



A Message from Duke . . .

Our Christmas Mission

When Nieisha came to the Mission with her kids she was scared. She hadn't been to a shelter before. She wondered if her children would be safe. She worried about being judged.

At our family shelter, Nieisha was met with safe refuge, grace and compassionate care.

That's what the Tacoma Rescue Mission is all about! Our mission is to be God's hands and feet to our neighbors in need, offering grace, love and transformative relationships. Thanks to the support of friends like you, we're able to do that year-round. But it's magnified 100-fold at Christmas, because we're all so much more aware that this is the time to celebrate Jesus' birth.

He is the greatest gift. And once you know Him, you can't help but share Him!

We never hide our faith at the Mission, but at Christmas we get to be even more open about it. That's why making sure we have the meals and support people need when they come to us is so important. Every meal is an opportunity to save and change lives!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director

Have You Done Your Christmas Shopping Yet?

Have you seen our new online Christmas gift catalog? It's full of life-changing gifts with 4x the impact!

Impact 1: Change lives by meeting the urgent needs of your hurting neighbors.

Impact 2: Start a domino effect. The people whose lives you change will go on to change others.

Impact 3: Show a loved one you care.

Impact 4: Feel great giving gifts that matter.

With each gift you give, you will help save and change the life of a neighbor who's hungry, homeless and hurting.



Give Christmas gifts that offer God's help, hope and healing.

Shop now at:
trmchristmas.org



Each \$2.38 you give provides a life-changing meal for a hungry person in dire need this Christmas!

Give \$2.38 Christmas Meals!

Sometimes people ask how a gift of just a \$2.38 meal can lead to a changed life.

Here's the secret: It's not the meals themselves. It's what the meals can do!

A hot, home-cooked meal served with dignity shows a hurting neighbor that they are valued and loved.

Meals also connect individuals and families to our other life-changing services – like housing support, job-training, education, youth programming, and more!

All of those services helped Nieisha and her family get to the place they are at today, living changed lives!

We're expecting to feed over 800 neighbors who are hungry and hurting this Christmas. But we can't do that without your help.

Your gift today will provide crucial meals all while sharing the tangible love of Jesus!

Please help by sending a gift to provide Christmas meals by December 23.

Give quickly and securely 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

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HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | NOV 2021

The 3 Days That Changed Everything . . .

Nieisha and her children stopped celebrating Christmas a few years ago.

It's not that they didn't want to have a special holiday dinner or exchange presents. It's that they couldn't afford to.

She was doing everything she could to just keep a roof over her children's heads and food on the table. Then, almost over night, they lost those things, too.

In Nieisha's case, losing her home and the ability to feed her four children can all be tied to one day. The day she heard about COVID-19.

"I was one of the workers that was sent home. On top of being sent home, my children were sent home from school," Nieisha emotionally remembers.

"Everything stopped. I lost my job. We wound up losing our home. The kids never went back to school."

With no other options and no one to turn to, Nieisha and her kids were forced to move into their car . . .

Continued Inside ➤

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I've always thought of love as an action word. We experienced that kind of love here at the Mission. The staff, the volunteers, the people who support, you all loved us into a better life." – Nieisha

INSIDE:

- Our Christmas Mission
- Have You Done Your Christmas Shopping Yet?
- A Christmas That's Filled With Joy!
- The Joy of Giving
- Christmas Shopping Days Wish List



The 3 Days That Changed Everything . . .

Their little family spent two nights sleeping in the car as Nieisha searched desperately for a place to stay.

“The kids didn’t think anything until the second night in the car,” Nieisha shares.

“They asked, ‘Mommy, why aren’t we in our beds? Why are you not sleeping?’ I would lean my seat all the way back, put one of the babies on top of me and try to keep them all close. It was uncomfortable and cold. It hurt to sleep like that. We needed to find a place soon.”

Nieisha didn’t know where to go for help.

Thankfully, a friendly neighbor told her to call 211, a hotline that provides information about local services and resources.

They connected her to the Tacoma Rescue Mission’s family shelter.

“They said, ‘If you can come on down now, we will have a bed for you,’” Nieisha remembers.

“Walking through those doors restored me. It was the place we needed. A place that we could really transition and change. A place that me and my kids could grow. A place where I could cry. A place where I wasn’t judged.”

Months later, Nieisha’s family was blessed again with delicious food, loving community and presents on Christmas.

“I didn’t think people cared that much or would ever give that much. It was the kind of Christmas I always wanted to give my babies,” she gratefully shares.

Since that Christmas a year ago, their lives have been completely changed. Nieisha and her kids are stable and flourishing!

They’ve moved into their own home. Nieisha is enrolled at Tacoma Community College and is working at a local nonprofit. And her kids are back in school and thriving!

“I hope that I’m an example for what the Mission can do,” Nieisha shares.

She is! And she’s an example of what the gift you give today can do for someone else.

Your gift can help make Christmas 2021 a life-changing day for someone else! And it can all start with a meal.

Every \$2.38 Christmas meal you give will nourish and help open the door to a new life for a neighbor in need!



Verse of the Month

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

A Christmas That’s Filled With Joy!

Because of compassionate friends like you, individuals and families experiencing homelessness – like Nieisha and her children – can experience a Christmas surrounded by life-changing hope, generosity, caring community, and the tangible love of Jesus.

Niesha and her family aren’t the only ones whose lives have been changed at Christmas because of community members like you!

Thanks to Your Generosity . . .



There’s Been No Christmas Like That Christmas

“It was my favorite Christmas. I finally knew what it felt like to celebrate, to feel what most other people feel every year. I had never had a Christmas like that Christmas at the Mission. Thinking about it makes me happy all over again.” – Sharon*



Christmas Was Saved

“It didn’t feel like Christmas being in a shelter with my baby. But, when I saw the generosity and the gifts people donated, Christmas was saved.” – Jami



You Made Christmas Possible For Us

“We honestly wouldn’t be having Christmas if it wasn’t for the Mission and the people who are giving out of the kindness of their hearts.” – Morgan*

*Names changed to protect privacy

Every \$2.38 you give will feed a hungry neighbor and can open the door to a changed life for someone in need this Christmas!

The Joy of Giving

In every gift we give during the holiday, we want our loved ones to feel the joy, hope, and love of Jesus.

Individuals and families, like Nieisha’s, who are experiencing homelessness simply can’t afford gifts. That’s why we started our Annual Christmas Shopping Days.

Our Annual Christmas Shopping Days is a special time when individuals and families staying at the Mission can “shop” for gifts among items donated by friends like you. For the past several years, Mindy and her husband have volunteered at this meaningful event.

“The Mission doesn’t hand gifts to people, saying, ‘Here, give this to your family member or child.’ They’re giving people an opportunity to go and pick out something themselves,” Mindy shares.

“To walk alongside someone in the experience of coming in, seeing rooms filled with toys, games, books and clothing, then pick things out personally for their children. To be able to be a light in someone’s darkest time. It’s so heartwarming.”



Christmas Shopping Days Wish List

Christmas at the Mission is an extraordinary time thanks to partners like you!

You can help make this Christmas extra special for men, women and children experiencing homelessness and hurt by donating some of our most needed gifts . . .

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.

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

“When I was kid, my family didn’t always get to have Christmas or get gifts. I just remember Christmas day at the Mission, I woke up and there were a ton of presents. More than I’d ever seen in my life. Just being able to look under the tree and see my name on not just one present, but multiple was incredible.” – Brittany

Make sure to drop off your gifts by December 10th!