

A Message from Duke . . .

The Mission is Like the Manger Because of You . . .

The manger in Bethlehem wasn't a place where people were typically born. But the God of the universe chose that unlikely place to come into the world.

Likewise, a shelter in downtown Tacoma doesn't seem like somewhere that new life could come from. Yet, because of God's grace and the generosity of caring friends like you, it is.

Community partners like you make these walls a refuge for individuals who everyone else has turned away. You give men, women and children who have nowhere to go somewhere to stay and more! You give them an opportunity to start over. Because of your compassion and support, the Mission is a place of new life, redemption, reconciliation, hope and love.

Your caring gifts make it possible for a vulnerable neighbor like Corrina to experience Christ's love, celebrate Christmas and receive a fresh start. You make the Mission like the manger. And that's one of the things I'm most grateful for this holiday season.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director

Praying that your Christmas is filled with peace, joy and God's blessing.

Give Your Loved Ones a Unique Holiday "Gift"

Christmas is about giving and remembering. We give gifts to family. Let people know what they mean to us. Remember someone we lost.

This year, give a gift that's a double blessing! A gift that honors someone who's close to your heart. AND at the same time, helps a vulnerable neighbor in dire need.

You can! **Simply make a gift to the Mission in honor of or in memory of a loved one.**

When you do, we'll send a special card to the loved one you want us to notify. Letting them know that lives will be changed because of your compassionate gift – inspired by them.



Make this Christmas one that changes lives!

Every \$2.38 meal you give will feed a neighbor in dire need & can help them step into a better life.

Change Lives. Give Christmas Meals.

Christmas will look different this year as we all continue to navigate life in a pandemic.

You can make this Christmas special for children, parents and individuals in need.

Will you help by providing crucial meals? Each \$2.38 you give will feed one person.

Help this holiday be filled with joy, hope and the love of Jesus Christ.

For our neighbors who are hurting and hungry, a Christmas meal could be a crucial turning point. A step toward a better life.

"You're bringing Christmas to people who are having a rough time. You're giving them a special experience that everyone should have," Stephanie, one of our guests, shares.

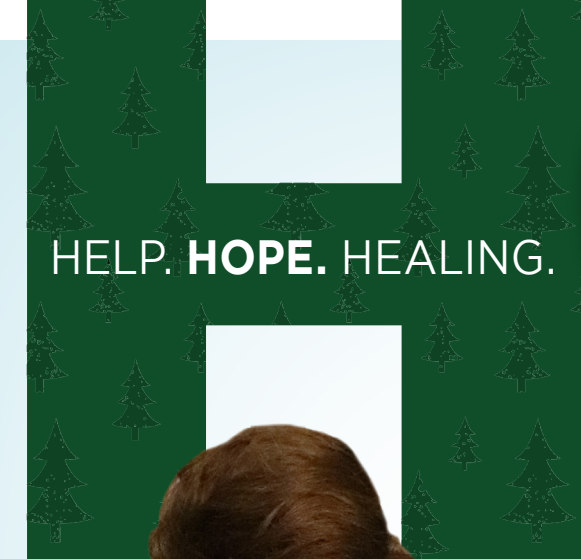
Every \$2.38 holiday meal you give will feed one person with nowhere else to spend the holiday.

Plus, each meal can open the door to other life-changing care & resources for someone in need.

Make this Christmas one that changes the life of someone like Corrina and her daughter.

Every gift matters!

Give life-changing Christmas meals now at trm.org/HolidayMeals.



A Living Miracle

Despite the pain and suffering Corrina has endured, God has been faithful. Leading her to a new and better life.

When Corrina was just four years old, she remembers her milk tasting strange.

"I'd taste it, take it to my grandma and say, 'This tastes funny.' She'd say, 'No it doesn't. Sit down and drink it.' From a very young age, my milk usually had liquor or wine in it."

At age five, Corrina and her mother got into a car accident. Young Corrina miraculously survived. Her mother did not.

After her mother tragically died, Corrina's grandfather began abusing her.

She moved in with other relatives just to . . .

Continued Inside ▶

"I'm truly grateful for the change in my life. If I hadn't found the Mission, I honestly think I'd be dead."
— Corrina

INSIDE:

- The Mission is Like the Manger Because of You
- Give Your Loved Ones a Unique Holiday "Gift"
- YOU Make a Difference! Christmas at the Mission
- Dear Santa,
- The Joy of Giving

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) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/TacomaMission)



A Living Miracle

"I never have had a Christmas like we had at the Mission. They celebrated our lives, our children's lives and the birth of Christ. We had joy, peace and felt loved." Corrina gratefully shares.

Christmas was only one of the gifts friends like you gave Corrina. The biggest one was a changed life!

Through our New Life Recovery Program, she met Jesus, overcame her addiction and got off the streets. Corrina and her daughter are now living in an apartment and thriving.

For hurting individuals like Corrina, the path to a transformed life often begins with a meal.

This Christmas, help a neighbor who's desperate for a new life. Give crucial meals. Meals at the Mission are a gateway to vital life-changing resources that can help someone step into a brighter future.

Every \$2.38 Christmas meal you give will show love and can open the door to a new life for someone like Corrina!

... escape. But they were prone to violence and addiction. In no shape to care for her.

She bounced in and out of foster homes. **Abuse — physical, emotional and sexual — was a part of Corrina's everyday life.**

She grew up, moved out on her own and had a family. But she remained haunted by all the pain she had experienced.

Corrina turned to drugs to numb the past hurt and intense trauma. To just escape.

She spiraled into an addiction. And eventually found herself homeless and alone.

This was not the life Corrina ever wanted for herself or for her children.

"I never wanted my kids to go through what I went through. It wasn't fair to them. I needed to change," Corrina emotionally shares

That's when Corrina found the Mission's New Life Recovery Program. Where she received the vital care, tools and resources she desperately needed to overcome her addiction, experience God's love and heal.

While in the program, Corrina was reunited with her daughter, I'Naomi.

Corrina and I'Naomi will never forget their first Christmas back together.



Verse of the Month

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." — John 1:14 (NLT)

YOU Make a Difference! Christmas at the Mission

Roaring laughter, shining smiles, streaming tears of joy.

These are a few of the things you'll see and hear at the Mission during the Christmas season.

Because of compassionate friends like you, families in dire need can celebrate together. Decorate cookies. Make ornaments. Pick out gifts. Even meet Santa!

Most importantly, they can experience the true meaning of the season – the love of Jesus Christ.



None of this would be possible without you . . .

"They made us feel loved at the Mission. When you're out on the street, Christmas isn't even a holiday. People aren't talking about God. Here we had joy. We had peace."
— Corrina, New Life Recovery Program Graduate

"If you could see the smiles. Hear the laughter. See the tears in the moms' eyes when their kids are provided for. You'd see how much your kindness matters."
— Sarah, Family Shelter Guest

*"When you're homeless, you don't get the holiday cheer everyone else experiences. You feel like you're the scourge of society. Like you're forgotten. **Just to feel happy and loved because you're here at the Mission being taken care of, it fills your heart and soul. It's a beautiful thing.**"*
— Evan, New Life Recovery Program Participant



Give the life-changing gift of \$2.38 Christmas meals!

Dear Santa,

Thank you for sharing joy with the families in our community who are experiencing homelessness and hurt.

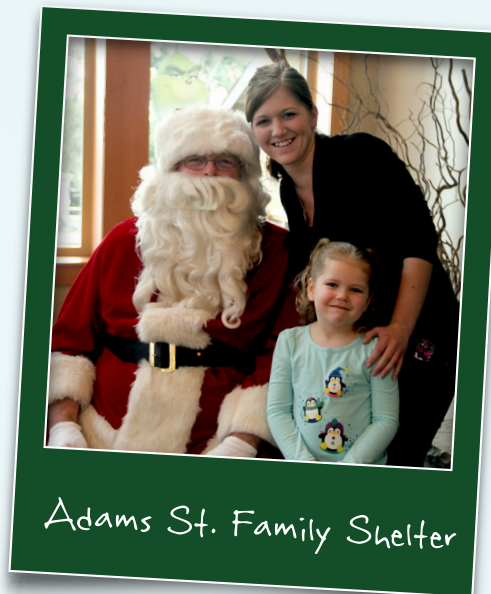
For more than a decade John Gibson, a compassionate community member, has been visiting the Mission's family shelter as Santa. He brings gifts, treats and cheer!

"I love being Santa for kids and parents too. Anytime you can do something good for somebody else, you should. It feels so good to help people. To experience that love is just something you'll never forget," John emotionally shares.

John grew up with eight brothers and sisters, so the Christmas budget was always tight. Now that he has the opportunity to give back, he loves making sure others can experience compassion, generosity and the love of Christ.

Knowing how much hurt the kids have been through, John enjoys making them smile.

"It's a wonderful experience for the kids. You can bring them absolute joy," John shares.



The Joy of Giving

Christmas at the Mission is extraordinary thanks to partners like you.

Because of your generosity, individuals and families staying at the Mission can select gifts for their loved ones at our Annual Christmas "Shopping" Day. There's no cost to guests.

You can help ensure that each man, woman and child at the Mission receives a gift and experiences the joy of giving.

Please bless others by donating some of our most needed gifts! ▷

Please bring your gift donations to:
425 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma WA 98402

"Because of the donated gifts, our kids were able to have a great Christmas," Stephanie, a former shelter guest, shares. *"We felt so blessed."*

Most Needed Christmas Gifts:

- Gift Cards from Target or Walmart - great for all ages!
- Headphones, speakers, sports equipment, Seahawks gear, bath & body items and more - for teens.

Make sure to drop off gifts by December 11th!

