots of smiles and happiness on Christmas morning.



Every woman at Joy House feels special when she gets treated to personal Christmas gifts!

The littlest residents of Joy House get into the spirit of Christmas by modeling their new PJs!



What's Christmas morning without toys? Friends like you make sure every girl and boy has gifts to unwrap.



These joyful smiles outshine the brightest Christmas lights!



With platefuls like these, nobody leaves MRM hungry during the holidays and throughout the year!

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, **PRAISING GOD** and saying, **“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”**

—LUKE 2:13-14, NIV

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

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

Christmas Needs

- New toys for children, from babies to teens
- Watches and jewelry
- Perfumes
- Lotions
- Soaps and Luffas
- Women’s robes and slippers
- Gift cards
- Wrapping paper — we will need to wrap hundreds of gifts!

Clothing

- Socks and insulated gloves (men, women and children)
- Hats and scarves for men, women and children
- Underwear (all sizes, especially children’s sizes 2-6, men’s & women’s large sizes)
- Men’s belts

Kitchen Needs

- Juice
- Fruit
- Snack items

Personal & Baby Care

- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)
- Pull-ups
- Baby wipes
- Spill-proof sippy cups, baby bottles
- Pain relievers, cough/cold/flu medications with no alcohol content (infant, child and adult strengths)
- Hand lotion
- Deodorant
- Vaseline



Give Comfort and Joy this Christmas

MRM's Christmas Gift Catalog

Give a truly meaningful gift this Christmas and touch the heart of someone who really needs some "comfort and joy" in their life.

The gifts from the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's online 2009 Christmas Gift Catalog

will give twice: once to the special person on your Christmas list and again to the men, women and children served at MRM.

Your secure online donation will bless the lives of less fortunate men, women and children in the greater Milwaukee community.

Visit www.milmission.org/catalog



Gifts that Help Even More!

Our deepest thanks go out to these local businesses who match gifts given to MRM by their employees:

- Alliant Energy Foundation Matching Gifts Program/JK Group
- AptarGroup Charitable Foundation
- Artisan Partners Limited Partnership/Matching Gift Program
- Assurant Health Foundation
- Assurant, Inc.
- AXA Foundation
- Bucyrus-Erie Charities, Inc.
- Cooper Industries Foundation
- First Weber Group Foundation Inc.
- Gallagher Foundation/Matching Gifts
- GE Foundation/CyberGrants, Inc.
- Honeywell Hometown Solutions - JK Group
- Illinois Tool Works Foundation 3-for-1 Matching Prog.
- John Hancock/Matching Gifts Program
- Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies Matching Gifts Program
- Jones Lang LaSalle
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation/Employee Giving Campaign
- Kraft Foundation/Employee Involvement Programs/Match
- Microsoft/Matching Gifts Program
- Prudential Foundation/Matching Gifts Program
- Quad/Graphics, Inc.
- Reader's Digest Foundation/Matching Gift Program
- Remmele Engineering, Inc.
- Rexnord Foundation
- SPX Corporation/Matching Gift Program
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals/Employee Giving Campaign
- Thomson Financial Community Involvement
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
- Tribune Media Services/Matching Gifts Program
- United Way of Pioneer Valley, Inc.
- UnitedHealth Group/Employee Giving Campaign
- US Bancorp Foundation/Matching Gifts
- Verizon Foundation/Matching Incentive Program
- Wachovia Foundation/Matching Gifts Program
- WellPoint Foundation/Associate Giving Campaign

By making compassion one of their corporate values, these businesses set an example of generosity that benefits hundreds of hurting men, women and children in our community.

To find out if your employer has a matching gift program, check with your Human Resources department today—maybe your gift will help more people, too!

URGENT TOY NEED!

We need new, unwrapped gifts (\$10 minimum value) for each of the hundreds of kids (infants through teens) joining us for Christmas. Please bring your toys and gifts to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (8 a.m.–8 p.m. Mon.–Sat.) by December 21.



Thank you!

830 N. 19th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 935-0241 for more information

**WITH YOUR HELP,
NO CHILD HERE WILL GO WITHOUT!**

memorial & in honor of gifts

In memory of:

(gifts received from July 2 through August 27)

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.

Fr. Edward Bawiec

Richard Zinda

Loren Bley

Judy Roubik

Marion Boettcher

Larry & Josephine Gross

Brother, John

Joyce Johnstone

Brother, Douglas

Joyce Johnstone

Michael Bruno

Don & Carolyn Serres

Patricia Maguire Conway

Robert & Susan Puariea
Virginia Steiner

Jesse Ryan Gamache

Margaret Chyla

Howard Gnewikow

Sharon Dehli
Patricia Sell

Doris Jacobs

Jeanette Beckers
Marie Beuligmann
William & Elaine Cary
Matthew & Andrea Loss

Michael Janasik

Kathi & Richard Kaestner

Mary Grace Jensen

Margaret Meyer

Ann Marie Konkel

Jane Konkel

Grandmother, Dorothy Kruger

Kim Kruger

Frank Krzeminski

Bob and Barbara Anderson
Frank & Marsha Azzolina
Diana Barkow
Joseph & Coreen Bukowski
Jeffrey Cain
Marion & Terese Chelstowski
Gina Collins
Jennie Dziennik
Minnie Falkowski
Doug & Lynne Farrell
Chris Gibart
Susan Hafemann
James Heck
Jim and Karen Krysiak
Robert & Janine Marek
Ed Kroll & Gail Mayer
Art & June Maze
Robert & Kathleen Lange
Matt McCoy
Kathy Murray
Soren & Mary Lynn Oliver
Ron & Daun Puetz
Wayne & Sandy Ray
James & Margaret Riemann
Thomas & Betty Strycharske
Tri City National Bank & Bankshares

Carl Miller

Duane & Joyce Corder

Clifford Nilsen

Janet Andera
Barbara Reining
Jerry & Laurene Taylor

Anthony Palkowski

Donna Palkowski

Carol Palkowski

Donna Palkowski

Margo Thrune Ryan

Jimmy & Robin Schuett

John Schneider

Holly Knudsen
John & Mary Beth McCormack
Hugh & Sue McKay

Ann Shebu

Dennis & Rose Ervin

Marjorie Sjostrom

Peggy Hanson

Warren Szyka

Sharon Szyka

Mark Trudgeon

Sharon Zivko

In honor of:

(gifts received from July 16 through August 20)

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!

Carol Ehram

Thomas Ehram

Rev. Richard Eyer

David Hanson & Mary Bohlman

Rachel Fonseca

Marcus Davis

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Hanson's Marriage

Basil Doumas

Connie Hoogerland's Birthday

Patricia LaFreniere

Bill & Mary Klabunde

Daniel Berg

Jane Stoklasa's 85th Birthday

Joyce Kasten

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

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.



You Helped a Young Mom Get Back on Her Feet

For all its rewards, parenthood is a lot of work—especially for a young, single mother of six...including triplets!

Diana was already struggling to make ends meet when she lost her job. Suddenly, she couldn't afford to pay rent and none of her friends were able to take her in with five

**The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want. He makes
me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.**

—Psalm 23:1-3, NIV

kids—and another on the way. But Diana and her family found a warm welcome at Joy House!

In the six months since they've been here, Diana's kids have flourished. "They feel safe here, they don't worry about anything," Diana says. "They aren't always asking, 'When are we going home?'" She tells us the kids love day care at MRM. "Every staff [member] they see, they run and hug!"

"God's got your back!"

Especially since giving birth to Jada, now five months old, Diana appreciates the caring support she gets at Joy House. "I don't know where to begin!" she laughs. "They help me save money. They help me with day care. And they're helping me to understand Christ. I'm learning that He's here for me."

When things get rough, Diana takes comfort in Psalm 23. "It helps me when I'm tired," she explains. "God is always there and I can trust in Him." Recently, she shared the Psalm with another young mother who looked especially overwhelmed. "I told her, 'God's got your back!'"

"I know a lot of people look at me cause I've got six kids, but I tell them they were given to me for a reason." Diane realizes she can't change the past and, "God's got a plan."

Diana plans to go back to school and become a police officer. "Now I know I can do it!" Thanks to you, Diana and her family have a chance for a happy, stable life!

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Milwaukee Rescue Mission

830 N. 19th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 344-2211
www.milmission.org



*Have you remembered
the Mission in your will?*