

A Message from Duke . . .

I'm Thankful For You!

Gathering with loved ones this Thanksgiving may be very different this year. Whether it's in person or virtual. Together, we'll share what we're thankful for.

But for our neighbors who are hungry and homeless, Thanksgiving can feel utterly hopeless. Imagine struggling to find food to eat. Wondering how to feed your children. Concerned about where you might have to sleep. Imagine how alone and frightened you'd feel.

It's what many in our community face every day. And it's especially hard during holidays like Thanksgiving. That's why I'm SO thankful for compassionate and generous partners like you.

You make Thanksgiving at the Mission a time when individuals and families in need can have a delicious, lovingly prepared meal. Where they can feel loved and care for. Where they can connect with life-changing resources like shelter, recovery programs, job training and more.

Thank you for being an amazing blessing to our vulnerable guests and our entire community. I pray God continues to use you and your gifts in powerful ways.

In Christ,


Duke Paulson, Executive Director

Your kindness and support will make this Thanksgiving one that changes lives!

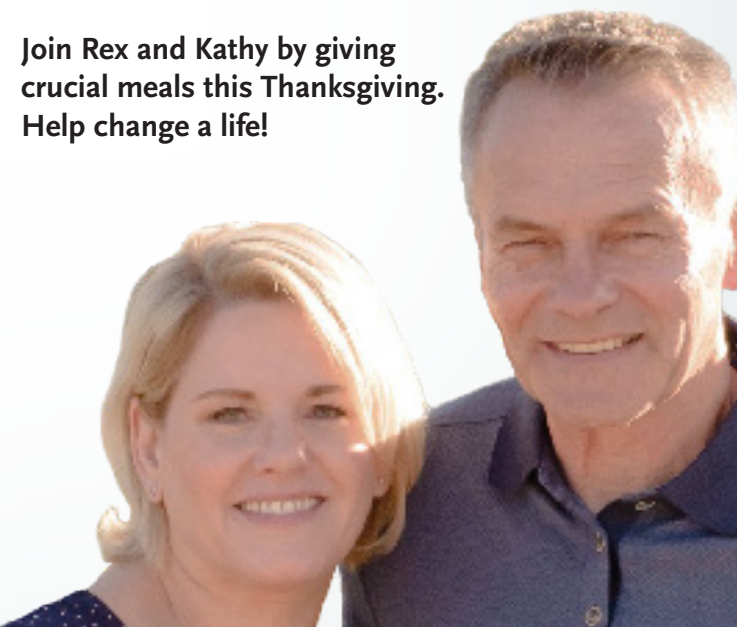
Caring Friends Like You Are Changing Lives.

Rex and Kathy Hadman have been supporters of the Mission for over 18 years. They know how a meal served with love can change a life.

"It's a basic need for everyone to have food," Kathy shares. *"I can't imagine anything more important than having people who care enough to give meals."*

During Thanksgiving, meals are especially important. As Duke mentions above, **holidays can feel isolating and hopeless for individuals in need.**

"It's the time of year when you want to bless someone else who's having a really hard time," Kathy explains.



Each \$2.38 meal you give can help change a life!



Each \$2.38 meal you give can be a crucial gateway to a new life for someone who's hungry, homeless and hurting.

Give Life-Changing Thanksgiving Meals!

Your support is critical in helping make sure that every man, woman or child who comes through our doors receives a crucial meal.

During the holiday season, more hurting neighbors are in desperate need of a hot meal and refuge from the rain and cold.

Each \$2.38 you give today will feed someone in dire need.

But it's not only about the nourishment every meal you give provides.

It's also about how each meal is an invitation to a whole new life.

That's because **meals are a gateway to vital resources that can help someone escape the streets and rebuild their life.**

Right now, a vulnerable neighbor is struggling. Desperate for food, hope and a new start. Will you help?

Please give as generously as you can. Every \$2.38 meal can be the start of a new life.

Feed a neighbor. Help change a life. Give now at trm.org/HolidayMeals.

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The entire staff of The Tacoma Rescue Mission pledges to do everything possible to help the hurting and homeless. It was our commitment when our work began in 1912, and it continues to drive us. We pledge to bring help, hope, and healing to as many people as possible by providing food, shelter, clothing, education, job training, work opportunities, transitional housing, and other programs.

P.O. Box 1912 | Tacoma, Washington 98401-1912 | 253.383.4493
trm.org | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TacomaMission) TacomaMission | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/TacomaMission) TacomaMission



HELP. **HOPE.** HEALING.

A Meal Opened The Door . . .

Stephanie walked a long road to get where she is today.

It began at 13. Stephanie began drinking and using drugs to cope with the trauma she experienced in her early childhood.

It spiraled into an addiction. Her self worth plummeted. Things went from bad to worse.

Eventually, Stephanie found herself homeless. Out on the streets. Utterly alone.

For protection, she began depending on men also living on the street. Jumping from one relationship to another just to survive.

"It was really scary," Stephanie remembers. *"I never want to feel that way again."*

Things hit rock bottom when her abusive boyfriend abandoned her out of the blue. Dropping her off on the side of the road in the middle of the night.

Terrified and feeling hurt, she knew something needed to change . . .

"My whole life is changed. . . to think it all started with coming to the Mission for dinner." — Stephanie



INSIDE:

- Caring Friends Like You Are Changing Lives.
- How a Thanksgiving Meal Can Change a Life.
- One Family's Tradition of Giving Back.
- A Message of Gratitude.
- Give Life-Changing Thanksgiving Meals!



A Meal Opened The Door . . .

. . . *“I knew I could get something to eat if I came to the Mission.”* She had been to the Mission in the past.

“It was during a Mission dinner, that I heard about the New Life Recovery Program.”

Now, at her lowest point, she remembered that invitation to embrace a new life.

As soon as she could, **Stephanie filled out an application. And was accepted!**

Being in the recovery program, safe from the dangers of streets, allowed her to focus on getting sober. **She received vital tools and support she needed to overcome her addiction and begin rebuilding her life.**

“I’m 16 months clean,” she excitedly shares. *“Now I have an apartment, a license and a car. And I’ve overcome co-dependency.”*

Stephanie’s also reconciled with her family.

“I have healthy relationships with my children, They call me for advice and to babysit the grandkids,” she says with a smile.

Most importantly, Stephanie now has a relationship with God.

“I used to just hate myself. But I realized God never gave up on me . . . even when I did, God didn’t,” she emotionally shares.

“Before the program, I never opened a Bible,” she explains, *“I have God in my life now.”*

Today, she enjoys giving back. Spending time taking food to and praying with others still struggling with homelessness. Sharing, *“So when they see me, they might get some hope.”*

Stephanie’s story is possible because of compassionate supporters like you.

She’s proof that a meal is a powerful way to help someone who’s homeless, hungry and hurting. **The meals you give can open the door to a new life!**

Just imagine what God will do with your gift of meals today!



Every \$2.38 you give will provide a life-changing meal for one person in need.

Verse of the Month

“Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.” — Isaiah 58:10 (NIV)

How a Thanksgiving Meal Can Change a Life.

Right now, there are men, women and children still struggling on the streets of our community. Desperate for food, shelter, hope and a new start.

You can make sure that when a vulnerable neighbor comes to the Mission this Thanksgiving, there will be a hot meal waiting for them. A meal that can restore hope, share God’s love and begin a change in their life.

“Meals are a connection to resources and to people who care,” Stephanie emotionally shares. *“It helps people feel less alone. It makes you feel like your not worthless just because your homeless.”*

Stephanie’s experience is shared by many of our hurting and hungry neighbors. Last year we sat down with some of our vulnerable guests to find out just how much a hot, Thanksgiving meal means to them. Here’s what they shared:



“It’s wonderful to have a whole Thanksgiving meal and be able to sit down and share it, even with strangers. Everyone having a good time, laughing, talking. It’s transformational.”
— Willie

“I was in tears, it meant so much to us.”
— Merrin*

“A Thanksgiving meal is everything for some people. Because, for some people, this is all they’ve got.”
— James

** photo and name change to protect guest privacy*

Each \$2.38 meal you give can open the door to a changed life!

One Family’s Tradition of Giving Back.



Twenty-two years ago, Helen Rivera and her kids, Austin, Joshua and Stephanie, decided to spend Thanksgiving serving vulnerable members of our community. That blossomed into a yearly tradition!

“I felt in my heart that I wanted to help others. It became a family thing.,” Helen shares.

Helen’s daughter was age nine when she began volunteering. She’s continued that tradition with her own children.

“I’m so thankful to see my children now helping others,” Stephanie proudly shares.

And her kids feel grateful to be helping, too! They understand there’s blessing in being a blessing to others. As they share below . . .

“Being able to help people, it gives me peace in my heart,” Marisol, age 15 explains.

“It’s very heart warming. I’m happy knowing that others are happy because of what I’ve done,” Trenton, age 10, adds.

The Mission’s guests and staff are greatly blessed to have three generations of Riveras serving Thanksgiving meals to our hungry and hurting neighbors!

Volunteers like the Riveras are vital team members at the Mission. **They help make this life-changing ministry possible by sharing their compassion and valuable time!**



If you’d like to learn more or sign-up to make a difference by serving as a volunteer, visit trm.org/Volunteer

A Message of Gratitude.

“I’m thankful for my dad and grandmother. For their love. I know some people don’t have family or anything. I want to help people be thankful for what they have.”

— Jonah, age 17 (Adams St. Family Shelter Youth Program)