



*the*

CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION

# BEACON

December 2024



★  
*Special  
Christmas  
Edition*

## Unlocking God-given potential

**Robert was drowning in grief and addiction. When he took the courageous step to seek help, *YOU* gave him a place to heal, recover, and rebuild!**

*How did I get here?*

Robert was sitting at the bartop shaking uncontrollably. Isolated, depressed, and stressed beyond functioning, he began to wonder how he'd let addiction drive him into the ground.

Looking back at his upbringing, he knew nothing but safety, stability, and love. "Life in West Virginia was rugged and fun," he recalls fondly. "My family were my biggest role models."

But when Robert's dad passed away, the door to

>>> *(continued on page 2)*

*Every \$3.42 will DOUBLE in impact to change more lives!*



CHARLOTTE  
RESCUE  
MISSION

Every \$3.42 you give today will DOUBLE in impact to provide meals and care!



## Unlocking God-given potential (continued from page 1)

addiction opened. Grief-stricken, Robert turned to alcohol to cope. It wasn't long before drinking began to interfere with his work and his reputation. When the pandemic hit, addiction tightened its grip on Robert. He was living in loneliness and denial — until everything clicked that night when he found himself at the local bar.



The bartender, noticing Robert's shaking, handed him a shot of alcohol. Robert found momentary relief. But this moment was his wake-up call. Robert took a courageous step toward healing and made his way to a detox center. There, he heard about Charlotte Rescue Mission.

Through the process of healing and forgiveness, Robert found peace in the Christ-centered care at the Rescue Mission. "I reconnected with God. I felt I'd lost that in my battle with addiction," he says.

At the Rescue Mission, a steadfast community of men supported him on his journey to recovery. And thanks to your generosity, he found all the care he needed to make transformation possible — three meals a day, safe shelter, counseling, and, one of his most pivotal experiences, working at Community Matters Café.

"Working at the Café after graduating allowed me to rebuild my confidence," says Robert. "I felt that everyone at the Rescue Mission genuinely wanted me to succeed."

This supportive environment — and your generosity — helped him believe in a better future.

***"I felt that everyone at the Rescue Mission genuinely wanted me to succeed." — Robert***

Empowered by his success at the Café, Robert began furthering his education — enrolling in classes and earning his HVAC license. Today, he works a steady job as a maintenance technician. Robert is happy and at peace — something he thought he lost to his addiction.

"You have to quit fighting and accept the help," says Robert. "It's there and it really does work."

**Thank you for helping Robert — and so many others fighting addiction and homelessness — unlock their God-given potential and experience healing from the inside out!**

YOUR GIFT OF MEALS OPENS THE DOOR TO MORE

## Real stories. Real people. Real lives transformed forever.



**KAMI'S STORY** "I was literally at the end of my rope with nothing to live for. I had no money. I was using multiple substances to cope with trauma.

"Because the Rescue Mission offers support for free, I was able to come with nothing but the clothes on my back. They took me in and gave me the second chance I'd been looking for.

***"If it weren't for your giving to keep these programs free for us, I don't know where I'd be today. I can't even begin to thank you."***

**CHARLE'S STORY** "Last Christmas, I came to the Rescue Mission for a meal. I didn't think much of it other than the fact that it was a free meal and I was hungry. I'd been on the streets for several months.

"I asked about the programs, but I wasn't ready at the time to seek help. Still, I kept a brochure in my bag. Later, I watched my best friend overdose. They took him to the hospital and he never came back. It was a wake-up call for me. But I didn't have any money. So I reached in my bag and grabbed that brochure. It said no cost.

***"Thank you for providing Christmas meals and covering program costs. Your giving literally saved my life!"***



***"It was a wake-up call for me..."***

By year's end, your support will have accomplished so much good!

**784**  
men and women  
enrolled in our residential  
recovery programs.

**191**  
students completed  
the 120-day recovery  
program.

**22**  
students completed  
the Life Skills  
program.



## Broken stories made beautiful



Trina Fullard  
President & CEO

When each man and woman walks out of our doors sober, healed, and made new, they display the power of Christ to a broken world.

A mom who drank her pain away on the streets is now fully present for her children. Or a man who was once trapped at the intersection of homelessness and addiction is sober, thriving in his dream career, and rebuilding severed family relationships.

Whatever a man or woman's story, they find a new beginning at Charlotte Rescue Mission. A fresh start is the best Christmas gift they could ever imagine. *Your prayers and partnership make it all possible.*

As Christmas nears, I'm thinking of our Savior and how He came for all of us — even those in our community who are struggling with homelessness and addiction. His heart is for these weary souls. *Your generosity makes it clear that your heart is for them, too.*

Thank you for partnering with the Rescue Mission to see broken stories turn into beautiful testimonies of transformation!

*Trina Fullard*





Trapped at the intersection of homelessness and addiction is no way for anyone to spend Christmas. It's lonely . . . dark . . . and a reminder of all that's been lost.

***Right now, you can make double the local impact and reach hurting men and women with transformational recovery care.***

Lester & Patricia Osborn — faithful supporters of Charlotte Rescue Mission — have provided a \$25,000 Christmas Challenge Grant that will double your impact today. They've witnessed firsthand the pain that addiction causes so many, and know your support of the Rescue Mission truly helps people overcome their battle with the disease of addiction.

**Every \$3.42 you send today will provide even more people with a hot Christmas meal** — and open the door to recovery care, community, sober living resources, job preparedness, and a chance to start a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

A fresh start is an incomparable gift to a man or woman who has lost everything to homelessness or addiction. You can show them the reason for the Christmas season — that Jesus came to make all things new in their life!



## THREE WAYS to DOUBLE the impact of your giving and help even more people in need of healing and hope!

- 1. GIVE BY MAIL** by completing the enclosed reply form.



- 2. GIVE ONLINE** at [charlotterescuemission.org/DecNewsletter24](http://charlotterescuemission.org/DecNewsletter24)



- 3. GIVE BY SCANNING** here with your mobile device.



Charlotte Rescue Mission • 915 West First Street • Charlotte, NC 28202 • (704) 333-HOPE (4673)

For news and testimonies about how you help change lives in the Charlotte area:

