



RESCUE MISSION

Fall 2017

News

A Publication of Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Reclaiming JOY

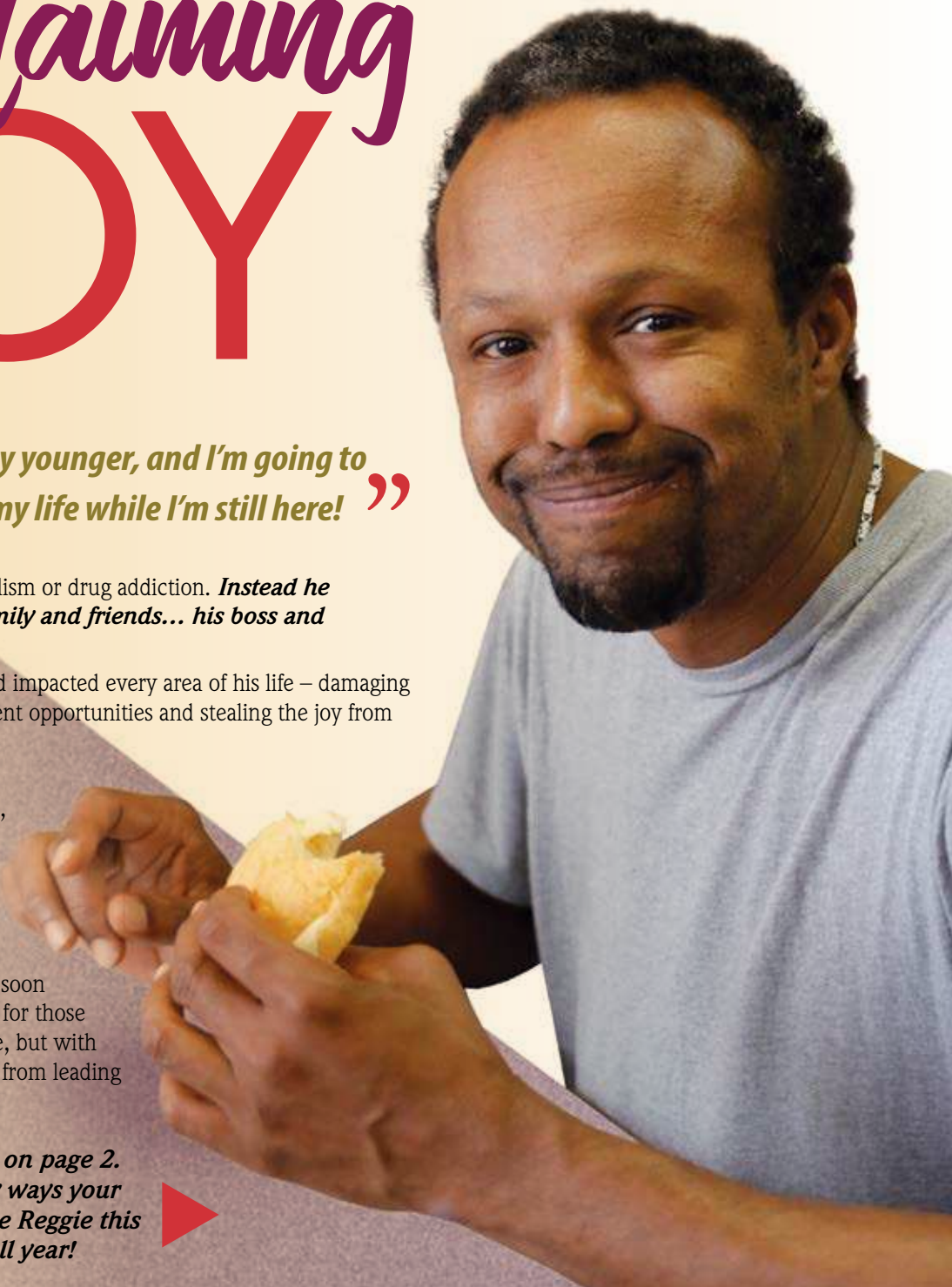
“ I’m not getting any younger, and I’m going to make the best of my life while I’m still here! ”

Reggie never battled alcoholism or drug addiction. **Instead he struggled to forgive... his family and friends... his boss and coworkers... even himself.**

The resentment he harbored impacted every area of his life – damaging relationships, limiting employment opportunities and stealing the joy from his heart.

He was working a seasonal job, and when the season ended, he couldn’t afford his rent. He came to the Mission for a place to sleep... and food to eat... until he could get back on his feet. He was encouraged to join our New Life Program, and soon discovered “recovery” isn’t only for those challenged with substance abuse, but with any issue that prevents a person from leading a meaningful and joyous life.

Reggie’s story is continued on page 2. Then, read about the many ways your gifts bring joy to people like Reggie this Thanksgiving season and all year!



BridgeportRescueMission.org

Get Connected ...

Dear Friend,

The human need for food is fundamental and has remained at the center of our ministry outreach for nearly 25 years. **But the people who turn to Bridgeport Rescue Mission hunger for more than a meal.** Their emptiness extends to all areas of their lives.

Their spirits are tired of searching for something to believe in. They lack the training to change their dead-end paths. They come to us hungry, homeless, broken and alone – and through your kind compassion, we fill their plates with hope... and their hearts with joy.

From faith-based counseling to life-skills courses and job-readiness training, **your gifts and prayers empower men, women and families** to overcome troubled circumstances and rebuild lives that are stable, meaningful and a blessing to their communities.

As we serve our less-fortunate neighbors this holiday season, I invite you to bring them a harvest of joy through our **Great ThanksGiving Project**. God bless you for your gift today and throughout the months ahead.

In His Service,

Rev. Terry Wilcox
Executive Director

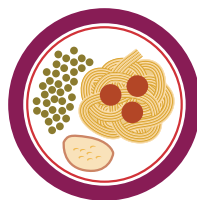


Reclaiming JOY *continued from cover*

“Forgive Instantly.” That’s Reggie’s favorite class in our program’s faith-based curriculum. “It opened my eyes to a lot of things,” he says. “I’m making amends with those I can – it’s one of the processes here.” Reggie graduated in March and is now participating in our Men’s Supportive Housing Program, where he can stay while he finds a job and a place to live and prepares to return to the community. He has a passion for painting and hopes to one day start his own business.

Today, as joy returns to his heart, he shares these words of thanksgiving with friends like you who have given him a second chance at life: **“I’m most grateful for being provided with a living space when I had nowhere else to turn.”** From there, he says, good things happened.

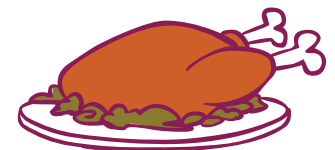
This Thanksgiving Season Your Gifts Will Bring a Harvest of Joy!



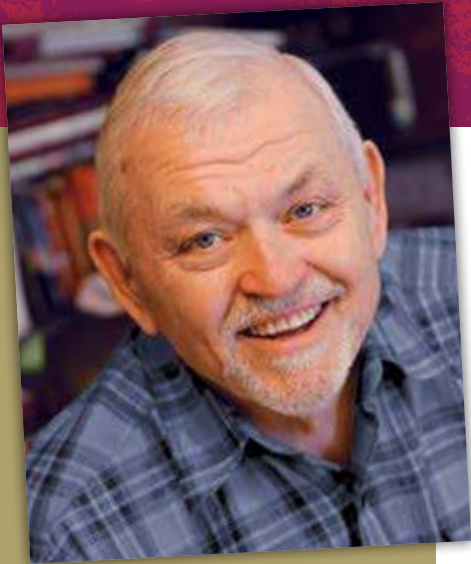
XX,XXX
**Prepared
meals each month**



XX,XXX
**Pantry Bag meals
each month**



88,000
**Meals through
Great ThanksGiving Project**



Executive Director Terry Wilcox, along with Mission staff and volunteers, helps fill empty hearts with hope during the holiday season and throughout the year.

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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

Ways to Spread **JOY** at Thanksgiving

Through our annual **Great ThanksGiving Project**, you can nourish hungry bodies, fill empty hearts and bring a harvest of joy to our hurting and homeless neighbors. Here's how:

Hold a Coat Drive

We'll give away nearly 15,000 gently used coats, jackets, gloves, hats and other winter wear to those in need. It's a big part of our **Great ThanksGiving Project**, and we need individuals and groups to host drives for these items. Please 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.

Join a Prayer or Hospitality Team

Pastors and members of local congregations are invited to partner with us to pray with anyone who comes for turkeys and coats. Volunteers are also needed to purchase treats or bring homemade treats to offer to our guests as they wait in line.

Serve with a Corporate Team or Become a Corporate Sponsor

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, contact us today to learn more.

We also need corporate sponsors to underwrite the costs of this extraordinary project. To learn more about the details and benefits, contact Kim Fawcett at (203) 333-4087, ext. 113.

Give Financially

Your cash donations are always needed and deeply appreciated, especially at the holidays. An envelope is provided for your convenience. God bless you for your generosity!



"Receiving good coats for my children is such a blessing because they outgrow them so quickly. And when the budget is always so tight, it means I don't have to use grocery or utility money to buy new ones. Thank you, Bridgeport Rescue Mission!"

— **Great ThanksGiving Project** participant



To learn more about these activities, contact CPandolfi@BridgeportRescueMission.org or visit BridgeportRescueMission.org

Hold a Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Mission will serve Thanksgiving dinners in our dining room and from our Mobile Kitchens. We'll also distribute up to 3,200 turkeys and fixings bags for families to prepare a meal at home. We need your help to make it all happen!



Encourage your business, church or group to organize a food drive for the items listed below, then deliver your contributions to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2-B, in 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 not able to shop for us, your financial donations help too! Please send your "gift for groceries" in the envelope provided or \$20 for each "virtual turkey" you would like to contribute.

the important **Great Thanksgiving Project**
contact Courtney Pandolfi at
BridgeportRescueMission.org
BridgeportRescueMission.org.

TUNE IN to Feed Hungry Families

webe
108

Connecticut's Best Music Variety!

wicc 600



Cut out and share with others.



Listen in on Thursday, November 9, to learn more about Mission programs and services and hear from Mission staff, guests and residents how lives are transformed every day. Make financial contributions in support of the Mission's **Great ThanksGiving Project**, including donating "virtual turkeys," and together, we'll help ease the hunger of thousands of our neighbors during the holidays and throughout the year.

Great Thanksgiving Project in Bridgeport and South Norwalk

Team Up for Turkeys

Gather a team of workplace associates, congregations or family members to collect turkeys!

Please deliver frozen turkeys to our Donation Center, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Unit 2-B, in Bridgeport, CT, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or your turkey team can contribute \$20 to donate a “virtual turkey” by making a gift online at BridgeportRescueMission.org or sending your gift in the envelope provided.

For more details, email Courtney Pandolfi at CPandolfi@BridgeportRescueMission.org.



Virtual or actual –
we need to collect
3,200 turkeys before
Thanksgiving!

Join a Distribution Team

Volunteer teams are needed to pack and hand out turkeys, bags of fixings and coats in Bridgeport and South Norwalk. You'll 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. Email CPandolfi@BridgeportRescueMission.org for details.



“My family struggles to afford even the basics, so being able to cook them a true Thanksgiving meal was such a blessing and made the day so special for our children.”

– *Great Thanksgiving Project* participant



Financial Gifts Are Vital 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 meaningful financial gift, payable October through December.
- Designate the Mission as the recipient of your workplace United Way contribution.
- Bring your family, friends or associates for a tour of the Mission, or request a Mission speaker for your next event.
- Encourage your company to become a *Great Thanksgiving Project* corporate sponsor.

For more information on these and other giving opportunities, contact Kim Fawcett, Director of Strategic Partnerships, at (203) 333-4087, ext. 113 or KFawcett@BridgeportRescueMission.org.