# VISIO Change Lives

Holiday 2023

wsRescue Missiont



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A Message from LOU CARRICO

## Celebrating the 44 HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our hopeless and hurting neighbors too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was "no room at the inn." It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting man who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide nutritious meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ's love and grace to our neighbors – like Richard (whose story is on the next page).

Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.





Lou Carrico
Executive Director



## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're hurting or struggling with hunger. YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!









**\$92.21** for 1 night of safe shelter



#### **Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

## Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous grantor, when you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far to provide food, shelter and care... and above all hope for our hopeless and hurting neighbors!

#### **DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31**

- Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- Give online anytime at wsrescue.org.

THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!



#### "I'VE BEEN TRANSFORMED...

## MIND, HEART AND SOUL."

Richard grew up on a farm in the backwoods of North Carolina, in a home with no running water. "From the age of 4, I hauled buckets of water from the creek all day."

He did everything he could to help his impoverished family, but no matter how good he was, they beat him regularly, so he began numbing his resentment. "I sat by the creek and drank to kill the pain," he says. "The only friend I had was a liquor bottle."

Though Richard struggled with addiction for years, he managed to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a tuner on a world championship drag racing team. He went on to earn all the money he could ask for working behind the scenes in the entertainment industry. "I had all the finer things in life," he says. "But eventually, it got to be that no matter what I did, I was miserable."

Then one day, in the midst of his despair, Richard heard a voice. "I was getting ready to pour a drink, and it said, 'Come home, Richard."

He knew it was God and he was suddenly filled with a hunger to know Him, so he came to the Rescue Mission. "I told them, 'I want God and I want you to teach me how to live."

Through our Life Builders Program, Richard found what he sought. "The Lord came into my heart and took all my sin, shame and guilt," he says. "And counselors and classes helped me get to the root of my problems and become mature and responsible."

Richard's Work Therapy is furniture sales in our Thrift Store, where he shares his testimony of transformation with our customers. "They see a light burning in me."

Richard has hope this Christmas – and he wants to thank YOU for supporting his journey toward a new life. "I was lost and miserable, but now I've been transformed... mind, heart and soul."

"I'VE DISCOVERED WHO I AM IN CHRIST."



### Take a Jour Walk the halls where YOU help change lives



Schedule a tour and see your impact at the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission! You'll get an inside look at how your support goes to work in a variety of our programs, including our:

**Life Builders and Transformers Recovery Programs Clothing Closet Ministry Medical and Dental Clinic Client Choice Food Pantry** 

Join us to see how your partnership with our ministry is changing lives. To schedule a tour, contact Dusty Wilson

at **(336) 842-5299** or □ dusty.wilson@wsrescue.org.

We hope to see you soon!

YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE **RESCUE MISSION SPECIAL!** 

**Christmas Morning:** Thanks to local donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.





Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents - for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God's love - our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!

Time is running out to help our neighbors in need this holiday season. Your generosity can give them hope in their darkest hour and the chance at a new beginning.



Scan to see how you can offer a helping hand before the year is over!

