



Redeemed

Providence Rescue Mission Newsletter

"I began to see for the first time that God did love me! I had never known that kind of love before."

A Testimony of Redemption & Restoration

My name is Laura, and my story at the Mission begins more than ten years ago. In 2013, my husband and I found ourselves completely alone with nowhere else to turn. We were both severe alcoholics, and we had lost our children and home due to the nature of our addiction. ***I was genuinely hopeless, but I remember feeling safe the moment I came to the Mission.*** I stayed in the shelter for about a year, and it became what I now consider my "safe place." After listening to the stories of the staff, I decided to join the women's recovery program at Grace's House. At this point I still was not ready to fully surrender myself to the Lord, my only focus was getting my children back into my life. ***I didn't want to give up alcohol, and I didn't feel like I should have to. I still wanted to live life on my terms, even though my choices were destroying me.***

I was raised in the Catholic faith, but I never truly understood what a relationship with God meant. ***Through my time in the program, I slowly began to understand that the Lord was trying to get a hold of me.*** I remember Ms. Edwina, the assistant director of the program, telling me "Whether you get your kids back or not, you are here to let the Lord work on you and show you how much He loves you." That statement was life-changing for me. Through Scripture, Christian literature, and the Bible classes, I began to see for the first time that God did love me. I had never known that kind of love before. I trusted that I could put my faith in His plan, not mine.

During my time at Grace's house, I was able to have regular visitation with one of my sons. This meant so much to me, and I knew that God was working behind the scenes. After graduating from the program, I started working as a resident assistant in the women's shelter. ***I surrounded myself with accountability and stayed in the Word of God as I learned what it meant to live a Christian life and stay sober while living independently.*** I still prayed earnestly to be reunited with my other children, and I know that God heard my prayers. In 2020, I received a phone call from my mother, who my children lived with. She asked me if I would like to have my oldest daughter come stay with me for a while. I couldn't believe it! I was so overjoyed. This began many months of reconciliation between me and my children. My daughter now lives with me and my husband, and my sons visit us all the time! I am a grandmother now and have the joy of seeing my son raise his kids. ***I could have never imagined how much God could do with my life if I had a willing heart.*** I am still deeply involved in my church community, and they provide so much valuable support that my husband and I need. We took my daughter to church, and she got saved at a youth Bible camp. Praise the Lord! I am so deeply grateful.

I still work at the Mission 2 days a week, because it truly is a safe space for me; it is where I found the Lord. ***Not every moment of life is easy, but I now know that you turn your life over to God, He will be there for you through all the ups and downs.*** I always tell the guests in the shelter that this is not the end for them, even though it may feel like it. Jesus is all you need when you find yourself in that hopeless place. ***Your donations to the Mission help keep the doors open and the lights on. Even though you may not physically see it, you are changing lives.*** In a tough world, this ministry is a beacon of light. ***Thank you!***



From the Desk of the Director

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"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!" -1 Chronicles 16:34

As we dive headfirst into the Autumn season, I cannot believe we are about to embark on our 25th Thanksgiving here at the Mission! Wow! I can still clearly remember that very first Thanksgiving holiday in 1999. Our kitchens weren't fully built yet, and a local Pizza Hut restaurant allowed us to use their kitchens to prepare our meal. Here in 2023, with three properties and countless stories of lives changed, I can truly see how far we have come. Praise God!

The holiday season is a very special time for our ministry. It is a time when we help those in need who may not be as open to receiving help on a day-to-day basis. **Thoughts of an estranged family or the stress of providing for their children during what is supposed to be a time of love and memories taint the holiday experience for so many that come to our doors.** With the ever-increasing price of goods, I believe this year we may see more people than we ever have before.



Our team is gearing up for our Thanksgiving food basket distribution, during which over 6,000 families will receive over 40lbs. of food for Thanksgiving dinner and other essential items. Not only that, but every family that comes through here will receive an opportunity to hear the message of the hope of Jesus Christ! For those who truly have nowhere to go, our facility will be open all day to everyone with a Thanksgiving message and a hot homemade meal.

Hopefully this helps you to understand that every single dollar you donate makes a difference. **Especially this time of year, your generous donation of \$40 can provide a family with more than enough food to celebrate with their children. Your donation of \$2.39 can provide a warm meal to an individual looking for somewhere to turn on Thanksgiving Day.** We truly appreciate your heart to give to those in our community in beyond. You're not only providing tangible needs, but the opportunity for everyone to know a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you and may you and your family be blessed this holiday!



Sean M. Carew
Executive Director

Yes, Sean! I would like to support families in need this

NLFALL2023

Thanksgiving with my generous gift of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$55 ☐ \$85 ☐ \$125 ☐ Other: _____

☐ Pay by Credit Card:

☐ Pay by Cash

☐ Pay by Check: Please make all checks payable to
Providence Rescue Mission

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____

Mail to: PO Box 72753, Providence, RI 02907

Exp: _____ CVC: _____ Amount: _____

Giving Thanks
by Giving Back



Be the Reason Someone Has a Thanksgiving to Remember!

Scan Here
to Donate Now!



PROVIDENCE
RESCUE MISSION

Serving Christ, Serving our Community

THANK YOU

for 25 Years

Here at the Mission, we cannot believe we are celebrating our 25th Thanksgiving Dinner here on Cranston Street. God has truly blessed us and enabled us to touch more lives than we could possibly imagine! While our numbers have drastically grown (our first holiday meal served around 15 people!), the heart of the ministry is exactly the same: to reach the poor and homeless of our community with the love of Christ. In honor of our 25th anniversary, I would like to personally invite you to partner with us this Thanksgiving. **Just \$2.39 can provide a hot, homemade meal to a neighbor in need. Just \$40 can provide a family of four with a 40lb. food basket.** Thank you for coming alongside us to leave an amazing legacy of giving in our community! God Bless!



Our Very First Chapel Service: June 1999

In addition to the finances necessary to meet the needs of the community this Thanksgiving, we are also accepting donations of turkeys and other holiday food basket items. Please reach out to us directly if your church, school, or organization is interested in hosting a food drive. All food donations can be dropped off at 627 Cranston Street, Providence RI 02907. Grocery store gift cards are also graciously accepted! Find a list below of our Thanksgiving essentials:

- Fresh or Frozen Turkeys
- Potatoes or Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned or Frozen Vegetables
- Yams
- Cranberry Sauce
- Jarred Gravy or Gravy Mix
- Stuffing Mix
- Rice
- Frozen Pies
- Other Non-Perishable Food Items:
Macaroni and Cheese, Cereal, Pasta, Sauce, etc.

THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR JUST \$2.39
FEED A FAMILY OF FOUR FOR \$40

Autumn Fundraising Banquet 2023



Thank you to everyone who showed up and made our Autumn Fundraising Banquet a huge success. Everyone in attendance enjoyed impacting testimonies, great food, and a great message from Executive Director Sean Carew.

With nearly 300 in attendance, we had a wonderful night of fellowship, fundraising, and rejoicing in what the Lord has done! Stay tuned for more information about our 25th Anniversary Legacy Banquet happening in 2024!

We also want to extend a special thanks to the sponsors and businesses that so generously made this event possible!

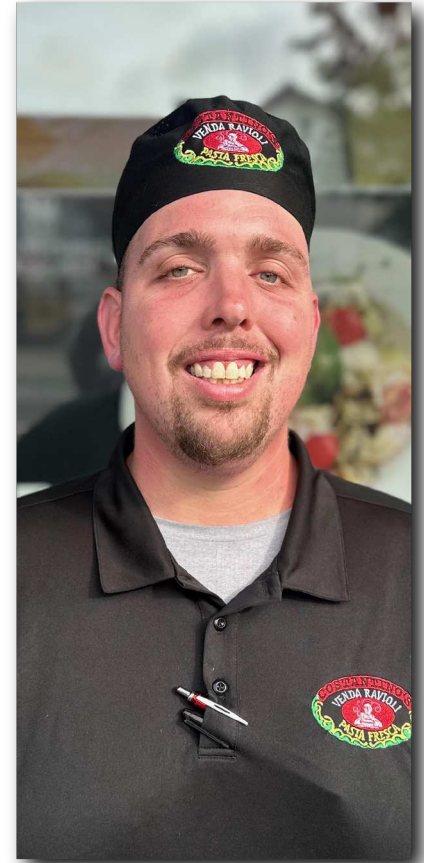
"Without hearing about God at the Mission, I know for a fact that my journey would have been so much more difficult."

Kevin's Story of Sobriety and Restoration

My name is Kevin, and 12 years ago, a lot of my poor choices and life decisions started to catch up with me. ***After years of time in and out of jail on drug charges, I found myself homeless.*** I really wasn't sure where to turn, until my ex-girlfriend's father told me about the Mission. I wasn't sure that my life would ever really get better, honestly. ***I remember hearing about God during the chapel services, and I believe that the time I spent in the shelter helped me to rebuild a foundation for a different life.*** The Mission gave me an assurance of security and routine during a very chaotic time. This kept me from spiraling down a very devastating downward path.

However, I can't say that it all turned around for me right away. Desperate to make a living, I got sober but continued to sell drugs to provide for myself. After another arrest and relapse, it all clicked one day. I couldn't continue on this path, or I was doomed. I wanted life to be different. ***I wanted the life that I knew I could have, and I knew that if I put the effort that I used to sell drugs into a legitimate job, I could create that for myself.***

A friend got me a job at Venda Ravioli in Providence, and I have worked my way up to becoming the general manager of the store. ***For the first time, I can say that I honestly love my life and my job.*** My relationships with my family have drastically improved since I got clean. ***Without hearing about God at the Mission, I know for a fact that my journey would have been so much more difficult.*** I know how far God has brought me, and I am blessed to be able to give work opportunities to people who have stories just like mine. ***The Mission truly gives back, and it was the only place that was able to be there for me during that challenging time in my life.*** Every night they gave me a hot meal, a bed, and a shower. I said it before, but that sense of security was invaluable to me. Thank you for giving to a place that is making such a big difference!



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-US-**



Keep up to date on everything
happening here at the Mission!



**PROVIDENCE
RESCUE MISSION**

www.providencerescuemission.org

*"Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you."*

-1 Thessalonians 5:18

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

We are already preparing for our annual Christmas toy distribution!
We are looking for donations of new, unwrapped toys for all ages.
We expect to serve more than 500 families this holiday! Please call
(401)-274-8861 ext. 201 for more information. Thank you!

*Be a Blessing to Children in
Need This Christmas!*