



## A Message from Duke . . .

### You Demonstrate God's love

After all the challenges of this past year — the pandemic, fear, isolation, unrest — this Easter will be a special time to focus our eyes on Jesus. Saying, *“There is a hope. There is a future. Because you love us. And you loved us so much that you died for us.”*

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, that same hope and love is being shared with every hurting neighbor that comes to the Mission. In every meal served to someone who's desperate for food. Every shelter bed offered to an individual or family who's been struggling to survive on the streets. Every Easter basket given to a child in need. Every prayer shared.

I get to see our guests responding to that love and hope first-hand. Those acts of love are what bring people into a deeper relationship. Giving us an opportunity to say, *“We believe in you. God has created you for more.”*

The compassion of community members like you makes it possible to share the life-transforming message of the Gospel in such meaningful and tangible ways. Thank you for demonstrating the love of God this Easter.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director

*Praying you feel the love & grace of Jesus Christ this Easter as we celebrate His gift of new life together!*

## Two Acts of Love

*“We love because he first loved us.”*

— 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Share God's love in two powerful ways this Easter season.

You can offer someone in need the gift of new life that Christ freely gave us. AND, at the same time, honor someone who's close to your heart.

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 lives will be changed because of your compassionate gift — inspired by them!



Bless a loved one & a beloved neighbor in need this Easter!

Just fill out the designated section on the back of your enclosed response device when you mail in your gift.

OR, check the box under *“Additional Information”* when you donate online at [trm.org/donate](http://trm.org/donate).



Every \$2.38 meal you give will feed a man, woman or child who's hungry & hurting. And help them step into a better future!

## Offer New Life to Someone in Dire Need Give Crucial Easter Meals!

*“Your donation may be as small as a meal, but that can change somebody's perspective and get them on the road to recovery. Just with a meal,”* Abi shares.

Your gift of Easter meals today is more than vital nourishment for individuals or families who are desperate for food and refuge.

It's an invitation to a new life.

At just \$2.38 per meal, you can make a big difference for our hungry, hurting neighbors.

A meal can be a vital gateway to crucial resources that can help someone escape the streets and rebuild their life.

Every \$2.38 meal you give matters. Every meal can lead to transformation and restoration.

*“You can change lives,”* Abi gratefully shares. *“Even if it's just one life, it's not just one life, because it ripples!”*

Will you help today? Please give as generously as you can.

*Help change a life this Easter. Give meals now at [trm.org/EasterMeals](http://trm.org/EasterMeals).*

## 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

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HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | MAR 2021

## A Life Restored . . .

As a kid, Abi witnessed first-hand how addiction can tear a family apart.

She watched her dad fall victim to it. As he tried to cope with his own childhood trauma.

*“My dad drank a lot and started getting into drugs,”* Abi remembers sadly. *“He became abusive. And it was getting progressively worse.”*

Her mom left her dad when Abi was 15. Taking Abi and her brother with her to keep them safe.

It was hard on everyone.

Eventually the family moved on. But, Abi never dealt with her own hurt and grief.

She later married her best friend at 19 years old. And they had a beautiful baby boy a year later.

Things were going well until depression, stress and anxiety crept in. To cope, Abi repeated what she had seen growing up. She drank.

Soon, Abi's drinking became all consuming . . .

Continued Inside ▷

*“I could see what I was doing to my son. I didn't want him to go through the hurt I went through as a kid. The Mission helped me get my life back.”*

— Abi

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## A Life Restored . . .

**“My drinking got to a point where I couldn’t manage life at all,”** Abi recalls. *“I couldn’t wake up without drinking. I couldn’t be a mother. I couldn’t be a wife. I couldn’t go to work.”*

**Abi’s husband finally told her that she couldn’t come home until she got help. For the sake of their son — who was living in fear of his mom.**

Not knowing where to go, **Abi ended up alone. Homeless. Hopeless.**

That’s when she remembered a place called the Tacoma Rescue Mission. She and her husband had donated to them years before.

**Abi came to the Mission hungry, hurting and looking for a changed life.**

**She got the help she needed by joining our New Life Recovery Program.** In which, Abi had access to recovery care, mental health counseling, faith formation classes and more.

**Abi stepped into a new life.** She was sober. Healing from past hurt and trauma. And living out a powerful faith in Jesus.

*“I learned how to walk with God the right way,”* she shares, full of gratitude. **“I got my identity in Christ back. And it transformed everything.”**

**Even her relationship with her son was restored!** He now sees her as a “rockstar” mom. Inspired by all she’s overcome.

**“My son always tells me, ‘Mom, you’re the strongest person I know.’ To hear that from the child that used to be scared of me, it means the world,”** Abi emotionally shares.

Thanks to the life-changing love of God and compassionate friends like you, Abi is thriving.

She’s even been able to give back by returning to the women’s New life Recovery Program weekly to lead Bible studies, do arts and crafts and encourage the ladies there.

Abi knows she wouldn’t be where she is today without your generosity.

**“Now I can be a mother. I can give back to society. I can live out the life God intended for me. I’m no longer broken and set aside. Thank you,”** Abi shares gratefully.

**Give the gift of new life this Easter to someone who’s hungry and hurting like Abi was.**

**It can all start with a meal.** Each meal can connect a neighbor in need to life-changing resources. Helping them escape the streets and begin rebuilding their life.

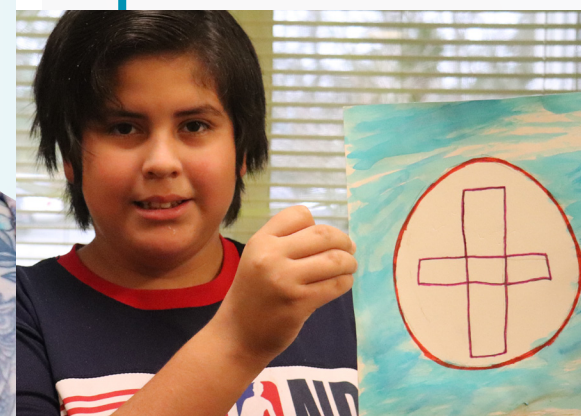
*Every \$2.38 you give will feed a neighbor in need. And can open the door to a whole new life!*



## Easter at the Mission is Full of Joy, Hope & Love

Thanks to generous friends like you, hurting neighbors like Abi can experience the restorative love of Jesus this Easter. **AND get the help they desperately need to rebuild their lives.**

It all can begin with a simple but powerful act of love. Like offering a warm meal to a hungry family or individual who’s struggling to escape the streets.



## Because of You . . .

. . . men, women and kids who are homeless and hurting can experience and celebrate the joy of Easter. The hope of a new life in Christ. And God’s life-changing love.

On top of showing love by providing Easter meals, your support helps share the Gospel message through special Easter cards, Easter baskets for the kids and more!

*“The Easter parties, food and egg hunts at the Mission are so great. They bring togetherness. **The kids are able to just be kids and do something fun.**”*  
— Jules\*, Family Shelter Guest

*“**I was shocked that people went out of their way to help. All so that we could have a nice Easter with our family. We didn’t have anything. It was so special!**”*  
— Debbie\*, Family Shelter Guest

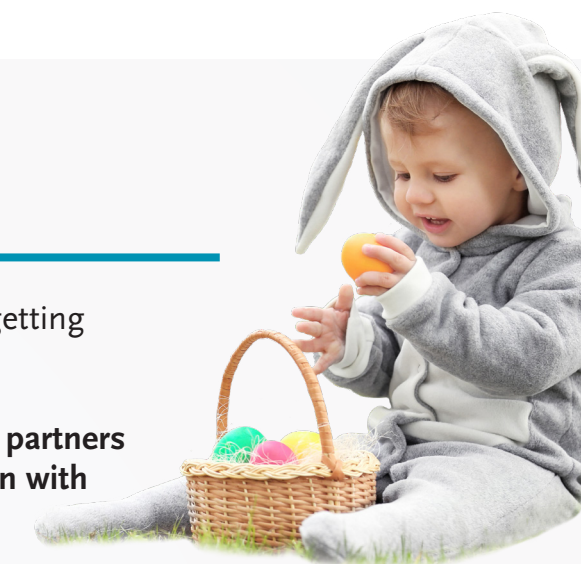
*“Easter is the most important holiday to me. **Jesus gave his life so we could truly live! At the Mission, we really get a chance to celebrate that.**”*  
— Stephanie, Supportive Housing Resident

\* Names changed to protect guest privacy

## Sharing Easter’s Love With Kids in Need

When you’re a child, there’s not much better than getting a fun gift that makes you feel seen and special.

That’s why **every Easter compassionate community partners like you help provide each kid staying at the Mission with an Easter basket full of goodies.**



The tradition continued last year, even when many other Easter activities were put on hold due to COVID restrictions. **Our friends at Harbor Christian Center in Gig Harbor made and donated Easter Baskets. Sharing God’s love and hope with kids who, in the midst of crisis, had the added challenge of navigating life during a pandemic.**

*“You may look at it and say, ‘Well, it’s an Easter basket.’ But if we take a step back, you can see that God is moving,”* Pastor Caryn shares.

**Those Easter baskets are going to touch the hands and hearts of families who are homeless,”** Pastor Caryn emotionally continues. **“Kids are going to receive that demonstration of love and begin to recognize God’s love and His movement in their life.”**

As we look forward to another Easter, **generous partners like you are once again helping ensure vulnerable kids of all ages feel loved.**

## Please Pray . . .

**Several of our guests have asked if you’ll join them in prayer this Easter season.**

Please pray for . . .



*“. . . my son and I to grow stronger in our relationship. And for God’s healing in his life.”* — Kalina



*“. . . an increase in my confidence and joy. And protection against my depression, PTSD, anxiety, fears and suicidal thoughts.”* — Michael



*“. . . my father who has a heart condition. And for the safety and well being of my sister, Stephanie.”* — Dez

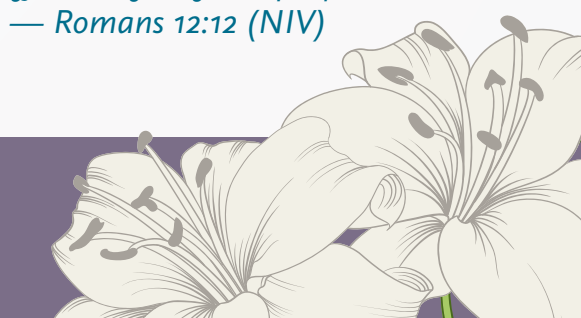


*“. . . my two children, Michael and Chelsea. I don’t hear from them. Please pray for their safety.”* — Jenn



*“. . . my mom’s health and healing for my uncle’s cancer.”* — Lisa

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*  
— Romans 12:12 (NIV)



## Verse of the Month

*“Let us thank the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was through His loving-kindness that we were born again to a new life and have a hope that never dies.”* — 1 Peter 1:3 (NLV)

**Every \$2.38 you give today will provide a crucial meal to a neighbor in desperate need this Easter. Help change a life!**