

SOUP *for your* SOUL

NOVEMBER 2008

TRUE LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!

Tidings of Comfort and Joy!

Thank you for making
the holidays shine
for men and women,
boys and girls!

Milwaukee Rescue Mission



A Family Celebration



Patrick H. Vanderburgh
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Shepherds in bathrobes, angels in tinsel haloes...our Christmas program may lack the budget of a Hollywood production, but it has the most special effect of all—it brings joy to the audience and everyone who participates.

The moment when the innkeeper says, “There’s no room for you” is especially moving to our guests. How often have they heard words like that themselves? Suddenly, they feel they have something in common with the Savior, and their hearts are more open to hear how much He loves them.

The Christmas pageant is just one of the joys we look forward to—the holidays at MRM are so much fun! Between volunteers decorating the hallways, the delicious smells coming from the kitchen, the sound of wrapping paper and tape as presents are wrapped up, the whispered secrets and suppressed excitement of the children...well, it’s like being part of a family celebration.

And I’m sure you realize that for most of our guests, this is their family celebration. They’ve felt the pain of loneliness in the past, but this year will be so different!

Stephen and Jessica, whose stories you can read in this issue, will certainly celebrate the holidays in a whole new way this year because you care. Everything you see in this newsletter is possible because friends like you graciously take time to remember the poor. Thank you for providing good meals, Christmas gifts, safe beds, inspiring chapel services—and angels in tinsel haloes!

Thanking God for you,

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

HOPE for the Whole Family

Pregnant...and homeless.

Only real desperation could make a young mother leave home while expecting another child. But that's just what Jessica had to do. Life with her mother was too unstable for Jessica and her two-year-old daughter. She knew it would actually be better for them to take their chances alone. So she packed up their things and left.

Never Truly Alone

Jessica was truly in trouble. "I had no kind of income," she explains. She was pregnant and still in high school when she came to us, and now it looked like she and her children would be trapped in the grinding cycle of minimum-wage jobs, unstable housing, and little hope for the future.

But you know that through Milwaukee Rescue Mission, women in Jessica's situation are never truly alone. Through a caring community of friends like you, Joy House is here to provide safety, support, and the tools for a better life. "God led us here," Jessica says. "I knew about Joy House from a family member and kept calling until they had an opening for us."

Starting Over

Of course, that didn't make the first day any less intimidating. "It was scary when I first came. I didn't know if we would fit in, or what to expect."

Jessica and her daughter fit in just fine. Our staff and volunteers poured out love for them, and soon Jessica was studying for her high school diploma. With plenty of hard work, she was able to graduate at last!

Not only did she graduate from high school, she also graduated from our *New Life* program and enrolled in *Fresh Start* to continue learning what she needs to know to build a stable life for her children.

Best of all, she says, is that now "I have God in my life."

Open Doors

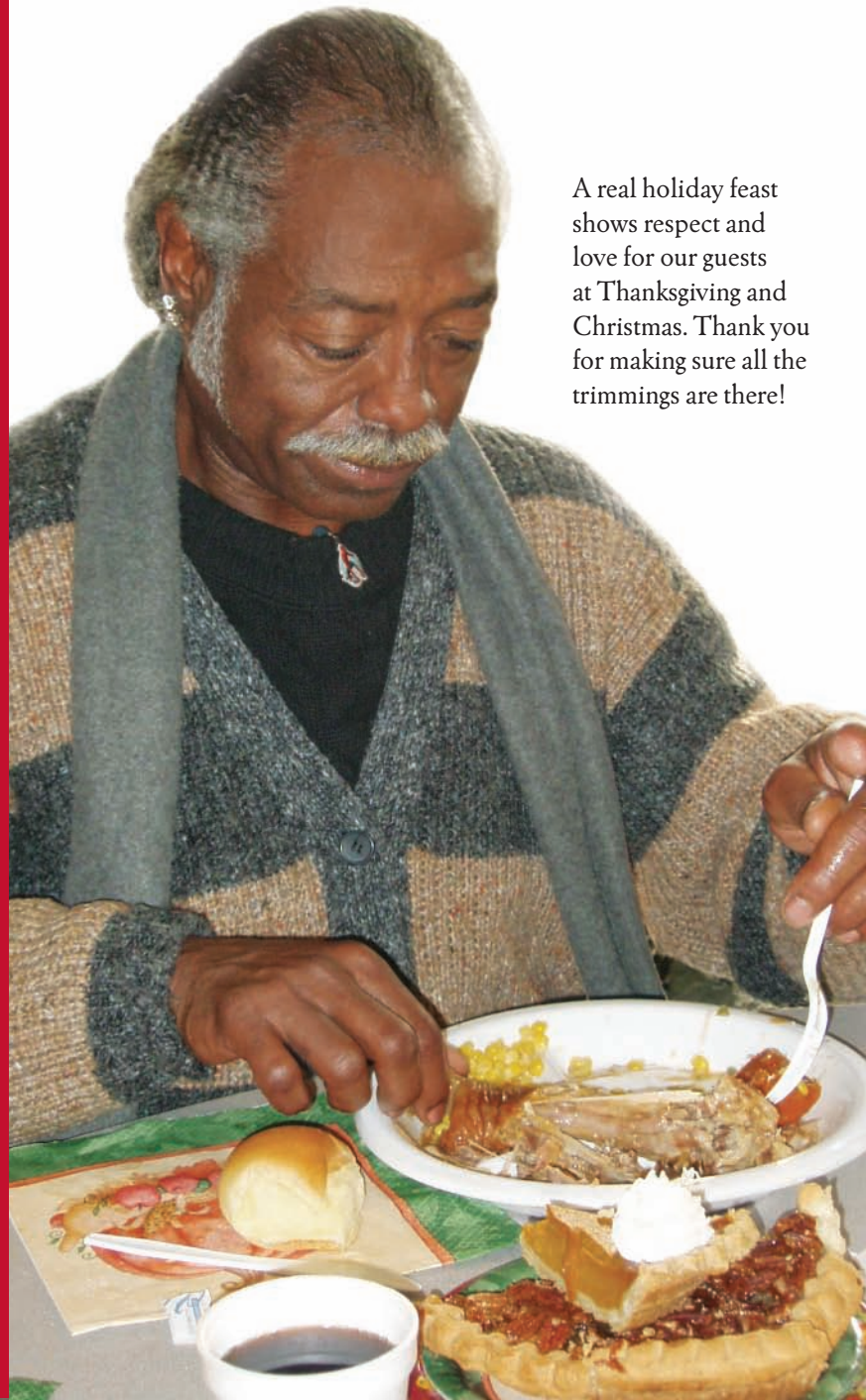
With a high school diploma, Jessica has many more open doors in front of her. She's already continuing her education, with the goal of a degree in banking and finance from MATC that should lead to solid employment and a home of her own!

We're also glad to let you know that Jessica had a beautiful baby girl—who, along with her big sister, has a hope-filled life to look forward to because of the help you gave her mother. Nothing could be more heartfelt than Jessica's, "Thank God for you!"



Thank you for the Gift of Comfort and Joy!

If you asked our guests, they'd tell you there's almost nothing worse than being alone at the holidays, when everybody else in the world seems to be with their families. That's why we're so glad you help us create a sense of family at MRM during the holidays through your generous support. Here are a few of the ways you give comfort and joy:



A real holiday feast shows respect and love for our guests at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for making sure all the trimmings are there!



This little angel is full of joy this holiday season because she has a friend in you!

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!



Volunteers are part of the family, too! Their warm welcome and individual attention let all our holiday guests know we truly care about each one of them.



The whole family is ready to celebrate the joy you've given them this holiday season—and to thank God for you!



For me?! To a homeless child, even one Christmas toy is spectacular. To have plenty of packages to open—just like a “normal” kid—is almost too exciting for words!



Of course, moms need to know they're special, too. A pretty basket of simple, thoughtful gifts is a big self-esteem boost.

CHRISTMAS NEEDS

- New toys for children, from babies to teens
- 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)

KITCHEN NEEDS

- Juice
- Fruit
- Lunch snacks

PAPER PRODUCTS

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Napkins
- Paper plates
- Plastic flatware

PERSONAL & BABY CARE

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

TECHNOLOGY

- Working wristwatches
- Good Christian videos and DVDs
- Small clock radios

New Spokesperson for MRM: **JAMES JONES!**

From homeless shelters to the NFL, James uses his life experiences to help others



We're thrilled to announce that James Jones has chosen to be a spokesperson for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. We know he'll be a tremendous asset, not only because of his popularity, but because he'll be able to speak to our guests and residents with the sincerity of experience.

You see, as a boy James spent time in homeless shelters himself. His father wasn't around, and although his

mother worked as hard as she possibly could to raise her two kids, sometimes she just couldn't afford a home for them. All around him, James' peers were turning to drugs and crime, but James relied on his mother's love and his dream of playing football in the NFL to keep him on the right path. Now that he's accomplished his dream, he can't wait to help others in the same situation.

Keep watching local media, our website (www.milmission.org), and this newsletter for more of James' amazing story and news about his involvement at MRM. Thank you, James!

A Christmas Catalog You Can't Miss

Give the most meaningful gifts ever!

Honor your loved ones in a unique way this Christmas with gifts from the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's online

2008 Christmas Gift Catalog!

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 Go Even Further!

The Milwaukee Rescue Mission extends our deepest thanks to these local businesses who match gifts given to MRM by their employees:

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Alliant Energy Foundation
American Express
Assurant Health Foundation
Bemis Company Foundation
Bucyrus-Erie Charities, Inc.
CNA Foundation
Continental Savings Bank, S.A.
Cooper Industries Foundation
Doral Dental USA, LLC
First Weber Group Foundation Inc.
Gallagher Foundation
GE Foundation
Hatco Corporation
Johnson & Johnson
Kaplan Inc.

Kimberly-Clark Foundation
Microsoft
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Rexnord Foundation
Runzheimer International
SAP / Matching Gift Program
Sara Lee Foundation
SPX Corporation
Square D Foundation
Stanley Works
TCF National Bank
Thomson Financial
UnitedHealth Group
US Bancorp Foundation
Verizon Foundation
Wachovia Foundation

By making compassion a part of their corporate commitment, these businesses encourage the generosity of our community and expand the impact of so many gifts! Hundreds of less fortunate men, women, and children benefit from their kindness every year.

To find out if your own employer has a matching gift program, check with your Human Resources department today—maybe your gift could go even further, too!

memorial & in honor of gifts

In memory of:

(gifts received from July 1 through August 26, 2008)

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.

Lloyd Bedore

Robert & Susan Kosanke

David Brandenburg

Eileen Brandenburg (wife)
Mary Thomas
Agnesian Healthcare /
Consultants Laboratory
Christine Sell
Business Associates, Friends
& Family
John & Debra Jacobs
Thomas & Deanne Kuenzi
Christy Lagermann

John M. Cain

Robert & Margaret Meyers

Raymond Church

Patrick & Marlis Van Ryzin

Brother, Egisto Di Nardo

Raymond & Ann Palmieri

Jack (John) Donahue, Sr.

Donahue Masonry, Inc.

Sister, Mary Jean Fortune

David Brill

Grandson, Jesse Ryan Gamache

Margaret Chyla

H. Hanson

Peter Hanson

Brother, Douglas

Joyce Johnstone

Kenneth Katt

William & Gloria Katt

Annmarie Konkel

Jane Konkel (sister)
Danah & Nathan Opland-Dobbs
Marie Bodenbach
Kim & Mary Berns
James & Brenda Schweder
Friends & Co-Workers at
Kalmbach Publishing Co.

Ronald & Gloria Konkel

Paul & Mindy Biedrzycki

Frank & Mary Schrader

David Kolp

Lois Behr

Nancy Kolp

Douglas Kolp

Arlene Biedrzycki

Carlton & Virginia Berendes

Dale & Nina Slowik

Charlotte Jeske

Joan Gatewood

Joseph Kovacich

James & Mary Grafenauer

Nina Linn

James & Julie Goodman

Charles McDermott

Martha Straub

Lorraine C. Nelson

Laurie Sherman

Daniel & Anna Salbego

Grandson Justin

Raymond and Ann Palmieri

Greg Nowak

Catherine Nowak

Myron Parks

Harry Drake

John Reuhle

Jane Schubilske

Mildred Starz

Mike & Cindy Wipijewski

Kelly Engel Harvey

The Wisconsin Credit

Union League

Margaret Ramstack

Stephen & Helen May Todorovic

Stephanie Ioannou

Henry Vanderburgh

Philip & Constance Hardacre

John & Diana Yuskis

In honor of:

(gifts received from July 1 through August 26, 2008)

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!

J. Pearl Barnes 75th Birthday

Nancy A. Vose

Robert Blattner

Dennis & Kathleen Skwor

John & Eleanor Duffey

Joseph & Margaret Meloy

Don & Florence Jensema's 65th

Wedding Anniversary

Peter & Jacquelyn Verhulst

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Klamecki's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Gary & Janet Jensen

Mahlon & Helen Schmidt's 45th

Wedding Anniversary

Your Children & their Spouses

and Grandchildren

Marriage of Bruce Sprenger &

Kathleen Wisniewski

Thomas & Jacqueline Pietrocarlo

Our son Joe's Birthday

Joseph & Rebecca Trojan

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

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.

URGENT TOY NEED!

New, unwrapped gifts (\$10 min. value) are needed for each of the hundreds of children (infants through teens) joining us for Christmas. Please deliver to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (8AM-8PM, Mon.-Fri., 8AM-6PM, 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!

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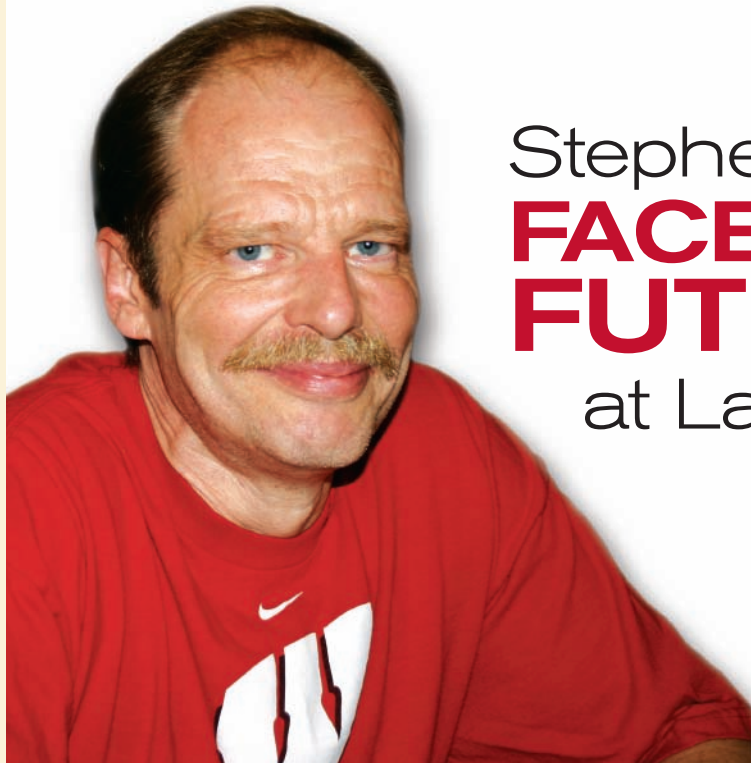


Milwaukee Rescue Mission

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



*Have you remembered
the Mission in your will?*



Stephen Can **FACE THE FUTURE** at Last!

“Why are you so hard-hearted?” someone asked Stephen. The tough guy suddenly burst into tears.

“To finish what I started”

This is Stephen’s second visit to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. On his first visit, he overcame his 20-year drug addiction with the help of the programs you make possible, and he’s been clean for more than a year now.

But after leaving MRM the first time, Stephen realized his life still wasn’t moving forward. He knew something was holding him back; he just couldn’t figure out what it was or how to solve it. “I cleaned up my drug habit,” he says earnestly, “but I needed to clean up my heart and mind. MRM worked so well the first time that I came back. I wanted to finish what I started.”

“I didn’t want the other kids to see”

This time around, Stephen dug deep into his past to find out what was clogging

his heart and mind...and came face-to-face with some very painful memories. “My old man used to knock me around a lot. He broke my jaw and threw me down the stairs. He used to hit me with a belt. In junior high I never would participate in gym class because I didn’t want the other kids to see the strap marks.”

“I cried my eyes out”

Stephen knew he’d been angry and hard-hearted to protect himself from those memories, but the time had come to get through them or his life would always be stalled. “I cried my eyes out,” he says, but he also forgave his father on February 6, 2008.

Starting over

Today, secure in the love of his Heavenly Father, Stephen can face the future without anger or fear—because your generous compassion gave him a safe haven and counseling staff to guide him. Thank you for reaching out to Stephen and men like him who need to be clean in body, mind, and spirit!