



A Message from Duke . . .

## A Thanksgiving Favor

With the support of caring friends like you, the Mission will prepare hundreds of turkeys for Thanksgiving this year.

Those turkeys will be surrounded by tantalizing pastries, mounds of mashed potatoes, delicious carrots, fresh salads and much more. A meal made with love and care is a powerful way of tangibly showing God's love for our neighbors who are hurting, hungry and in desperate need of help, hope and healing.

So, in these few weeks before Thanksgiving, I have a favor to ask. Will you pray?

Will you pray that we not only have enough food for everyone, but that every person who comes in feels loved by God and our community?

Thank you so much for joining with us this holiday and I pray that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your loved ones. And if you don't have anyone to celebrate with, come on down to the Mission. We'd love to have you!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director



## Will You Be One of the 110?

This Thanksgiving, we need 110 volunteers to help prep and serve over 800 meals for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Will you join us this holiday?

You can come by yourself or bring your family, friends or colleagues!

We know you'll be blessed as you bless others.

Every meal you help prepare and serve can help change the life of someone who's homeless, hungry and hurting.



Sign-up to volunteer as an individual or group this Thanksgiving! Visit [trm.org/Volunteer](http://trm.org/Volunteer).



Each \$2.38 Thanksgiving meal you give won't just feed a hungry neighbor, it can change their entire world.

## Give Life-Changing Thanksgiving Meals!

Anthony was blessed by the meals he first got at the Mission.

*"When you're out there for days at a time not knowing where your next meal is going to come from. And you've got somewhere like the Mission that you can eat every day, it changes everything,"* Anthony explains.

He's still being blessed by the chance to feed others in need as he serves in our kitchen now and on Thanksgiving.

You have the same opportunity!

**Each \$2.38 you give will provide a life-changing meal for a hurting, hungry neighbor with nowhere to turn.**

We expect to serve over 800 meals this Thanksgiving. That means there are over 800 opportunities to change a life.

As Anthony says, *" . . . if you can fill a stomach, you can change someone's entire world."*

**Please give generously. Every meal matters!**

**Feed a Neighbor. Change a life. Give now at [trm.org/HolidayMeals](http://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.

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HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | OCT 2021

*" . . . if you can fill a stomach, you can change someone's world."*

**Anthony had his first drink at nine years old.**

The feeling it gave him felt like an escape from the rough childhood he was living in. **It was an escape that he continued to crave.**

*"It's like it was already set in stone at that moment,"* he shares. *"My body was like, 'that's a feeling we need to get back to.'"*

**Years later he found himself battling alcoholism.**

By the time Anthony found his way to the Mission for help, he'd been drinking for decades.

**He lost his home and his family. He was left to live out of his truck.**

*"It was really uncomfortable sleeping in my truck. I never knew if I was going to be safe or not,"* Anthony shares.

*"It all went downhill fast. I was in my house, waking up and making my family breakfast, going to work. Then, I lost it all. I'd never been in a situation like that before."*

Anthony desperately needed help, but he didn't know where to turn . . .

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*"A meal can make a major difference. It can change a person's perception on whether life is worth continuing, or just giving up on it." – Anthony*

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**“ . . . if you can fill a stomach, you can change someone’s world.”**

*“I didn’t even know there were places like the Mission. I didn’t know where to go for a meal,” he says. “It was depressing not having fresh, home-cooked meals, the kind I always made for my family at home.”*

Anthony was still working while homeless.

He sent as much money as he could to his fiancé and kids. At times, that meant he couldn’t afford food or gas.

*“I was in my car, and it was getting colder. Keeping warm was very expensive,” he says.*

**Thankfully, a friend told him that he could get food and help at the Tacoma Rescue Mission.**

With nothing to lose, he drove straight there with the little gas he had left.

When Anthony got to the Mission, he was greeted with a hot meal.

**Just being able to sit down and take a bite of delicious, home-cooked food gave him hope.**

*“The staff really takes the time to engage with people. And the first line of connecting is usually food,” Anthony shares.*

**After enjoying a few meals here, Anthony found out about and joined our recovery program.**

*“The program is making it easier to get back on my feet. It’s helping me better myself,” he says.*

As part of the program, Anthony began doing work therapy in the kitchen, helping to serve other guests experiencing homelessness.

Having been on both sides of the food line, he’s so grateful to be able to dish out the same hope he received when he first got here.

**“Food can change your reality,”** he says. *“It gives you the hope you need to keep going. Because if you can fill a stomach, you can change someone’s world. It changed mine.”*

**Today, Anthony is 5 months sober.** He’s working on reconciliation with his fiancé and his kids. Knowing that someday they’ll be back together as a family again.

**Will you give a life-changing thanksgiving meal today and help change the life of someone like Anthony?**

**Every \$2.38 Thanksgiving meal you give can change a life like Anthony’s!**



## Why Give Meals?

**When you give a meal, you are nourishing a neighbor in need – body, mind, and soul.** More than that, each meal can be a crucial gateway to life-changing services, resources and care. Helping individuals and families escape the streets and rebuild their lives!

**With each plate of food you give, you’re making a difference.**



## Your Gift of Meals Will Help Change Lives!

**There are men, women and children in desperate need of food and care right now and right here in our community. Your gift today will help change lives!**

During the height of the pandemic, food pantries reported a 40% spike in food insecurity in Pierce County.

1 in 10 Washingtonians consistently struggle with hunger.

The Mission served over 250,000 meals to neighbors in need this past year.



With your help, we’re expecting to serve over 800 meals on thanksgiving alone!

**Partners like you have the opportunity to offer nourishing food and new life to our neighbors in dire need.**

**Make this holiday matter.**

**Every man, woman and child deserves a hot, nourishing meal. Will you help feed a hungry neighbor this Thanksgiving?**

## We Are Thankful For . . .

**We asked the kids in our youth program if they’d share what they are most thankful for this Thanksgiving.**

**Their answers – and their great artwork – will warm your heart.** Friends like you are part of the reason they have so many things to be thankful for!



*“What I am thankful for is God, family, food, sports, friends. Also, for this shelter because we have somewhere to stay. I’m thankful to be alive and for having somewhere to eat and sleep every day and night.” – Francis, age 11*

*“I’m thankful for my brain. I get to think outside of the box. So, I am thankful for that.” – Skylar, age 11*

*“There’s a lot I’m thankful for. I’m thankful for my family, the bed I have to sleep in, my parents and my grandparents. I’m thankful for food and to be alive.” – Millisa, age 9*

*“I’m thankful for my grandma because she is very kind, loving and caring. She is one of my biggest role models. So is my teacher here in the Youth Program. My teacher taught me to be grateful for everything and not be rude. If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t be who I am now.” – Leviticus, age 13*



As you read through the responses above, we pray it inspires gratitude. **What are you thankful for this holiday season?**



## Verse of the Month

*“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back – given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.” – Luke 6:38 (MSG)*