



Redeemed

A Providence Rescue Mission Newsletter

From Darkness to Redemption: Zhaire's Story

Drugs, homelessness, and despair once defined Zhaire's life, but redemption had the final word.

My name is Zhaire. I was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and raised throughout New Haven and West Haven. I grew up in a church-going family, but as a child, no one ever really explained what faith meant or how it applied to my life. I formed my own ideas, heavily influenced by the world around me.

At 16 years old, I left home. I connected with people who, looking back, did not have my best interests at heart. I wanted to fit in. I didn't want to be labeled as a Christian. The morals I had learned from my family and church, I pushed aside. **I was desperate for brotherhood, love, and belonging, and I searched for it in the wrong places.**

That search led me into drug trafficking and distribution. I became consumed by drugs, not just to get high, but to bury the pain and brokenness I carried inside. Weed, acid, and mushrooms damaged my mind and distorted who I was. **I became manipulative and dishonest. I betrayed people who trusted me.** I even misused money that was meant to help a child, and that situation ended in devastating loss.

That was the moment I fell to my knees and cried out to God for the first time. I realized what I had done was far beyond anything I could fix on my own.

Soon after, everything in my life collapsed. I thought I had secured an apartment to restart my life, but I was deceived by someone I trusted. The money I paid never reached the landlord, and I was evicted without warning. When I returned home, the locks were changed and all of my belongings, even the artwork I had created, were gone.

I ended up in a shelter in Providence. I hated the conditions, but I was grateful to still be alive. God had protected me, even when I couldn't see it. While there, I met a man who offered me work and a place to sleep in abandoned trucks. One night, after taking drugs that were unknowingly laced, I spiraled into paranoia and suicidal thoughts. **I truly believe that night could have ended my life.**

Instead, that man brought me to the Providence Rescue Mission.

I don't remember every detail, but I remember the moment I arrived. **I was met with care, Scripture, and genuine concern.** I was told this wasn't just a shelter. It was a place where men could rebuild their lives with God at the center. I signed the paperwork that night, and when I woke up the next morning holding those papers, I knew God had intervened. **I understood why the Mission stays open 24/7. It exists to be a light for people like me who are lost in darkness.**

During my first three months at the Mission, I began to change. I took classes like Authentic Manhood. I learned who God truly is and started building a real relationship with Him. For the first time, I saw that my life had purpose, to serve others and live selflessly.



"For the first time, I saw that my life had purpose, to serve others and live selflessly."

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."-Matthew 25:35

Dear Friend of the Mission,

For 26 years, the Mission has been a place of refuge, hope, and transformation. **Because of your faithful support, our doors remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, offering shelter, hot meals, and compassionate care to men and women in crisis.** This past holiday season, your generosity made a powerful difference. At Thanksgiving, you helped provide more than 8,000 food boxes and serve 500 meals at the Mission. At Christmas, families received gifts for more than 5,000 children, neighbors gathered for warm meals, and those with nowhere else to turn found welcome and hope.

Zhaire's story reflects that impact in a deeply personal way. After being turned away elsewhere, he came to the Mission exhausted, discouraged, and unsure where to go next. **Because of you, he found more than a warm bed and a hot meal. He found safety, encouragement, and the reassurance that his life mattered.** As the New Year began, Zhaire was able to remain at the Mission, surrounded by care and support, because donors like you chose to give when the holidays had passed but the need had not.



While Christmas has passed, the need remains. Winter continues, and men and women still need shelter, food, and care. Every night, someone in our community is facing the cold, hunger, and the fear of having nowhere safe to go. **Your gift today can be the difference between despair and hope, between being turned away and being welcomed in.** As we begin this New Year, I am asking you to make a special gift today to help sustain this life-changing work. A New Year gift ensures our doors remain open, our programs continue, and more stories like Zhaire's are just beginning. **Will you consider starting the year by giving hope to someone in need? Together, we are changing lives one meal, one bed, and one story at a time!**

With Gratitude and Joy,



Sean M. Carew
Executive Director

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Yes, Sean! I want to give a special gift to help make room for those who have nowhere else to turn: ☐ \$19.99 ☐ \$31.50 ☐ \$62.70 ☐ \$125.50

NWINTER2026

☐ **Other:** \$_____ to help as many guests as possible

☐ **Pay by Check:** Please make all checks payable to
Providence Rescue Mission
Mail to: PO Box 72753, Providence, RI 02907

☐ **Pay by Credit Card:**

☐ **Pay by Cash**

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____

Exp: _____ **CVC:** _____

Scan Here
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Thank You for Your Support!



**PROVIDENCE
RESCUE MISSION**

Serving Christ, Serving our Community

Zhaire's Story Cont'd...

"It is an honor to give back to the place that gave me hope."



"Because of you, the lights stay on for people like me and for many others still searching for hope."

But I stumbled. The night before an important Mission event, I walked away and returned to my old life. For nearly a month, I lived with deep conviction, putting myself in dangerous situations where I easily could have lost my life again. **That season showed me I wasn't just battling myself. I was battling something that didn't want me to live out God's purpose.**

I knew I didn't want to stay in the mud anymore.

When I returned to the Mission, I was welcomed back with love. No judgment. No rejection. Just grace. I prayed, asking God to guide my steps and help me do it right this time. Since then, I've fully committed myself to growth. **I write everything down, stay engaged in class, and dedicate my heart to God and this Mission family.**

I am deeply grateful to the supporters who keep the Mission running. **Because of you, the lights stay on for people like me and for many others still searching for hope.** Today, I serve as a resident assistant at the Mission, helping with day-to-day operations and supporting other men as they walk their own recovery journeys. It is an honor to give back to the place that gave me hope. **I am committed to finishing the race God has set before me and helping others find the same redemption I've been given.**

A Thanksgiving Filled with Hope and Heart

This Thanksgiving, the Mission overflowed with the sights, sounds, and smells of gratitude. Volunteers bustled through the kitchen, laughter filled the dining room, and the aroma of roasted turkey and pumpkin pie drifted through the halls, reminding us all what love in action looks like.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and friends, we distributed over 9,000 Thanksgiving food boxes, each packed with the ingredients for a holiday feast and enough food to sustain a family for the week ahead. For many who received them, it meant relief, joy, and the chance to gather around a table without worry.

On Thanksgiving Day, we welcomed about 600 guests for a special chapel service that lifted hearts in praise and gratitude before sharing a homemade turkey dinner prepared by our dedicated volunteers. **One guest told us, "It wasn't just the meal, it was the kindness. It felt like family."**

Moments like that remind us why we serve. **Because of you—our donors, volunteers, and prayer partners: hundreds of lives were touched, and thousands of hearts were reminded of God's unfailing love.**

From all of us at the Mission, thank you for making this Thanksgiving one filled with warmth, dignity, and hope. Your compassion continues to change lives—one meal, one box, and one heart at a time.



Where Christmas Brings Healing and Hope

As the season of gratitude continued, the Mission turned its focus toward sharing the joy of Christmas with our community. **Because of your generosity, more than 1,600 families were welcomed in December to receive brand-new Christmas gifts at no cost. This helped to provide Christmas for over 5,000 children.** Every toy, coat, and game reflected your compassion and reminded families that they matter deeply. Parents who might otherwise have gone without were able to choose beautiful new gifts for their children, restoring dignity, hope, and joy within their homes.

Your support also made it possible to open our doors for a special Christmas dinner at the Mission. **Approximately 500 guests gathered for a chapel service followed by a homemade holiday meal served with love.** Each guest received a personal Christmas gift, a meaningful reminder that they were seen, valued, and loved by God.

Throughout the season, your partnership empowered our staff and volunteers to prepare with care, from sorting gifts and setting tables to praying over every person who walked through our doors. Together, we shared more than food or presents. Through your generosity, the true meaning of Christmas was shared, the gift of hope found in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for making this season one of warmth, joy, and transformation. **Because of you, hearts were lifted, and lives were changed, one meal, one gift, and one story at a time.**



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Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”

**Follow
-US-**

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



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www.providencerescuemission.org

Road to Recovery

Are you a man or woman stuck in the cycle of addiction?

Do you feel like you've tried everything to stay sober
with no success?

Do you have a family member struggling with substance
abuse and you just don't know the right direction to
point them in?

Contact us today to learn about our Road to
Recovery: New Life in Christ men and women's
residential recovery program. It is a 100% free
one-year program aimed to achieve and maintain
sobriety through Biblical counseling,
faith-focused rehabilitation classes, and
accountability.

Learn about how Christ's love can make all the
difference in your recovery journey. To learn more,
contact us today!

To learn more about our men's program, contact
Luis Cardona at (401)-442-1912. To learn about our
women's program, contact Edwina Cooley at
(401)-228-8088.