

# **SOUP** *for your* **SOUL**

SEPTEMBER 2009

TRUE LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!

**INSIDE—see “thank you”  
notes from people whose  
lives you’ve helped change!**

**You make all the difference in the world!**

Milwaukee Rescue Mission

# One Life at a Time



**Patrick H. Vanderburgh**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**Therefore, as God's  
chosen people, holy  
and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with  
compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness  
and patience.**

—COLOSSIANS 3:12, NIV

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*“The smallest things make the  
biggest difference in people’s lives.”*

That’s not from a Hallmark card. It’s straight from the heart of a woman living in Joy House. I wanted to share it with you because I know how hard it can be sometimes to believe you’re really making a difference in this world.

But here at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, I see every day how your compassion for the poor touches, changes and even saves lives. When you help provide a hot meal, a bed or clean clothes, you make someone who’s been through a tough time feel cared for and valued.

And that’s where life change starts. With the smallest things.

In order to give just one of our guests a complete day of care, we need \$36.30. It’s really a pretty small amount when you think about everything that provides: three meals, a safe place to sleep, counseling, education and job skills training. And that doesn’t even take into account the lasting impact you can make with your gift! Every day of care you provide brings men, women and children closer to Christ and to a life filled with hope and promise.

In this issue of *Soup for Your Soul*, you’ll see how that promise grows and plays out—in the lives of homeless kids, women in crisis and men battling addictions—and that you really do make a difference, one life at a time!

I thank God for you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Vanderburgh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'P'.

A few of the happy faces at Joy House.  
Top: Quinton. Middle (left to right):  
Dequon, Shania, Kennedy, Jaquanis and  
Quevon. Bottom: Justin.

## “We Love You, Joy House!”

If you wonder why we named our family shelter Joy House, just look at the smiles of our younger guests! On any given night, there may be 60 children staying here. These kids have been through some tough times, but thanks to you, today they’re happy, secure and full of enthusiasm. We asked a few of the kids whose mothers are in our Fresh Start program some questions about their experiences at Joy House, and thought we’d share their very candid answers with you!

**Q.** What was life like before you came to Joy House?

**A.** “It was like a maze...or a circus! ‘Cause we were traveling from here to there, then from here to back there...”

**Q.** What’s your life like now?

**A.** “I feel like I’m going in a straight line!”

**Q.** What do you like most about living at Joy House?

**A.** “City Camp.” “Tutoring.” “Bible study.”

**Q.** Is the food good?

**A.** “Yes! The fried chicken, fish, pizza, spaghetti.”  
(Note: When prompted, the kids did admit that they like vegetables, too!)

**Q.** What have you learned about God at Joy House?

**A.** “He’s always with me.” “We can get over our anger and our problems—we can talk to Him anytime.”  
“He (Jesus) died for our sins.” “We are all brothers and sisters in God.”



**Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” –Matthew 19:14, NIV**

**Q.** What do you have at Joy House that other kids don’t?

**A.** “We have Jesus!” “People care about us. They pray for us and check on us.” “They (staff) choose to work here and help people who don’t have a home.”

**Q.** What would you like to say to people who give to Joy House?

**A.** “Thank you for donating all the wonderful things. We appreciate everything you give us.” “God bless you, ‘cause (giving) was the right thing to do.” “I’m glad that God will be smiling on you all. Thank you—and we bless you!”

We couldn’t have said that any better!

# Very Special Thanks from our

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

—NUMBERS 6:24-26, NV

There are two words we can never say too often: “Thank you!” That’s why you’ll always find expressions of gratitude from us and from our guests in this newsletter. This month, we want to share some very personal thanks for your compassion and generosity from some of the women at Joy House and the men in Safe Harbor. As you read these notes, you’ll know that you really do make a difference—in many lives!

Dear Friend of the Joy House,  
I want to thank you so much for providing me and my son a warm bed to sleep in at night. Without you we would probably be lying somewhere cold and hard. So may God bless you with many blessings.  
-Resident of the Joy House

When I first came to the mission I was filled with darkness. Thanks to the grace of God I have the light of Jesus shining in me. I am very grateful and appreciative for the volunteers who share their time to help the rescue mission, and to those who are moved to bestow donations upon us. May God bless all with the caring spirit to help.

-Michael

June 24, 2009  
I thank God for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission because it has been the vehicle God used to restore my hope. I'm also grateful to everyone who faithfully supports the Mission. Without the loving support of kindhearted people like our donors, it would be impossible to keep the doors of the mission open.

Again Thanks  
Willie  
Joy Member

“The smallest things make the biggest difference in people’s lives. God sends us many blessings. I thank Him for you!”

dear friend of the Joy House,  
Thank you for everything you've done for all the women & children here. my children have new clothes & shoes, full stomachs & a warm bed to sleep. I'm eternally grateful for your kindness.

-Amanda,  
Aleyah & Jaeden

# Guests to You

Dear Friend at The Joy House,

I would love to "thank you" for donating coats to this wonderful place where lots of women learn how to provide and care for their children. We really appreciate what you have done because by doing this you have really made a difference in more than one person's life you even made it better.

Thank You  
Simone

"It has made a big impact in my life to see that people really care about others."

Dear Donor,  
I would like to thank you for all of the donations that the mothers/children receive here at Joy House. I cannot describe in words how appreciative I personally am along with my children. I always get a sense of security, and high spirit when I arrive, knowing that people I've never even saw or held a conversation with, welcome myself and my children with "Loving and Open arms. May God Blessed the staff and teachers.

Deanna

"My children have new clothes and shoes, full stomachs and a warm bed."

Dear Friend of the Joy House:

I want to say thank you so much for what you all are doing for those of us who need the Joy House.

Not to mention, what gifts that my children receive but, just the point of having a safe haven, a roof over my children's head, clothes on their backs and food in their tummies.

Thank you so very much.  
May God Bless You  
Barbara

Dear Donor and Friend

Thank you so much for giving so much of yourself to others. When I got here last week I came with nothing but the baby inside of me. Once I did my intake, the staff here gave me a nice nightgown and robe to wear. That helped me so much and touched my soul. Thank you for being so charitable. May God Bless you.

Love In Christ

Joy House Resident  
6/8/09

Thank You

# A Generous Friend Multiplies His Blessings!



Every gift that comes in to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission has a unique story behind it—because every donor is unique! We'd like to share one of those stories with you because it presents an especially creative approach to giving.

Most of our friends send gifts in round figures, but Earl Lebakken, a semi-retired high school principal, prefers very exact numbers—to the penny. When we asked him why the unusual figure, Earl told us that it's his way of honoring the sacrifice his parents made to provide for him and his five siblings.

Earl's formula? He multiplies the cost of a meal at MRM—\$1.88— by six and then by the number of days in the month. This way, Earl arrives at a precise number... enough to feed six children every day, just as his mother and father did.

"It's my way of saying thank you to my Mom and Dad," says Earl. "They were good Christian folks who worked very hard to provide for us."

And we say "Thank you" to Earl for his ingenuity and kindness!

## FALL 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., (closed Sundays and holidays) at our Kilbourn Ave. entrance. Thank you!*

### CLOTHING

- Sport socks
- Underwear (all sizes, especially children sizes 2–6, men's & women's large sizes)
- Fall & winter jackets (adults & children)
- Boots & shoes (adults & children)

### KITCHEN NEEDS

- Lunch bags
- Fold-over sandwich bags
- Juice
- Juice boxes
- Fruit
- Lysol spray
- Individual snacks
- Plastic silverware
- Paper plates
- Dixie cups, disposable cups

### PERSONAL & BABY CARE

- Kleenex (box & pocket size)
- Detergent, stain remover, dryer sheets
- Liquid bleach
- Spill-proof sippy cups
- Baby bottles
- Baby oil, lotion, powder, & wash
- Pull-ups (sizes 3–4 and 5–6)
- Baby wipes
- Infant/children's Tylenol
- Pedialyte (individual servings)
- Cold & Flu medicine (non-alcoholic)

- Pain relievers
- Tums
- Thermometers (digital preferred)
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Hair gel & grease
- Hair brushes
- Razors
- Lotion, Vaseline
- Deodorant
- Mouthwash
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Travel soap & toothbrush holders

### A Creative Way to Donate to MRM!

In an ongoing partnership with The Recycling Factory, we will be collecting used toner cartridges and old cell phones. We will then turn them in to The Recycling Factory, who will pay us for our contribution. Collection bins will be located in our visitor lobby. If you have questions, call Kim at (414) 935-0236.



# memorial & in honor of gifts

## In memory of:

(gifts received from April 16 through June 30)

*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.*

### Rev. Gilbert Beenken

Laverne & Karen Trulson  
Grace Redovich

### Gary Cropper

Le Roy Mattmiller

### Henry Fuldner

Sue Christensen

### Jesse Ryan Gamache

Margaret Chyla

### Frederick Gengler

Greg & Mary Rebholz

### Howard Gnewikow

Patricia Sell  
Sharon Dehli

### Robert Guetersohn

Ann Noll

### Erin Gutknecht

Leon & Ellen Grimm

### Diane James

Mark & Moira Bruce

### Ralph Jansen

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Krohn

### Agnes Jasper

Wayne Jasper Family

### John Kantner

Julie Douglas

### Judith Ann Kerzner

Dolly Brown  
Frank & Doris Meyer  
Roger & Wendy Mair  
William & Antoinette Scott  
Eric & Patricia Johnson  
Office Resource / Signature Design  
Richard & Gail Kerzner

### Elizabeth Kitzinger

Robert & Mildred Nowak

### Delores Krieg

Steve & Joyce Hoynik  
Lloyd Kurtzweil

### Raymond Lewin

Patricia Daron

### Kurt Loesche

Peter & Agnes Neuenschwander

### Dorothy Loucks

James & Karen Pieper

### Joseph Michalski

Mary Cieslak-Duchek  
Peter & Paul Cieslak  
Mr. & Mrs. David Etlicher and family  
Jim & Joe Cieslak  
Regina Michalski  
Mark Johnson & Patricia Michals

### Helen Michels

Norma Martin & Family

### Henry Scott Miller, III

David & Colleen Miller

### Hal Nickel

Earl & Suzanne Zietz

### Cliff Nilsen

Mary Carpenter

### Grandson, Justin

Raymond & Ann Palmieri

### Brother, Egisto

Raymond & Ann Palmieri

### Patrick & Matthew

Robert & Maureen Horning

### My Father

Joyce Johnstone

### Thomas W. Norris, Jr.

Beverly Cull

### Thomas Putz

Shirley Burns

### Sheila Rech

John & June Rech

### Baby, Jack Rubner

Wally & Debbie Sommer

### Ronald Salmon

Sara Lopez  
Eileen Angotti  
Steven & Kathleen Hall  
Candace Owley  
Pat Ventura  
Charles & Carole Zaffero  
Al & Nancy Enderby  
Susan Kane  
James & Elaine Wissing  
Kathleen Metzfeld  
James & Patricia Krol  
Dann & Kathleen Oelstrom  
Betty Fischer  
John & Sara French  
Susan Feerick  
Eugene Tatrow  
Dolores Hagen  
Sheila Larrabee-Jones  
James & Deborah Jilbert  
Donald & Marion Eldredge  
Nick & Dolores Tseffos  
James & Maureen Ricketts  
Michael Wallace  
Dennis & Rose Ervin  
Milwaukee Area Labor Council  
Kelly Salmon

### Eric Schuele

Bernard Bondar  
W. John & Beth Pritchard

### Maureen Zielinski

Sadie Torre  
Zeke & Rosemarie Patterson  
Peter & Claudia Torre  
Tony & June Torre

### John Schneider

Leonard & Joan Kulas  
Richard Krebsbach & Family  
Kathleen Davies  
Albert & Margaret Johann  
De Mark, Kolbe & Brodek, S.C.  
Plating Specialists, Inc.  
Jack & Betty Ryan  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cavin  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Irvine  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Kekula  
Charles Streich  
Streich Family Foundation, Inc.  
Pat & Lorraine Brody  
Steve & Lisa Balistreri  
Catharine Young  
Jack & Germaine Spooner  
Therese Ninneman  
Thomas & Sondra Sells  
Lawrence & Judith Moon  
William Schuett, Jr.  
Brian Conole  
Phil & Katie Smith  
Barry & Judy Sattell  
Sidney & Susan Arthur  
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Richard & Helen Bumgardner  
Elaine Keller  
Helen Popalisky  
Darlene Brightbill  
Craig & Karen Bauer  
John & Susan Lentz  
Debra Fahey  
John & Cynthia Pierson  
Anthony Gahn, Jr.  
Thomas Laken, Jr.  
John Fetherston III  
Finishing & Plating Service  
William & Nancy Foshag  
Tom Knudsen  
Satendra & Rosanne Mehta  
Michael & Mary Shutters

### Eric Schuele

Bernard Bondar  
W. John & Beth Pritchard

### Maureen Zielinski

Sadie Torre  
Zeke & Rosemarie Patterson  
Peter & Claudia Torre  
Tony & June Torre

## In honor of:

(gifts received from April 16 through June 30)

*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!*

### Earlene Barber's 70th Birthday

Richard & Bonnie Featherly  
Russell & Mary Gross  
Mark & Julie Goltermann

### My Father, Richard S. Barwick

Richard G. Barwick

### Dr. Paul Berstein

Alan & Patty LaFreniere  
Patricia Garrity

### April Bilke's Birthday

Her dad, Gary Bilke

### Kevin Patrick Crowley

Judith Hessler

### My Father, Ronald Donigain, Sr.

Lue Anne Bestul

### Barb Hegna

John & Shelly Longden

### Barbara Hegwood

Brandon & Chelsea Famularo

### Jamey Lewerenz

Kristina Lewerenz

### Mark Millot

Sarah Brummer

### Adam's Birthday

Mark & Katherine Raasch

### Friends, Kathy and Jane

Mary O'Connell Williams

### Brother's Birthday

Joyce Johnstone

### Mike & Deb Reher's 25th Anniversary

Marc Haag  
Carrie Scheidt  
Allen & Loretta Jorn  
Kevin & Merrie Reed  
Beth & Steven Betts  
Shannon Harris  
Christina Lund  
Kenneth & Cindy Buttitta  
Sandra Nicolazzi  
Corinne Barker  
Donald & Mary Heyrman  
Courtney Butturini  
Mark Wisialowski  
David & Christine Hofmeister  
Jim & Darla Heaviland

### Ethelyn Theison's 90th Birthday

James Clark

### Bill Thorne

Jane Radaj

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.

# From Prison Stripes to Respected Mentor



## The Real Problem

“I couldn’t understand why I was using (drugs) again, after all I went through,” Billy says of the time just before he came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

He’d certainly been through a lot—four years in prison for a drug-related theft. Sadly, he didn’t take advantage of that time to make any lasting changes in his life. As soon as he was out, he went back to his old neighborhood and the same bad choices. He tried a state-run recovery program, but he couldn’t seem to stop using.

After a week of getting high, Billy was desperate. He walked all the way across Milwaukee to get to MRM for some real answers. “Now I know [why I kept using],” he says. “It was my sin problem.”

## Giving God 100%

“Pride was killing me,” Billy admits. “But I decided to give God 100%, and now I’ve got a different attitude. When I prayed, the things around me didn’t change, but the way I looked at things changed.”

Billy was grateful for the length of our program, because he knew recovery would be a process. “It’s like math,” he explains. “You’ve got to learn how to add

first, before you can multiply.” And the Milwaukee Rescue Mission’s program didn’t just try to take drugs out of his life, without giving him anything to put in their place. “If your focus is to stay off drugs, then you need to put your focus on something more powerful than drugs...God.”

## Billy the Mentor

If you visit MRM today, you might find Billy deep in conversation with another resident. They look up to him for his maturity and seek him out when they feel troubled.

When he graduates, Billy plans to put his mentoring skills to work by returning to a former career—security at an alternative school for kids who’ve grown up rough. “This is a cruel world we’re living in,” he says. “One mistake can lead you down a path that can slowly destroy your life.” He’s sure his example can save those kids years of trouble and set them on the right path.

“I wake up with joy in my heart,” Billy says. “Waking up in itself is a blessing—being able to thank God for what I have!” Thank you for helping to set Billy’s feet on the right path, along with dozens of other men battling addiction!

## Our Board of Directors

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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?*