



## A Message from Duke . . .

### You Make it Possible

As my kids have gotten older, I've entered a season where my kids don't necessarily come home for Thanksgiving because they are too far away. I miss having my whole family together and I'm grieving the loss of some of our traditions.

That grief drives me all the more to want to show love to our hurting neighbors. I know we can't take away their pain of not getting to be with their families, but we can still show them love and help them feel like they belong and are part of our family.

The Thanksgiving meal is one of the central times to demonstrate our love, and it's something that we do really well here at the Mission. I love seeing how our community comes together in such incredible ways to make sure others are cared for.

Your prayers, gifts and support make it all possible. I'm grateful for you and I pray that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson  
Executive Director

### Kids Give Thanks!

The kids at the Mission know that they have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving and the best way they know how to express it is through art.

Take a look at what Annie created in our Elementary Youth Program!

Annie is staying in our Family Shelter with her mom and brother. When she was asked what Thanksgiving means to her, she said, *"It's about being thankful for what you have. I'm thankful that God loves me and has been by my side every single day. I'm thankful for my family, my friends, my room and everything I have."*



### Give Life-Changing Thanksgiving Meals!

Marty has felt hunger – and the sweet relief of getting a meal here at the Mission.

**That type of hope-giving meal is exactly what we want to give our other desperate neighbors this Thanksgiving.** It's going to be a challenge because with 1,100 meals to feed, this will be our biggest Thanksgiving yet!

**Will you help by giving a gift to provide meals? Each one is just \$4.11 and every meal can change a life!**



*You can also give your Thanksgiving gift to provide meals online at: [trm.org/HolidayMeals](http://trm.org/HolidayMeals)*

### Leave a Legacy of Love

**Did you know that you can choose to remember the Tacoma Rescue Mission in your will?**

Over the years, a number of our partners have left gifts to the Mission in their wills. Their impact will continue for years!

For more information about the type of gifts you can leave, contact Myron at [MyronB@trm.org](mailto:MyronB@trm.org) or call 253.383.4493.

### 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) | [f](#) TacomaMission | [t](#) TacomaMission | [i](#) TacomaMission



### There's Life-Changing Power in Meals!

Marty smiles a lot these days. And those smiles are thanks to God's goodness and the generosity of friends like you, which helped him change his entire life – and has made it possible for him to help other people change their lives.

**Marty volunteers in our kitchen, where he helps serve meals that people like you provide. But last year, he was the one being served.**

*"When I was out on the streets, I didn't know when my next meal was going to be," he says.*

Marty had gone through a brutal divorce which left him homeless. He began drinking more and more. Soon, it became the only way he could sleep.

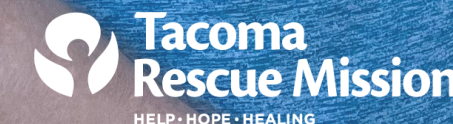
One day, as he walked towards the bar, Marty felt God telling him that. . .

*Continued Inside . . .*

***"To have a full belly means a lot to somebody who doesn't know where their next meal is coming from. It brings them hope and it brings them a sense of belonging. Like they're not forgotten." - Marty***

### INSIDE:

- You Make it Possible
- Kids Give Thanks!
- A Meal Can Change Your Life, Too!
- Top 4 Ways to Make a Difference
- Give Life-Changing Thanksgiving Meals!





Continued From Cover...

# There’s Life-Changing Power in Meals!

... He had better plans for him. Marty knew he couldn’t get there alone. Thankfully, he’d heard about the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

*“I knew that the Mission was here,” Marty explains. “I knew that they had shelter, that they had food . . . It gave me a boost knowing I could be fed.”*

Marty got connected to our other resources and joined our New Life Recovery Program.

Through the classes in our program, Marty learned how to put down the bottle and not pick it up again. He grew in his faith and learned how to work through his grief in a healthy way.

**He was in the recovery program last Thanksgiving and not only got to enjoy delicious food, but got to see the impact a good, holiday meal had on the other guests who had come in out of the cold.**

*“I heard people say on Thanksgiving that this reminded them of childhood Thanksgiving. They were able to reminisce about good times rather than be focused on their situation,”* he remembers.

Marty just graduated from our recovery program last week and has a job lined up working at our new thrift store!

***“Without you, I wouldn't have gotten the food that first gave me hope. The Mission wouldn't be able to feed anyone.”*** – Marty



**Because of the generosity of friends like you, Marty has been able to reach the goals he set for himself back when he first came to the Mission for a meal.**

*“There is hope in this Mission,” Marty says. “I was able to accomplish the goals that I set for this year: I wanted to get well and get new coping skills. I've done that. I wanted to get the basics, like employment. And while I was reaching those goals, I found who I was. . . not who somebody else thought I was, but who I was in Christ.”*

**Your gift of Thanksgiving meals can help transform someone else’s life!**

**Each \$4.11 you give feeds one person. Every meal matters!**

## A Meal Can Change Your Life, Too!

Marty knows first hand the impact a meal has on the person who receives it, as well as how serving those meals changes you. And he’s not alone.

Time and time again, people who volunteer at the Mission tell us what a blessing it is – and how it’s changed their life!



*“My husband and I have volunteered on Thanksgiving Day for two years . . . For me, personally, it’s a blessing, honor and privilege to join the hardworking and dedicated staff who work every single day to ensure the homeless are cared for.”*  
- Cheryl and Dale



*“Volunteering in the kitchen was the perfect opportunity for our family to serve together. It's a holiday that most people celebrate with large meals, family and football. Giving a little time to welcome others into a safe place and give them a meal is the least we can do.”*  
- Lucas



*“The most impactful part of volunteering during Thanksgiving was taking my nine-year-old daughter and having her see firsthand how kindness and generosity can speak volumes. I loved the opportunity to give back, especially on a day that is solely about gratitude, generosity, kindness and thankfulness.”*  
- Anne

**If you want to experience the joy of serving others this holiday season, visit [trm.org/volunteer](http://trm.org/volunteer) to sign-up or email [volunteer@trm.org](mailto:volunteer@trm.org) for more information.**

**Even if food isn’t your thing, there are plenty of other ways to serve!**

## Top 4 Ways to Make a Difference!

This Thanksgiving, there are a variety of ways that you can share God’s love with your neighbors who are in dire need. Here are the top 4:



**Donate a turkey.** Our Annual Turkey drive is on now! Stop by 425 S. Tacoma Way and drop off a turkey – or 10 – to help feed our neighbors who are hungry!



**Volunteer.** With 1,100 meals to prepare and serve for Thanksgiving, we need extra hands! Visit [trm.org/volunteer](http://trm.org/volunteer) to sign-up or email [volunteer@trm.org](mailto:volunteer@trm.org) for more info.



**Give meals.** Each \$4.11 you give will help provide a meal for one person. You can find out more at [trm.org/holidaymeals](http://trm.org/holidaymeals).



**Pray.** Pray for God’s love to be seen, felt and tasted with every meal that is served.

**Verse of the Month**

*“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!”* – 1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV)