

the BEACON

CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION

March 2025



Breaking cycles and building a new life

Yusmari thought drugs were her only chance at escaping a painful past. Here's how she found true freedom from addiction . . .

Yusmari was lost in a blur of misguided decisions, trauma, and drugs. And it came with a steep price . . . losing custody of her three children.

Yusmari felt the distance from her little ones with each passing year. Would she ever be able to close the gap? Deep emotional scars, unaddressed

childhood trauma, and crushed self-esteem stood between her and a reconciled family.

"I was raised by my mother, who struggled with alcoholism," says Yusmari. "My childhood was marked by instability and pain."

>>> (continued on page 2)



YOU can transform a life this Easter



Every \$3.42 will provide an Easter meal and open the door to recovery care!

Yusmari's story (continued from page 1)

Yusmari was caught in a perfect storm of abuse, addiction, and bullying. Her refuge? Drugs.

Feeling worthless and abandoned by those who should've protected her, Yusmari spiraled into 28 years of addiction. It ended with her losing her kids — a loss she never thought she could recover from. But your generosity sparked hope in her darkness.

Yusmari was invited to Dove's Nest, the Rescue Mission's residential recovery program for women. For the first time in her life, she experienced support and structure. Sobriety — and reuniting with her family — finally felt within reach.

"I credit my recovery to the grace of God and your unwavering support."

But after Yusmari left Dove's Nest, addiction tightened its grip on her life. She relapsed. "I found myself back in the same destructive cycle," she says.

But Yusmari's story doesn't end here.

"I re-entered Dove's Nest and was determined to complete the program once and for all," she says. Yusmari graduated a second time and is proud to say she's been clean for two years.

"My life has turned a corner," she says. "I'm a technician in a workplace that supports others battling addiction. I hope to one day become a counselor so I can give back to others in the same way Dove's Nest gave to me."

Yusmari's proudest achievement? Becoming the mother she was always made to be. Yusmari is rebuilding relationships with her three children.

"I get to see my youngest every week. It's a small but powerful reminder of the healing that is taking place in my life," she says. "I credit my recovery to the grace of God and your unwavering support."



Your coffee order is more than a "pick-me-up" ...

... It's a way of saying "I believe in you!" to a strong man or woman who is rebuilding their life after addiction and homelessness.

Almost six years ago, Charlotte Rescue Mission opened this local mainstay so program graduates can prepare for employment after addiction.

Students in the six-month Life Skills program at Community Matters Café experience the stressors of a restaurant, financial responsibility, schedule management, and more to help prepare them for daily life and transitioning back into our community. Every server has a story of resilience ... and you can support their journey!

Come be a part of the transformation taking place at Community Matters Café

Pop in for a cup of house-roasted coffee or brunch made with locally sourced ingredients. Our servers will greet you with a smile. And we're confident you'll smile too — knowing that your coffee order affirms a man or woman who once thought they'd never find freedom from addiction.



Healing from the inside out



Trina Fullard
President & CEO

Homelessness isn't simply a problem of housing.

Really, providing a hot meal and warm bed can reveal the root cause of

homelessness. More often than not, the causes of homelessness are trauma ... a lack of identity and self-worth ... and addiction.

At Charlotte Rescue Mission, your generosity helps men and women heal — not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually.

Safe housing, hot meals, and clean clothes set the foundation for stability. From there, your generosity provides the services a man or woman needs to achieve healing and long-term sobriety.

It includes counseling to deal with bottled up pain and disappointment, the Life Skills program at Community Matters Café, learning healthy coping skills, and growing deeper with God ...

... until each man and woman becomes who God created them to be.

Because you give, our CORE recovery program is FREE to all residents. We don't want to place a financial burden on the men and women seeking life transformation. You make that standard of care possible. God bless you!

Trina Fullard



"My life has turned a corner"

One person's recovery starts with your Easter gift today

It's so simple to change a life this Easter — as simple as a \$3.42 hot meal.

Our community Easter meal is fast approaching . . . and time is short for you to reach a man or woman trapped at the intersection of homelessness and addiction.

Knowing that every nourishing meal opens the door to healing and recovery, will you give the best gift you can to provide as many Easter meals as possible?

Addiction and homelessness are hurting too many people in our community. These weary souls desperately need a steadfast community . . . proven recovery care . . . and, most of all, the redeeming love and resurrection hope of Jesus.

Please give before Sunday, April 20, so men and women can find freedom from addiction!



Tax-wise giving with Qualified Charitable Distributions

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) could be your next giving strategy! If you're age 70 ½ or older, QCD benefits include:

INCREASED IMPACT. You can make up to \$108,000 in tax-free charitable donations through a QCD — or \$210,000 if you're married with separate IRAs. If you're 73 years or older, your QCD counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

TAX-WISE GIVING. If sent directly to the Rescue Mission, QCDs are considered tax-free distributions from your IRA! QCDs also may allow you to avoid a higher tax bracket — and don't require itemized deductions.

LOCAL IMPACT. Your QCD gift will go to work immediately, changing lives of men and women in Charlotte!

If you're interested in giving with QCDs, email or call Evan Bohnen at:

evan.bohnen@charlotterescuemission.org
803-412-5998

3 WAYS you can transform a life this Easter!

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



2. GIVE ONLINE at charlotterescuemission.org/MarchNL25



3. GIVE BY SCANNING here with your mobile device.



Charlotte Rescue Mission • 915 West 1st Street • Charlotte, NC 28202 • (704) 333-HOPE (4673)

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

