



RESCUE MISSION NEWS

2016 Fall

A PUBLICATION OF BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION

This Thanksgiving Everyone is Welcome

*Friends like you allow us to be a place where everyone feels welcome at Thanksgiving and throughout the year. Inside, learn how your gifts of time, money, food and prayer will impact thousands of our neighbors through our **Great Thanksgiving Project**.*



*"You **welcomed** me with guidance, training and opportunities to help me rebuild my life."*



*"You **welcomed** me with wholesome food and safe shelter when my children and I had nowhere to go."*



*"You **welcomed** me with acceptance, compassion and encouragement when I believed that no one cared."*

www.BridgeportRescueMission.org

SERVING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND ADDICTED OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY



Executive Director
Rev. Terry Wilcox
and the Mission staff
and volunteers are
dedicated to making all
who come through our
doors feel welcome and
cared for.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission

1088 Fairfield Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06605

(203) 333-4087

www.BridgeportRescueMission.org

Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director

Donna Romano
Marketing Manager

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

Brandan graduated from our
New Life Program last fall and is
now on the Mission's staff as our
Donation Center Coordinator.

Get Connected

Dear Friend,

No one wants to be forced to sleep in a homeless shelter or to rely on a Pantry Bag to feed her family. No one wants to admit his life is so out of control—his problems so severe—he can't fix it on his own. When men and women come through our doors, their emotions are an overwhelming mixture of fear, despair and sadly, even self-loathing.

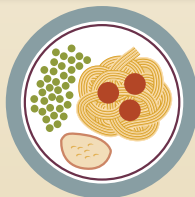
Your gifts and prayers allow us to provide a place where no one is judged . . . and everyone is welcome. Your generosity enables us to offer a hot meal and warm bed, regardless of one's mistakes or transgressions. Your giving spirit supports our mission to treat every guest as a child of God, showering him or her with His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

These pages offer many examples of how you can help us "welcome" all those who turn to us for hope—through our **Great ThanksGiving Project**. I pray you'll continue to demonstrate your faith in our ministry and our faith-based outreach by blessing us with your partnership—this Thanksgiving and all through the year. Thank you for helping us *fight poverty from the inside out!*

In His service,

Terry Wilcox
Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director

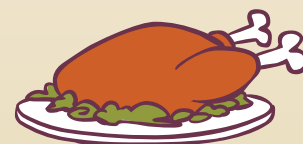
Hope begins with A MEAL



15,000
Prepared meals
each month



22,000
Pantry bag meals
each month



20,000
Thanksgiving
meals



Welcome All Who Need Hope at ThanksGiving!

The holiday season brings special opportunities to show our hurting and homeless neighbors they're loved and cared for. Through our annual **Great ThanksGiving Project**, you can help the Mission nourish hungry bodies, fill empty hearts and uplift discouraged spirits. To learn more, email Donna Romano at DRomano@BridgeportRescueMission.org or visit www.BridgeportRescueMission.org.



Organize a Coat Drive

A major and much appreciated part of our **Great ThanksGiving Project**, the Mission will once again give away nearly 15,000 gently used coats, jackets, gloves, hats and other winter wear to families and individuals taking part in our holiday activities. We need individuals and groups to host drives for these items and deliver them to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2-B, Bridgeport, CT, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Be Part of Our Prayer and Hospitality Teams

Pastors and members of local congregations are invited to join our staff to pray with anyone who comes for turkeys and coats. Volunteers are also needed to purchase treats or bring homemade goodies to offer to our guests as they wait in line. If you'd like to join either of these teams, please contact us today.

Serve With a Corporate Team

Teams from local businesses and organizations help us meet our extraordinary holiday needs while having fun and building company spirit! Team slots fill quickly, so if your company would like to get involved, email soon to learn more.



Your financial donations
are appreciated too,
at the holidays and
all year-round.
An envelope is enclosed
for your convenience.
God bless you
for your kindness.



The Great ThanksGiving Project Grocery List!

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of planning and assistance to distribute the thousands of turkeys and fixins' we'll provide through our ***Great ThanksGiving Project*** activities. Please purchase items from the list below and deliver your contributions to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2-B, Bridgeport, CT, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We're grateful for your helping hands and generous hearts!

- ☐ 12- to 15-pound frozen turkeys
- ☐ Canned green beans, corn & peas
- ☐ Canned sweet potatoes
- ☐ Canned cranberry sauce
- ☐ Stuffing mixes (not croutons)
- ☐ Gravy mixes

If you're unable to shop for us, your financial contributions help too! Please send your "gift for groceries" in the envelope provided or \$20 for each "virtual turkey" you would like to contribute.



Please clip and use as you shop or share list with others.

TUNE IN

to Feed Hungry Families

webe
108

Connecticut's Best Music Variety!

wicc 600



Mission partners **Cumulus Media stations WEBE 108 and WICC 600** are once again joining us to bring hope to hungry people through their “Feeding Families” radio campaign.

Tune in Thursday, November 10 to learn more about Mission programs and services, hear live remotes featuring Mission staff, guests and residents, and make financial contributions in support of the Mission’s ***Great ThanksGiving Project***, including “virtual turkeys.” Together we’ll help ease the hunger of thousands of neighbors during Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

Cut out and share with others.



More Ways to Make an Impact at Thanksgiving

Team Up for Turkeys – WE NEED 3,000 BEFORE THANKSGIVING!

Gather a team of workplace associates, congregation or family members to collect turkeys! Please deliver frozen turkeys to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2-B, in Bridgeport, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Or your Turkey Team can contribute \$20 for each “virtual turkey” your group would like to donate by making gifts online at www.BridgeportRescueMission.org or send your gift in the envelope provided with this newsletter. To learn more, email Donna Romano at DRomano@BridgeportRescueMission.org.



Virtual or actual—we need a total of 3,000 turkeys this Thanksgiving. Form your team today!



Organize a Food Drive

Once again this year we'll serve hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners—complete with turkey and all the trimmings—in our dining room and from our Mobile Kitchens. We'll also distribute up to 3,000 Thanksgiving Dinner Pantry Bags to struggling families, so they can prepare and enjoy a meal at home. That means we'll provide nearly 20,000 meals in all—and we need your help to make it happen! Encourage your business, church or community group to organize a food drive for the Mission. For a list of the items we need, see the Page 3 flap.

Join a Pantry Bag Distribution Team

Be blessed by the grateful smiles of hungry children, struggling parents and lonely seniors as you present them with everything they need to prepare a home-cooked holiday meal, and coats to stay warm throughout the winter. Volunteer teams are needed to pack and hand out Thanksgiving Dinner Pantry Bags and coats in Bridgeport and South Norwalk.

Give at ThanksGiving and All Through the Year

The final quarter of the year is a critical funding time for Bridgeport Rescue Mission, and we offer a variety of opportunities to support our special holiday programs and vital daily services. Please prayerfully consider the one that's right for you or your group!

- ✿ Make a gift today in the enclosed envelope and respond financially to the letters you'll receive between now and the end of the year.
- ✿ Consider pledging a considerable personal financial gift, payable over the three-month period (October through December).
- ✿ Designate the Mission as the recipient of your workplace United Way campaign.
- ✿ Bring your family, friends or associates for a tour of the Mission or request a Mission speaker for your next event. Suggest a love offering at the conclusion of the activity.
- ✿ Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and share, retweet or love our posts.

