



RESCUE MISSION

2017 Holiday

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission



“ God wouldn’t have
led me to this place –
to the Mission –
if it wasn’t for
a reason.”

On Page 3, read how
your compassion
and generosity have
allowed Samone
and her little boy to
experience the many
wonders of God’s love.

BridgeportRescueMission.org



SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Get Connected ...

Dear Friend,

After months – even years – of homelessness, abuse and addiction, “love” is something those who turn to the Mission may not have felt or recognized for a very long time. But once inside our doors, they experience the wonders of God’s love in many ways.

For those fresh off the streets, love may be as simple as a safe bed and hot meal. Guests burdened by destructive behaviors may feel His love through compassionate counseling and guidance that offer a pathway to sobriety. Those who are fearful of the future may describe the adult education and job training they receive as love in its most practical form.

Yet one of the greatest wonders of His love are friends like you, who give generously to ease the burdens of men, women and children you don’t even know, and we are so grateful for your partnership.

This newsletter describes many opportunities to demonstrate God’s love to “the least of these” during the holiday season. I pray you’ll join us once again by sharing your time, talents, gifts and prayers. Thank you for your kindness.

In His Service,



Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director



Share the Wonders of His Love through Year-End Giving

If you’re looking for a year-end giving opportunity that demonstrates your love and compassion for families and individuals impacted by homelessness, poverty and addiction, the following options may fulfill your desire while also creating important tax benefits.

- Gifts of stocks, bonds and other securities allow you to give without depleting cash reserves.
- Products or services your company manufactures/provides can be used to offset our budget.
- Real estate or property – as well as vehicles including cars, trucks and vans – can be used in our ministry or sold to support our outreach.
- Collectibles such as coins, artwork or antiques can be sold to generate revenue, as well.

To learn more about these and other year-end giving options, contact Kim Fawcett at KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org or (203) 333-4087, ext. 113.

**Write Us In as Your
United Way
Gift Designation**

During the annual United Way fall campaign at your workplace, consider directing your contributions to Bridgeport Rescue Mission as your designated charity. If you’re using EPledge, simply use the “search agencies” field and click on or type in our name!



Executive Director Terry Wilcox leads Mission staff and volunteers in providing our homeless guests with life essentials and transforming guidance that exemplify the wonders of God’s love.

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Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director
Donna Romano
Director of Marketing

All stories and photos in this newsletter are of students and guests at Bridgeport Rescue Mission.



**Fighting Poverty
from the Inside Out
and Serving the
Hurting and Homeless
of Coastal
Fairfield County**

"God shows His love to me every single day. I'm just very humble and appreciative of everything He has blessed me with."

The Gift of Forgiveness

Samone was raised in church. But when she grew older, she strayed away from God as she wrestled with "all the dramas of life"... the times when she needed Him most.

The joy she experienced at giving birth to her beautiful little boy was tarnished by the guilt she felt at having him out of wedlock. Then, as she and the baby's father struggled with the challenges of being young parents, ***the tension between the couple turned to violence, and she no longer felt safe in their home.***



Samone and her son bounced around, staying with friends and family members in environments that often weren't suited for a vulnerable toddler. She knew she had to find a more permanent solution, not only for their living arrangements, but also for rekindling her relationship with God and building a stable life for her growing son.

She called 211 and was referred to Bridgeport Rescue Mission's Guest House for Women and Children. ***When she learned we are a faith-based organization, she was both excited and relieved.***

Once inside our doors, Samone and her son began to experience the wonders of God's love, made possible through your kind generosity: *Safe shelter in a nurturing environment. Nutritious meals and medical care. And, virtually life-changing for this hurting young mother, spiritual guidance that assures God's forgiveness.*

Today she has finally forgiven herself.

Now, with God's love in her heart, Samone has placed her future in His hands. She recently transitioned from our care to affordable permanent housing... she plans to complete her education in medical coding and billing... and most importantly, she vows to share the gift of God's Word with her little boy.

"I want to teach my son to love God," she says, "and to know that even if you think you've done something wrong, He won't judge you and He's always there for you."

Your gift today will allow us to provide a special holiday for individuals and families like Samone's and to share God's life-changing love all year. Thank you for being generous.

Shop for Our Holiday Food Needs!



We need the items below to distribute to 3,200 families at our **Great ThanksGiving Project**, for meals provided from our Mobile Kitchens and to serve special Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for our New Life Program students and struggling neighbors in Bridgeport and South Norwalk.

Please add our grocery list to yours. Then deliver your food contributions to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Please clip and share with others.

Thanksgiving Food Needs

- ☐ 12- to 15-pound frozen turkeys
*Or simply contribute \$20 for each "virtual turkey" you would like to donate by making gifts online at **BridgeportRescueMission.org** or sending your gift in the envelope provided with this newsletter.*
- ☐ Canned green beans, corn and peas
- ☐ Canned sweet potatoes
- ☐ Stuffing mixes (not croutons)
- ☐ Gravy mixes

Christmas Food Needs

- ☐ Peanut butter and jelly in plastic jars
- ☐ Pasta and canned pasta sauce
- ☐ Boxed macaroni and cheese
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Canned fruits
- ☐ Gravy mixes
- ☐ Canned vegetables
- ☐ Canned sweet potatoes
- ☐ Canned tuna, chicken and ham
- ☐ Whole, frozen hams
- ☐ Canned soup (all kinds)
- ☐ Beans (baked, red, white or dry)
- ☐ Cereal (cold, hot or instant)
- ☐ Ramen noodles

If you're unable to shop, financial contributions are a blessing too! An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We Need 3,200 Turkeys...

Form a Turkey Team!



Each year, we use tons of turkeys in our **Great ThanksGiving Project** fixin's bags and the thousands of meals we serve throughout the holiday season. Our Turkey Teams – who collect turkeys for us by the truckload or donate funds to purchase them – are a fun way for families, friends, companies and congregations to bring holiday cheer to hurting men, women and children.

If your group would like to form a Turkey Team, simply buy 12- to 15-pound frozen turkeys and deliver them to our Donation Center. **Or your team can donate \$20 for each “virtual turkey” you would like to contribute.** Visit BridgeportRescueMission.org, go to our donation page and click on the “virtual turkey” option or contact Courtney at (203) 333-4087, ext. 112 or CPandolfi@BridgeportRescueMission.org.

And 15,000 Coats!

We need gently used coats in all sizes – as well as hats, gloves, scarves and boots – to help struggling children and adults stay warm this winter.

Encourage your Sunday school class, synagogue, work group or civic organization to hold a drive for coats and winter wear, and deliver the items to our Donation Center.



Cut out and share with others.



**To donate coats and turkeys, please see
“Delivery Instructions” on Page 4.**

Ways to Help at the Holidays

Give Backpacks of Love

Fill backpacks with the items below, which bring warmth and comfort to the homeless men and women in our care.

*bath towels & washcloths • winter hats, scarves & gloves
new packaged underwear • Christmas chocolates*



Delivery Instructions...

Please bring your **backpacks**, **Bedtime Bags** and **blankets** (as well as the **turkeys** and **coats** mentioned on the flap) to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details on these and other holiday activities, contact Courtney Pandolfi at (203) 333-4087, ext. 112 or CPandolfi@BridgeportRescueMission.org.

CORPORATE Compassion in Action



In 2016, Affinion Group selected the Mission as their official charity partner. Teams from Affinion volunteer at our Donation Center, raise funds, collect coats and food and serve our neighbors in need during the year through their financial support. Thank you, Affinion! To learn more about partnering with us, contact Kim Fawcett, Director of Strategic Partnerships, at (203) 333-4087 ext. 113, or KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org.



Fill Bedtime Bags for Kids

Fill a Christmas gift bag with the following items for a boy or girl, and include a note with a message of encouragement.

a bedtime storybook • a small stuffed animal
a child's toothbrush & toothpaste • a washcloth & mild soap*

* We suggest "Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story" or "Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale."

Donate Blankets for Struggling Neighbors

Your gifts of new or gently used blankets, quilts and comforters will be distributed along with Bedtime Bags to more than 500 families in need.

Bake and Decorate

*Calling families, businesses, churches
and synagogues!*

Bake your favorite cookies or other sweet treats and deliver them to the Mission by December 9th. Or gather your group to help decorate our facilities for Christmas.

The Fairfield Christmas Tree Festival Benefits the Mission

We are honored to be this year's Festival beneficiary! This dearly loved community event draws thousands, so it is the perfect way to promote your small business. For information, call our Special Events Manager, Patti Law, at (203) 333-4087, ext. 118, or visit fairfieldchristmastreefestival.org.

November 30 – December 3

Special Events

Opening Gala • Holiday Hip Hop
Nutcracker Sweet

Join the fun at the newly renovated

Burr Homestead

739 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT

Admission

\$10/adults • \$5/children & seniors



**The Fairfield
Christmas Tree
Festival**