

A Message from Mike

It's a New Year Dawning

The New Year has barely begun, but already I'm seeing God at work in helping us impact more lives. And He is the driving force behind the big plans that we have for 2017!

I'm thrilled to share with you the expansion of our services to early childhood education. This expansion enables us to help homeless children overcome the trauma of experiencing homelessness . . . while helping them excel in their educational development. It's one of the many ways we're focusing on preventing future generations of homelessness.

We're also aiming to expand our Search & Rescue Van outreach, to double the number of people we can reach at their most vulnerable point. This is especially critical in cold, stormy winter months.

Stay tuned over the next few months as I'll be sharing more of the exciting opportunities God has laid before us in 2017.

Serving Him together,

Mike

Mike Johnson  
Executive Director

Mike (second from right) with 2016 climb team members, celebrating Eric Uebelacker's (at center) graduation from the New Life Program!



Each meal is a chance at a new life.

JUST \$2.02 PROVIDES A HOT, DELICIOUS MEAL



Help fight homelessness in Tacoma. Hundreds of people need our help during this cold, wet January!

Zachary's story reminds us that no one is without hope . . . not even a hardened and addicted drug dealer! And we want to help everyone have an opportunity at a new life.

January can prove deadly for our homeless neighbors. It's when they need our help the most. But it's also when giving is at its lowest.

Your gift today could be the one that saves a life. It could provide hot meals for a woman and her children. It might provide emergency shelter to someone living on the street. It might even help a homeless person move one step closer to recovery. Hundreds of our neighbors are waiting for that chance right now.

YOU can make an eternal difference in someone's life! Please join others in our community by making your gift today.

Please go online to [www.trm.org](http://www.trm.org) and help right now!

Please make your generous donation today!

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help as many as possible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me e-updates on the Mission's work with the homeless community!

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

HELP HOPE HEALING



THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

He committed his life to being a drug dealer . . .

And for twenty years he was good at it!

Zach took his first hit of meth at eighteen. And from that very moment he was hooked. Not only hooked on the drug, but hooked on the lifestyle. He decided that he wanted to be a drug dealer. So, for twenty years Zach became one of the best known drug dealers in south Pierce County.

Over the years, his addiction got worse. He started to feel guilty over the way he used and manipulated people, but it wasn't enough to make him stop.

Then suddenly, the one person who still mattered to him, another dealer whom Zach had considered invincible, was killed in a deal gone bad. Zach knew he wanted out. He needed

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"My tattoos were a warning for customers. That's how set my mind was. Now, they are a reminder of how far I've come."



# Desperation led to a new life.

*Zach's Story Continued*

help. A friend told him about the Mission's program. When Zach walked through our doors he was desperate and convinced he was beyond hope.

At first he hated it; the accountability, the discipline and the classes. But after a while, Zach realized he was changing. He longed to know more about God. He began to care about how he treated others. And he learned that he actually cared about the well being of those around him!

He started feeling better about himself too, and began to realize that he was a very lonely person. He remembers meeting Christ while at the Mission, and thinking,

*"No Christian girl is ever going to want me. Look at me. I'm too far gone. I'm probably the biggest weirdo they'll ever see. I won't have a relationship and that's lonely."*

## The New Life Program gives Zach a new life!

But God wasn't done with this drug dealer. After working through the program for almost two years, Zach was free! Free from his 20 year drug addiction. Free from his destructive drug dealing and callous attitude toward others. And free from his loneliness.

You see, today Zach is married to Kaleigh and has 2 beautiful little children. And for those who ask him if the Mission's programs work, all they have to know is that Zach graduated from the program 8 years ago . . . and today is still clean and sober, a loving husband and father.

Zach, like so many before and after him, has learned that God uses the Mission to change their lives for good. And not with short-term solutions, but for the long-term.

And for eternity!

**“If it wasn’t for the Mission, I’d be in prison or killed like my friend. I’ve watched it give not only myself, but other people a whole new life.”**  
- Zach



*Zach and his wife, Kaleigh, with their children.*

**You can offer hope and a new life to men and women like Zach!**  
**Visit [www.trm.org](http://www.trm.org) to make a difference, today.**

# Yes! It's Cold Outside!

## January can be deadly for those on the streets!

Tacoma's average overnight temperature in January is 37 degrees. Combined with our average of 6 inches of rain, we have a recipe for disaster for our homeless neighbors. Exposure and hypothermia become common, and can quickly turn deadly.

Meanwhile, giving takes a big drop in January, making services to neighbors in need harder to maintain.

Still, we open up our doors to allow overflow into our emergency shelter, as hundreds of people look for shelter and safety from the biting cold. But that's not enough.

Our Search & Rescue Van loads up with blankets, socks, sandwiches and other critical-care items and delivers them to desperate people living on the streets, inviting them back to the shelter.

*Please consider helping reach out to even more in the critical month of January!*

## Bridges to Hope - You did it!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2016 Bridges to Hope campaign a huge success! Through your gifts, volunteer help and prayerful support, more people were helped than ever before:

- **61,597** meals served
- **15,747** nights of shelter provided
- **1,597** volunteers provided **5,915** volunteer hours
- **1,196** warm clothing items distributed through our Search & Rescue Van
- **786** sack lunches handed out through our Search & Rescue Van

### VERSE OF THE MONTH:

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." – 2 Corinthians 5:17**

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We pledge to offer help, hope, and healing to as many people as possible through food, shelter, clothing, education, career coaching, work opportunities, transitional housing, and more.

P.O. Box 1912 | Tacoma, Washington 98401-1912 | 253.383.4493 | [www.trm.org](http://www.trm.org)

Connect with the Tacoma Rescue Mission: [f myrescuemission](#) [t RescueMissionUS](#)

In 2015 86¢ of every dollar went directly to services and facilities to help those in need.

## Help us beat the cold weather!

### January Critical Needs List:

- Backpacks for adults
- Razors & shaving cream
- Gloves of all sizes
- Men's stocking caps
- Warm, water-proof shoes
- New men's and women's underwear
- Men's clothing size XL, XXL, XXXL
- Coffee & hot chocolate mix

Call 253.383.4493 or visit [trm.org/in-kind](http://trm.org/in-kind) for more information.

### Please Pray

January is a tough time for those on the street. You can help by praying for these special needs:

- Pray that we can double our Search & Rescue Van outreach.
- Pray for those who aren't able to find shelter.
- Pray for the resources we need to reach everyone.
- Pray for all the new members of our recovery programs.

**Rescue Mission**  
HELP • HOPE • HEALING  
[www.trm.org](http://www.trm.org)