

DECEMBER 2025

You lifted Derek out of the pit of addiction

Derek was lying on the floor of his brand-new home, paralyzed by shame . . .

“The devil was lashing me,” he says. “I was so hurt and depressed.” Because after a successful stretch of living a drug-free life, Derek found himself at the bottom of a pit again. *He wanted out.*

One knock on the door derailed everything . . .

After years of struggling with addiction, time behind bars, and a traumatic accident that put him in a coma, Derek was determined to build a meaningful life. And he did.

“I’d been through recovery, was getting myself together, and doing the things I knew I had to do,” says Derek.

The boxes were checked — Derek had a well-paying job, bought his own home, and was dreaming about going back to school for his master’s degree. But one knock on the door derailed everything.

“My cousin showed up at my house with alcohol,” says Derek. Derek fought off the temptation, saying no to his old way of life. But the very next weekend,

Continued inside ▶



Every \$3.99 you
give **DOUBLES**
in impact to
help even more
men heal from
addiction!

Your impact will DOUBLE! Every \$3.99 will provide two Christmas meals



Your generosity
this Christmas
will DOUBLE
in impact!



Derek is living in sobriety, surrounded by Christ-centered community, and moving forward with confidence. Thank you for giving him a way out of years of addiction!

Derek's story . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

his cousin returned. "This time, I took a drink," says Derek.

His life spiraled fast. Derek found himself lying on his bedroom floor, back in the pit he had worked so hard to climb out of.

"I couldn't ease the emotional pain," says Derek. "It wasn't about the materialistic stuff for me. I could get that anytime. It was what I did. The failure I felt. I was stuck and grieving . . .

" . . . but God got me up off the floor."

Trading shame for peace

Derek checked into a rehab program, still burdened with shame. But his shame couldn't stand when he came to the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission a month later.

"I've done a 180," says Derek. "I feel so good. So peaceful."

The journey has been long and challenging — but through your generosity, Derek found the steadfast support he needed to walk out his sobriety and purpose. Everything from the bed he sleeps in to Christ-centered recovery care is provided because you give.

"I was stuck and grieving, but God got me up off the floor."

"God is teaching me to be still and listen. To slow down," says Derek. "I ask Him for peace. He shows me in His word, by waking me up in the morning, and by reminding me where I've been, where I'm at, and where I can go."

Derek still dreams of pursuing his master's degree — and because he's breaking free from addiction, it actually feels possible. "I'm looking forward to staying tied to God," says Derek. "He'll give me the understanding I need to keep going forward."

s to give hope for lasting sobriety and stability.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

Thanks to you, hope shines bright for men in recovery!

For many men at the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, Christmas brings loneliness. Shame. Regret. But inside our doors, the holidays are different.

Thanks to you and other friends, this season of joy is a reminder that God isn't done with their story yet. Here's a glimpse of Christmas at the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission!

HOME-COOKED FEAST

From ham to pumpkin pie, the dining hall becomes the family dining room. Volunteers and staff serve each Christmas dinner with love, joining guests at the table to celebrate.



CHRISTMAS CHAPELS

The Christmas message of hope and redemption reminds men that Christ came for them — to set them free and give them a new life.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Many men are away from their loved ones as they work hard to heal from addiction. Intentional moments, slowed-down conversations, and thoughtful gifts create a sense of "home" for the holidays.



FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A life-changing gift



At Christmas, we're reminded of the greatest gift ever given: God sending His Son, Jesus Christ.

LOU CARRICO
Executive Director

He came to make all things new — in you, in me, and in every man who walks through our doors looking for a way out of addiction.

These men all carry different stories — often with childhood trauma, regret of misguided decisions, or family histories of addiction. But when they encounter Christ, something incredible happens: they discover they are a new creation.

Like it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, their old life no longer defines them — instead, all things have become new.

That's the power of the Christmas story — and of your generosity — for men battling addiction.

As you celebrate this season with family and loved ones, I pray you'll rejoice in this priceless gift of new life — and remember that God is using your partnership to share it with men who desperately need it.

Lou Carrico

From despair to hope:

Together, we can change more lives

A person experiencing chronic homelessness costs the taxpayer an average of \$35,000 a year — a staggering sum that many in our community may not realize. The Winston-Salem Rescue Mission opens its doors wide, without charge, to those same broken and hurting men, giving them food, shelter, hope, and Christian love.

At the heart of this ministry is an unshakable conviction that **freedom from addiction is possible when people build their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ**, leading them not only into recovery but also into lasting change.



Through the Mission, countless men have conquered addiction, reconciled with their families, and discovered a renewed sense of identity through Jesus Christ. Their stories inspire hope and demonstrate that, with Christ, all things are possible. This unwavering, Christ-centered approach — and commitment to prayer, education, and hard work — empowers hopeless and desperate men to break free from addiction and embark on new journeys of hope, purpose, and possibility.

By supporting the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, you are investing in a proven path to restoration. That's why, with deepest gratitude for their transformative work, I am making a personal gift of \$25,000 to the Mission. **This gift is a challenge grant for you in hopes that, after prayerful consideration, you will join me — in any way you are able — to support the Mission's extraordinary work.** Together, we can ensure it continues helping those in our community who are in such critical need.

With sincere thanks,

Adrienne Polychron
Member of Helping Hands Ministry

By supporting the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, you are investing in a proven path to restoration, where hope replaces despair and men are given the power to start again.

3 easy ways to **DOUBLE** your life-changing impact!

Give now to share meals and vital care with men hurting from addiction and poverty in the Triad

1. MAIL your gift and reply form in the enclosed envelope.



2. GIVE ONLINE at wsrescue.org/Match2025.



3. SCAN the QR code to give now.

