

## A Message from Duke . . .

### A Heartfelt Thank You

When the virus first hit, none of us expected to still be in the middle of a pandemic a year later.

But, despite the unprecedented challenges that it brought, the Lord has faithfully worked through compassionate and generous partners like you to continue making a difference.

Because of you, the Mission was able to adapt. Changing how crucial services are offered. You helped ensure that men, women and children in need continued to receive vital shelter, crucial meals and essential resources uninterrupted. Your support helped save lives.

Now, a year later, more of our hurting and vulnerable neighbors are facing the ongoing, devastating effects of the virus. Your support is even more important now. As we expect an increase in individuals coming to the Mission in dire need of help and hope.

So today, I want to thank you for coming alongside our neighbors in need. And I pray that God will work through your generosity and compassion, once again, to change and save even more lives this year.

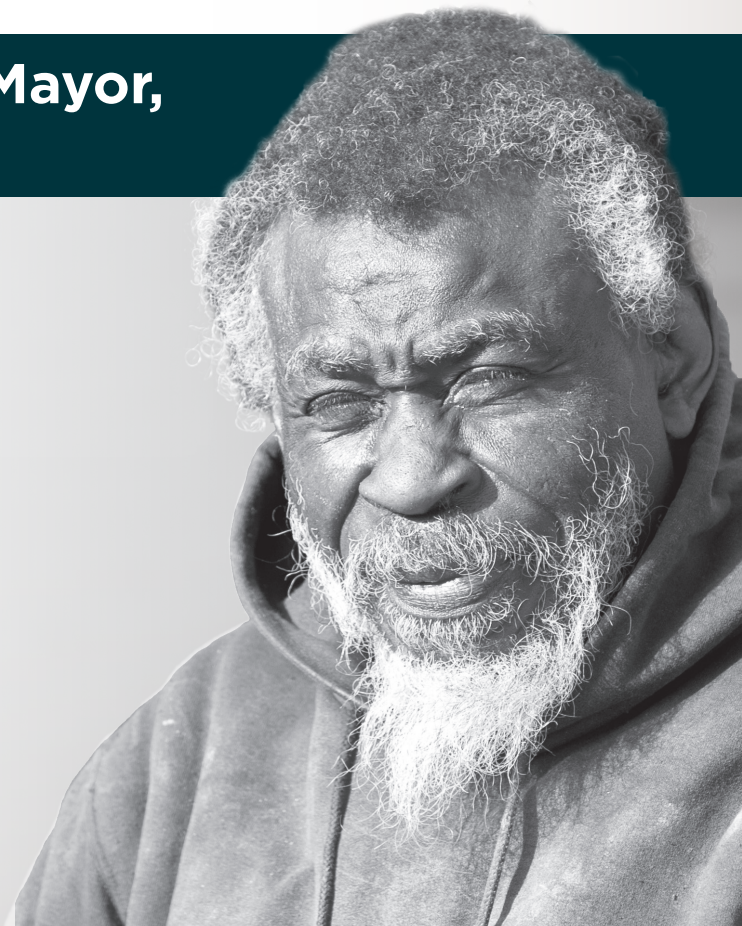
In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director

## A Word from Tacoma's Mayor, Victoria Woodards

*"Tacoma continues to face unprecedented challenges and drastic changes caused by the pandemic. Because of that, we're expecting more members of our community to experience serious hardships like homelessness. Now, more than ever, we need to stand together to care for those who are in need."*

— Mayor Woodards



Each \$19.91 will help someone in crisis by providing a day of vital shelter, crucial meals and life-changing resources.

### Meet the Urgent Needs of Our Hurting Neighbors

You can help be a vital lifeline for a vulnerable individual or family who has nowhere else to turn.

We're expecting more people to come to the Mission in dire need. More families experiencing homelessness for the first time. More individuals in desperate need of food and refuge.

Many of our neighbors are facing the devastating effects of the ongoing pandemic. Layoffs. Evictions. Medical expenses. Homelessness. And more.

The need for meals, shelter and other vital resources is only expected to increase.

Each \$19.91 you give will provide a day of shelter, meals and life-changing resources to someone desperate for help.

You can help vulnerable and hurting men, women and children escape the streets and begin rebuilding their lives.

Will you provide urgently needed food, refuge and care to our neighbors in crisis?

Please give as generously as you can. Every gift makes a difference.

You can help save & change lives at [trm.org](http://trm.org)

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](http://trm.org) | [Facebook](#) TacomaMission | [Twitter](#) TacomaMission | [Instagram](#) TacomaMission



## Thriving Against All Odds . . .

Chelsea\* was living in a nice, quiet town on the Washington coast with her family.

It was a dream life for her. But that dream turned into a nightmare when Chelsea's husband became abusive.

She knew she had to get herself and her children out of that situation immediately.

*"It's a parent's worst nightmare. My husband was abusing me and my kids," she emotionally shares. "We needed to find a safe place."*

On top of it all, a devastating pandemic was starting to spread throughout Washington.

Chelsea had nowhere to go. No one to turn to. No way to care for her children. Having been a stay-at-home mom for the past 10 years, it was especially hard for her to find a job.

She was out of options and losing hope . . .

Continued Inside >

*"I feel like crying. It's so emotional. It makes me happy that people are actually giving and helping out."*

— Chelsea



### INSIDE:

- A Heartfelt Thank You
- A Word from Tacoma's Mayor
- Help Save & Change Lives Now
- 3 Powerful Ways to Make a Difference
- Meet the Urgent Needs of Our Hurting Neighbors

\* Name changed to protect guest privacy



## Thriving Against All Odds . . .

While desperately searching for a safe place to stay, she heard of the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

**Chelsea and her boys were finally able to find refuge at the Mission's family shelter.**

Thanks to generous friends like you, her family no longer had to worry about where to sleep at night or how they'd eat each day.

**But, the challenges didn't end there.**

**With school being remote due to the pandemic, she had three boys to take care of by herself.**

One in preschool, one in elementary and a teenager with disabilities.

*"I thought, 'What am I supposed to do?'" Chelsea shares. "I can't look for work or housing. Not while needing to be there for my kids all day and help with their schoolwork."*

Feeling overwhelmed by it all, she broke down.

*"I was outside our room on the floor just crying," she remembers.*

One of the Mission's staff rushed to see what was wrong. Chelsea finally shared everything that was happening.

From there, **our staff helped Chelsea's children sign-up for the Mission's youth program.** Which they could attend all day. And her eldest got the one-on-one academic support he needed.

They also told her about local partnerships where her kids could get additional help.

*"It helped tremendously," Chelsea shares. "I actually have the time to look for work, look for housing and take care of myself."*

Chelsea was also able to get mental health counseling, employment services, legal support and more.

**None of this would have been possible without the generosity of friends like you.**

She and her sons have since moved into permanent housing. And are building a better future together.

*"I'm getting to start a whole new life now with my boys," Chelsea shares hopefully. "The Mission has given me resources to be able to better myself and my kids' lives."*

**Your support today will help more individuals and families, like Chelsea's, escape homelessness and step into a new life. By providing vital shelter, crucial meals and life-changing resources as they face the ongoing effects of the pandemic.**

*Each \$19.91 will provide a day of shelter, meals and care to someone in need like Chelsea. Every gift matters.*



## Help Save & Change Lives Now Continued Emergency Response

**The generous and quick response of friends like you in 2020 helped ensure that our vulnerable neighbors continued to receive the help they desperately needed during the pandemic.**

Your support helped vital services at the Mission, like shelter, meals and more, adapt to meet the new COVID restrictions and continue uninterrupted. Meals are being served to-go. Shelter beds are socially distanced. Additional temporary shelter spaces have been set up and more.

**The need for meals, shelter and other essential resources is only expected to increase as many of our neighbors face life-altering challenges like layoffs, evictions and devastating medical expenses. Causing them to experience the unimaginable — homelessness.**

That's why your gift today is so crucial. You can help someone in dire need.

*"If we don't continue to do everything we can to help people who are homeless, who else do they have? They have nowhere else to go," Gerald, our men's shelter manager, explains. "We're all in this together. COVID has made this an 'everyone' problem. We all have to do more to help."*

### 3 Powerful Ways to Make a Difference:



1

#### Offer Vital Shelter

**Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are desperate to escape the cold, wet streets.**

They are facing life-threatening conditions. At risk of frost bite, hypothermia or worse.

**When you provide vital shelter, you're helping vulnerable men, women and children find crucial refuge AND connecting them to life-changing resources so they can step into a better life.**

*"Being homeless in the dead of winter is really hard. You can't stay warm. Can't stay dry. Your body goes into hypothermia," Calvin, a participant in our New Life Recovery Program, vividly recalls.*

*"I wondered how I was going to survive the night," Stefanie, a former Mission guest, adds. "It's a relief to know there's a place that offers help for people who need it."*



2

#### Provide Crucial Meals

**In response to an increasing need in our community, the Mission's kitchen is being expanded to prepare and serve more food.** It will also allow for more social distancing among guests, volunteers and staff.

**Every meal you give can be a crucial starting point to a new life.** A meal can connect someone in dire need to other essential services and care. Helping them to escape the streets and rebuild their life!

*"That first meal I had at the Mission turned everything around for me," Sofia, a graduate from our New Life Recovery Program, shares. "When you're starving, you feel so weak. The Mission saved my life."*



3

#### Help Families & Individuals Thrive

**Right now men, women and children staying at our shelters need extra help.** As they work tirelessly toward a better future in the face of a pandemic.

**Your gift today will provide neighbors in need with essential resources like housing support, job training and youth programs.**

Chelsea's story is a great example of how you can help change lives! Because of the mentoring, tutoring and more that her boys received, Chelsea and her sons were able to thrive in school and in life.

*"Resources at the Mission like the youth program are a lifeline right now," Chelsea emotionally explains. "Without those services, families like us don't have support. We can't financially help our kids. We can't get WIFI, school supplies or anything we need."*

**Every \$19.91 you give will provide a day of urgently needed refuge, food and care for someone in dire need.**

#### Verse of the Month

*"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28 (NIV)*