



A Message from Duke . . .

## Why Go the Extra Mile?

The holidays are the time of year when everyone gets together with their family and loved ones.

But if you're experiencing homelessness, you don't usually have that option. All you are left with are the memories of what you once had. It can be enough to lead to depression and despair.

That's why, especially during this time of year, we go the extra mile. We reach out with even more love, we provide even more food, and we do what we can to show even more compassion.

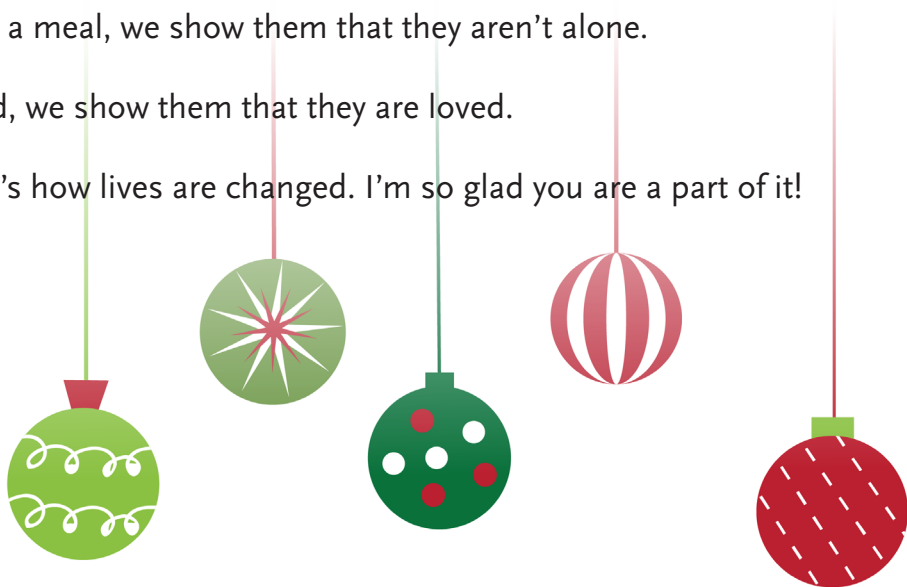
By bringing people together, over a meal, we show them that they aren't alone.

By providing hot, nourishing food, we show them that they are loved.

And as Mandi's story shows, that's how lives are changed. I'm so glad you are a part of it!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson  
Executive Director



## Have You Been "Shopping" Yet?

This Christmas, give life-changing gifts with up to 5x the impact when you shop the Tacoma Rescue Mission's online Christmas Gift Catalog.

- Impact 1: Change a life.
- Impact 2: Start a domino effect.
- Impact 3: Share God's love.
- Impact 4: Show a loved one you care.
- Impact 5: Feel great giving gifts that really matter.

Shop now at [trmchristmas.org](https://trmchristmas.org)



## Change a Life. Give Christmas Meals!

Each \$4.11  
provides one meal!



Every \$4.11 meal you provide can help change a life. Not because of what's on the plate, but because of the connections that happen at the table.

Connections show people they matter. Help people in desperate need see that they are loved. Give people hope and courage. And change lives like Mandi's.

*"I have a year sober. I'm reconnected with all my children. I'm in college working toward a bachelor's for human services . . . I want to do domestic violence advocacy,"* Mandi shares.

**Every meal you give can be the start of a connection – the start of a new life – for someone like Mandi in desperate need who has nowhere else to turn.**

By coming together, we'll change more than one life. We'll change families. We'll change our community.

**It all starts with meals. Please give as generously as you can!**

You can also give Christmas meals online at [trm.org/HolidayMeals](https://trm.org/HolidayMeals)

## Leave a Legacy of Love

**Did you know that you can 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 Bernard 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](https://trm.org) | [Facebook](#) TacomaMission | [Twitter](#) TacomaMission | [Instagram](#) TacomaMission



HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | NOV 2022

## A Shattered Family, Restored

Looking back at the years of hurt and hardship that Mandi and her children overcame, the restoration and joy they have now is powerful to see.

**Mandi was married for 13 years, 10 of which she suffered physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband.**

Desperate to make her marriage work, she catered to him, until she lost everything – including herself.

*"I was raised to hold onto a marriage. You don't divorce. I didn't want to hurt my kids, but in the end, it just got bad,"* Mandi says. *"I ended up joining him in his addiction instead of leaving because I thought it might save my marriage. I thought, 'If I can't beat him, join him.'"* . . .

*Continued Inside . . .*

***"Just by me doing the program, I'm seeing a change in my children and grandchildren, too."* –Mandi**



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**Tacoma  
Rescue Mission**  
HELP • HOPE • HEALING



Continued From Cover...

# A Shattered Family, Restored

... Mandi's addiction quickly got out of control, and she ended up in prison.

"It was the first time I was ever in trouble," she shares.

Being in jail was horrible, but at least Mandi was safe from her husband. The distance helped her see how unhealthy their marriage was. She decided if she was going to save any part of her family, she had to leave her husband. She filed divorce paperwork from jail and Mandi's kids went into foster care.

Mandi's parents became her only support. But as they got older, their health deteriorated. They couldn't be there for Mandi anymore, but she could be there for them. She devoted herself to caring for them through COPD and cancer until they died six months apart.

In their devastating absence, Mandi felt more alone than ever. She turned to drugs to try to cope and fell back into ddiction. She ended up hungry, homeless and alone.

"I was at my bottom. I had lost my children, been to prison, and watched my parents die. I had taken care of them for about a year and a half," Mandi says.

"Thank God for the Mission. I came here for a hot meal and found out about the New Life Recovery Program."

At the Mission, Mandi felt connected. She felt like she had a family again.



"The love and the support of the community is tremendous," Mandi says gratefully.

The community at the Mission gave Mandi the courage to keep moving forward, towards new life.

Today Mandi and her kids and grandkids have reconciled. This will be the first time they celebrate Christmas together, as a safe, healthy family. Friends like you made their reunion possible!

Each \$4.11 you give provides a Christmas meal for someone with nowhere else to go!

Mandi graduated from the Mission's New Life Recovery Program in July. She is in college working on a degree in Human Services. She has restored relationships with her kids and plans to celebrate Christmas together, as a family, this year!

## 6 Ways to Get Involved This Season

Mandi was with us last Christmas and was deeply impacted by all the ways friends like you made the holiday special.

"Not only were we gifted so many wonderful things for ourselves, but we were able to get presents for our children. I kind of felt like I was a kid again," she says.

We want everyone staying at the Mission this Christmas to have that same type of experience! Here are six ways we can come together to make it happen:

1

**Volunteer.** Every day we need about 20 volunteers just to keep the Mission running. During the holiday season, even more are needed! You can serve meals, hand out warm coats, staff a gift table, pray with people – we'd love to help you find the perfect fit.

2

**Host a Toy Drive.** Collect brand-new toys for children – or gifts for adults – staying with us this Christmas. We specifically need:

- Toys for all ages
- Gift cards (Target, Walmart and Starbucks are great!)
- Books for every reading level
- Warm winter clothes like PJs, sweaters, hats, socks and gloves
- Electronics for the teens and adults staying with us

3

**Stuff Stockings.** It would be wonderful for each of our guests to wake up on Christmas morning to a stocking full of goodies! Simply fill a stocking with all sorts of gifts – both practical and fun – and tasty, non-perishable treats! Drop stockings off at the Donation Center at 504 S 30th Street before December 20th.

4

**Serve Meals.** We serve over 700 meals to our neighbors in need every day. Come help us hand them out and see the impact your gifts have with your own eyes!

5

**Donate a Turkey or Ham.** Drop off a frozen turkey or ham at our kitchen (located at the Back of Building A) at 425 S. Tacoma Way. Drop-offs accepted daily from 6am-6pm.

6

**Provide a Meal.** Each \$4.11 you give helps make sure that someone in desperate need gets a nutritious, hot meal this holiday season! Find out more on the back of your newsletter.

To learn more about getting involved, go to: [trm.org](http://trm.org) today!

## Volunteering Makes Your Holiday Bright!

Every day, we need at least 20 volunteers to keep the Mission running. "Volunteers are absolutely the life blood of the Mission," Duke says. "And it gives both ways. **The volunteers that come in feel rewarded knowing that they're part of helping change people's lives.**" Below, volunteers reflect on serving at the Mission during the Christmas season.

"I loved being able to give back . . . I hope that people coming to the Mission this Christmas know there are people out there that care." - Sidney

"I think the most impactful part about volunteering at Christmas was that I got to see people in different situations, and I could help by even just serving them food. I hope that whatever they may be going through, they know that we are here for them. And I hope that knowing that makes their Christmas better." - Michael

"Christmas is about humbling ourselves in sometimes inconvenient ways to serve those who are less fortunate, but not that different than us. The most meaningful part is seeing how thankful people are . . . To be able to serve, just a little bit, like Christ demonstrated, is a good experience." - Matthew

Verse of the Month

"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." – Luke 14:13-14 (NIV)