

A Message from Mike

Bridges to Hope is all about providing a way back into community. A hope that life can become whole again. The Christmas story is the start of that hope!

I wish there weren't children in Tacoma living on the streets, but there are. At Christmas, we have a unique opportunity to share the story of Jesus with children at the Mission's family shelters.

Making Christmas special for them helps overcome some of the trauma they've been through.

It helps them know they are loved. And, combined with other long term care, it helps them avoid issues that lead to homelessness as adults.

Yes, there is much at stake this Christmas.

But the birth of a small child some two thousand years ago gives us the hope that we can be the difference in someone's life – especially that of a child who's had homelessness thrust upon them.

Thank you for sharing your heart with a child this Christmas – it's what Jesus would have us do!

Celebrating Him,

Mike

Mike Johnson
Executive Director

Happy Holidays from Mike, and the entire Tacoma Rescue Mission team!



Every meal is a Bridge to Hope.

JUST **\$2.02** PROVIDES
A HOT, CHRISTMAS MEAL



There's still time to provide Bridges to Hope for Christmas. Every \$18.56 provides a day of shelter and care for a homeless neighbor.

Christmas is the hardest time to be homeless. Especially if you have little children.

Please share your Christmas hope with someone who has nowhere else to go. Your gift will mean men, women and especially children will be able to share the birth and love of Christ with compassion, warmth and dignity this year!

It only costs \$18.56 to provide a day of shelter and care.

Thanks to partners like you, Bridges to Hope is making a great impact in Tacoma. In the month of October, alone, you provided:

- **23,085** meals served
- **11,174** bed stays in safe shelter
- **360** beverages and **265** sandwiches handed out through our Search & Rescue Van

You can go online to bridgestohope.org to give 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

NOVEMBER 2016

They came home to find all their belongings outside . . .

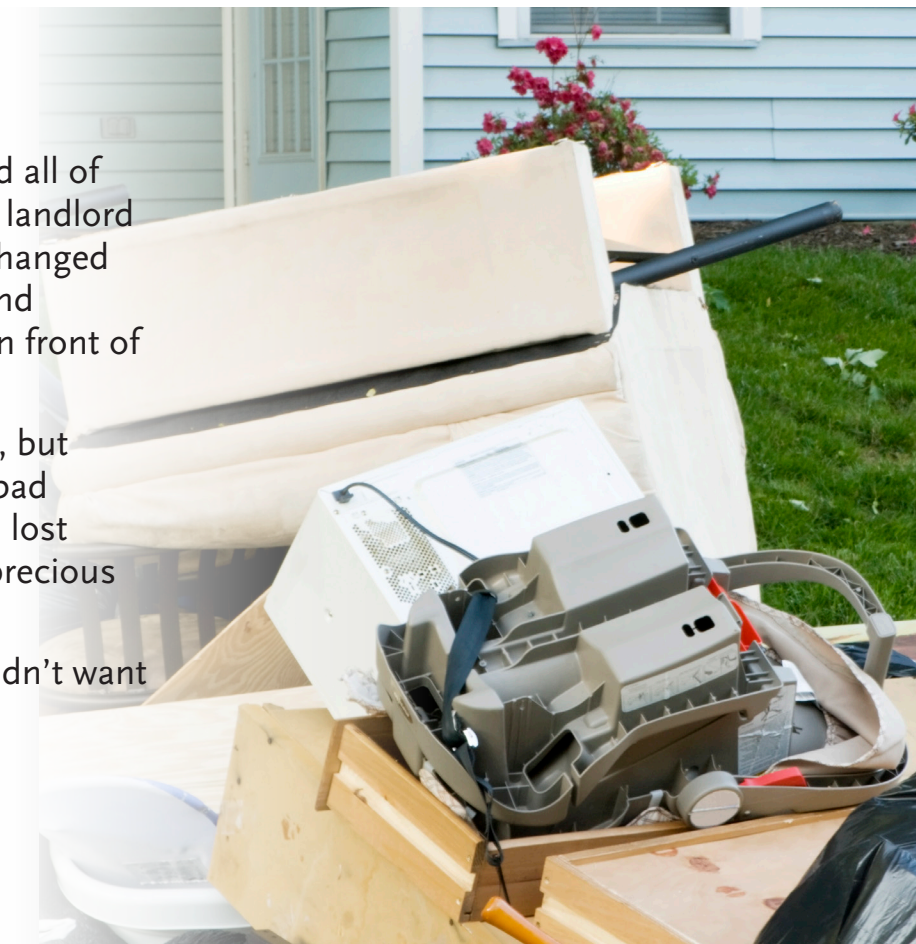
Most had been stolen!

Joseph and Samantha came home to find all of their belongings on the front lawn. Their landlord had evicted them without warning and changed the locks . . . and most of the furniture and valuables had already been stolen from in front of their house!

They had faithfully been paying their rent, but eventually they couldn't keep up. It was bad enough that both Joe and Samantha had lost their jobs, but now they and their three precious children had nowhere to live!

They knew they had to act fast . . . they didn't want their children to be traumatized by

Continued inside . . .



“There were five of us sleeping in a green pickup truck.”

INSIDE:

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- Bridges to Hope Update
- A Message from Mike

Their belongings had been stolen!

Joseph and Samantha's Story Continued

having no place to call home. And living out of a pickup truck was no way to raise kids – especially a six month old baby! Samantha said she felt she had a small taste of what it must have been like for Mary to live in a barn when she had Jesus!

When they thought they had no hope left, a pastor friend told them about the Tacoma Rescue Mission – the only shelter for whole families in Pierce County.

Of course, there was room at this inn, and we immediately took the family in. They were welcomed in to our Temporary Overnight Family Shelter - a partnership with the City of Tacoma and local churches.

Joseph says, "The first day we walked in everybody welcomed us, shook our hands, and said, 'Everything's going to be okay,' then they prayed for us."

Joseph and Samantha's family is now safe and secure . . . and they're focusing on moving forward and doing the best they can for their children;

"We love our kids. This is why we're here!"

"My kids are old enough now, they'll remember this, they're going to say, 'Mom, Dad, do you remember when we were homeless, remember we stayed in the shelter?' I'll have to talk to them about it. I don't want my children to end up homeless, ever again."

"There are people out there, true, loving people that need help, there's families that have kids that don't choose to be on the streets, but have no choice." - Joseph



You can offer hope and a new life to families facing homelessness this Christmas! Visit www.trm.org to make a difference, today.

Christmas should be full of hope

Christmas is for Children!

Homelessness is toughest on the children – and Christmas time is the toughest of all.

That's why we go all out at Christmas to let our children know that they are loved – by their family, by us, and most of all – by God! It's our favorite part of Bridges to Hope.

We help them learn about the love of Jesus, and aid them in overcoming the trauma of being homeless.

Here are just a few of the activities we provide for the families and children staying with us over the holidays:

- We adorn each family shelter with festive decorations, including a beautiful Christmas tree.
- A volunteer group hosts a Christmas party at the family shelter with a stocking for every child!
- A special cookie-decorating day for all the kids.
- Santa hosts a party for kids and families in our facilities.
- A visit to the "Singing Christmas Tree".
- Families all go to see Charles Dickens' "Scrooge."



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

Connect with the Tacoma Rescue Mission: [f myrescuemission](https://www.facebook.com/myrescuemission) [e RescueMissionUS](https://www.instagram.com/RescueMissionUS)

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

Holiday Needs!

Our Special Christmas Wish List:

- Gift Cards for teen gifts and New children's toys
- Hooded jackets (Dickies, Carhartt)
- Warm, water-proof shoes
- Men's jeans - waist size 30" - 40"
- Back packs
- Warm socks
- Infant formula
- Diapers (sizes newborn through toddler)

Call 253.383.4493 or visit trm.org/in-kind for more information.

Please Pray

Christmas can be extremely hard on homeless children. Please join us in praying for their special needs during this time:

- Pray that our Christmas activities will help lessen the trauma of being homeless.
- Pray that they will come to know how much Jesus loves them.
- Pray for those who aren't able to find their way to our shelter.

To join our Prayer Team, email info@trm.org!

Rescue Mission
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

www.trm.org