



# The BEACON

A Newsletter for Friends and Donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

## One Day at a Time... "People Here Are Praying and Helping"

Judy suffers from a severe anxiety problem that sometimes makes it difficult for her to be around other people.

So, being here at the Mission, even with her own room at our Women & Families Shelter, can be very stressful at times, even when the alternative is to be homeless.

This is Judy's second visit to the Mission, and she's learned that she needs to speak up and let the staff know what she needs so they can work with her. Take chapel, for example: Judy sometimes has panic attacks and needs to get out of the small chapel room. Now that people are aware of her problem, they understand that standing in the hallway is Judy's way of coping with her panic.

Finding a place to live has been



equally difficult. With her disability, Judy's fixed income barely pays for her car and utilities. There's no child support, though, because her two older children live with their father.

Despite her sometimes overwhelming problems, Judy has discovered that **people here at the Mission really care about her**. "It's safe here," she says. "And the rules are simple. As long as you do what you're supposed to do, you have a warm, safe place to stay."

Judy is also working to strengthen her relationship with the Lord. "I've believed in God since I was a little girl. I was never alone...He always got me through things."

Judy believes **God got her through the bad times** when she

was nine or ten and being abused. She prayed and prayed, always believing that "God was there." As she grew older, it wasn't "cool" to believe, but today, Judy's relationship with the Lord is much stronger.

Through the care and counseling provided here at the Mission and by our many partners in the Great Falls community, we're hoping that Judy will soon be able to live in a place of her own and have all three children with her.

For now, she's determined to take advantage of all the services you make it possible for us to offer – services that will get her back on her feet and self-sufficient once again.

*Judy has since left the Mission. We pray she is doing well on her own.*

### Don't Miss...

**My Favorite Time of Year.....2**

**"I Can Really See God Working Here!".....3**

**Your FREE 2012 Calendar....3**



## A Personal Word from the Executive Director

## My Favorite Time of Year

During the holidays, we get to minister to more people. We enjoy that – it means we see life-long changes in the lives of men and women in our programs.

We also see many who are not ready to make a change. Our doors are open to all in need. Our loving Father is there with His arms wide open, calling us to Him. We try to show the same love to those in need.

We thank you for standing with us, helping us provide these opportunities. You show the love described in Jeremiah 22:16 – “He helped those who were poor and needy, so everything went well for him. That is what it means to know God.”

This year, we have had more challenges than ever. We have not had a family room empty and this winter, we are expecting record numbers. I know that God will provide. “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” – Philippians 4:9.

Your support makes a real difference in the lives of those in need.

Thank you for remembering those who are hungry, homeless, and in pain. Your compassion and concern for them means everything to us and to those you help.

“A Beacon of Hope Since 1963”

*Jim Kizer*

Jim Kizer  
Executive Director

# Thanksgiving & Christmas Kitchen Needs



Turkeys  
Hams  
Yams  
Stuffing  
Canned Sweet Potatoes  
Canned Fruits/  
Vegetables (#10)  
Instant Mashed Potatoes

Dinner Rolls  
Christmas Cookies  
BAKED Pies  
(any kind)  
Brown Sugar  
Cool Whip  
Coffee  
Butter  
Creamer

Food donations can be dropped off at the back door of the Rescue Mission Men's Shelter, 326 2nd Ave. S. Call Marion at (406) 761-2653 to arrange a pick-up.

## Sponsor a Program Person for Christmas

Each year, we try to provide Christmas gifts to the men and women who are part of our Christian Discipleship Programs. Both recovery programs are Christ-centered and geared for those dealing with substance abuse and other life-controlling situations. They are based on our belief that the Holy Scriptures provide all that is necessary to live in a manner pleasing and glorifying God.

If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of these people who have committed to changing their lives by completing our program, please call



Viki or Samantha at (406) 761-2653 to receive a wish list.

Donations should be dropped off at the Administrative Office, located upstairs in the Women & Families Shelter, at 317 2nd Ave. S. by Dec. 13.

## “The Very Best Christmas...”

What is the very best gift you can give someone who is hungry or homeless?

Here at the Mission, there are as many ways to help as there are people in need.

**Volunteer.** Serve a meal. Work in our clothing room. Help out at our afterschool programs. Organize a food collection drive. Lend a hand at a special event. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Athena, at (406) 761-2653 or [athena.nedens@gfrm.org](mailto:athena.nedens@gfrm.org) for more information.

**Donate.** Our shelter needs sham-

poo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, brushes/combs, lip balm and razors/shaving cream. The kitchen could use beef, hams, canned fruits and vegetables, coffee, creamer and sugar. Drop items off at 326 2nd Ave. S.

**Give a gift.** Use the enclosed envelope to send a gift to provide meals and more. Donate by check, credit card or online on our website at [GreatFallsRescueMission.org](http://GreatFallsRescueMission.org).

**Pray.** Pray for this ministry and the men, women and children who come here during their time of greatest need.

**Thank you for helping make this the very best Christmas!**

# “I Can Really See God Working Here!”

Until he was 12, Matt had a “pretty normal childhood.” Then, his world crashed down around him.

“My parents split up, and I found out that my father was not my biological father. That basically **ripped the rug out from underneath my life.**”

For a time, it was just Matt and his mother. Then, there were “some stepparents.” Matt was shuttled back and forth between New York and California, back and forth between two homes and two families, not finding acceptance in either place.

At 16, he left home and headed for Reno, Nevada, where he got a job as a busboy. It was there that he discovered alcohol and how it could take away the pain he felt.

**“I was mad at the world, but God still had his hand on me.”**

God protected Matt when his car rolled three times at a little over 100 miles per hour, and life went on.

At 29, Matt gave his life to Jesus. But he still didn't understand what “having a relationship with God” was all about. He went to church “for a while,” was married and divorced, and worked hard. But his life was “unfulfilled and empty.”

When a job in Nevada ended, Matt came to Montana and worked at a job he “hated” for six months before deciding to head back to Las Vegas. Taking a few days to “get his head together,” Matt decided to stay here at the Mission.

Matt knew we had a chapel here, and he'd been thinking about God “a lot.” Once he discovered our Christian Discipleship Program, he knew that it was for him!

“The whole program brought me closer to the Lord. For the first time, I understood what it meant to be ‘in the Word.’” Matt's even started reading the Bible on his own... a chapter a day.

It only took a couple of months in the program for Matt to realize that God had a “big plan” for his life. **“I've not only grown in Christ, but in myself.”**



Today, he's part of our Leadership Training Program. In addition to working the front desk, where he greets and directs those coming to the Mission, Matt's supervising others who work at the Mission.

“I find myself praying for more compassion, more understanding and a little more wisdom.” Matt

knows from experience that it's not that the guys who come to the Mission are bad people; some of them just come from some pretty shaky backgrounds...just like his.

**“I know in my heart this is where God wants me,” says Matt. “I just want to serve others...to work for God for the rest of my life.”**

*Matt recently left the Mission. We pray he is doing well on his own.*

## Visit Us Online!



Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at [GreatFallsRescueMission.org](http://GreatFallsRescueMission.org).

## Veterans' Luncheon



Thank you to those who helped make our Veteran's Day celebration special for those in our community who served our country and are now homeless and in need.

We served a special meal with the help of our volunteers who gave their time and our donors who provided food. We presented a small gift and gave special recognition to each veteran in attendance.

To learn more about this and other annual Mission celebrations, visit our website at [GreatFallsRescueMission.org](http://GreatFallsRescueMission.org).

Reserved for you:

# 2012 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community's neediest people would not exist.

As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying “Thank you!”

**To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today. No calendar will be sent unless the box is checked.**

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for the mentally ill homeless who are living on the streets during this cold season.
- Pray for children living at the Mission during the holiday season.
- Pray for our staff and volunteers as they minister to hurting people.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the Mission's Board of Directors.

## Include the Mission In Your Will

Consider these reasons for including Great Falls Rescue Mission in your will.



1. Your will is a statement that you believe in the Mission.
2. Your will enables you to give a more substantial gift than you could during your lifetime.
3. Giving through your will is a faithful way to provide for on-going ministry long after you're gone.

To learn more, call Samantha at (406) 761-2653.

## Become a friend



## Upcoming Events

Sat., Nov. 19  
 Tues., Nov. 22  
 Thurs., Nov. 24  
 Sat., Dec. 3  
 Fri., Dec. 9  
 Wed., Dec. 14-21  
 Fri., Dec. 16  
 Mon., Dec. 19  
 Tues., Dec. 20  
 Tues., Dec. 20  
 Thurs., Dec. 22  
 Sat., Dec. 24  
 Sun., Dec. 25  
 Sat., Dec. 31  
 Sun., Jan. 1

Make Family Food Baskets  
 Serve Family Dinner/Distribute Food Baskets  
 Great Thanksgiving Banquet  
 Decorate the Mission for Christmas  
 Christmas Card Party & Caroling  
 Sort & Wrap Gifts  
 Serve Meal to Residents  
 Christmas Escape for Neighborhood Kids  
 Christmas Escape for Shelter Kids  
 Women's Christmas Party  
 Family Christmas Party  
 Adult Christmas Party  
 Serve Meal to Residents  
 New Year's Eve Blast  
 Serve Meal to Residents

For information or to volunteer, call Athena at (406) 761-2653 or visit [www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org](http://www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org).

## Sponsor a Child for Christmas

On Dec. 22, the Mission will host our Family Christmas Party and Gift Give-Away. Last year, we served dinner to more than 700 people and distributed gifts to more than 450 children. We were able to make this happen, thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers who gave gifts, money and time to put together gift packages.

This year, we are seeking sponsors for children. Just call (406) 761-2653 for information. We will give you the child's first name, gender and age so you can shop for them. You can sponsor as many children as you would like.

If you cannot sponsor a child, but would like to give a gift, see the list on the right for ideas.

Kids' Bibles  
 Hand-Held Electronic Games  
 Gloves & Hats (All Sizes)  
 Action Figures  
 Dolls  
 CD Players  
 Batteries  
 Baby Toys  
 Necklaces  
 Watches  
 Fast Food Gift Certificates  
 (For Teenagers)  
 iTunes, Starbucks, Hastings, etc.  
 Gift Cards (For Teenagers)



Donations can be dropped off at the back door of the Rescue Mission's Men's Shelter, 326 2nd Ave. S. Call Marion at (406) 761-2653 to arrange a pick-up.

## Here's my gift to feed, shelter and care for those in need at Christmas and beyond:



- \$16.11 to feed and care for 9 people
- \$26.85 to feed and care for 15 people
- \$51.91 to feed and care for 29 people
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible
- Please send my 2012 Mission Calendar.

- Check enclosed
- Bill my credit card
- VISA
- MC
- AMEX
- DISC

CREDIT CARD #

CIV/SEC #

EXP. DATE

PHONE #

Donate online at [www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org](http://www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org), or call (406) 761-2653.

Great Falls Rescue Mission  
 P.O. Box 129  
 Great Falls, MT 59403-0129



NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP