



A Beacon of Hope Since 1963

The BEACON

A Newsletter for Friends and Donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

“God Bless the Broken Road...”

“...That Led Me Straight to You”

At 23, Rachael feels like her life is a bit like a country song.

Until she came to the Mission, it was one of pain, and drugs to dull the pain.

Of course, it didn't start out that way. “When I was in high school I had my whole life planned. I was going to go to college, I was going to get a good job, get married, have kids.”

“But then I met a guy and that is where it all kind of fell apart.”

The man she met started by getting Rachael drunk. Then, she started selling her body in bars to get drug money. “I stopped caring about my life and started using alcohol, pain medications, sleep

medications, any sort of drugs I could get...”

It took a Christian, church-going friend to get Rachael off the path to destruction...and onto a path that led her to our Women and Families Shelter, Haven of Hope.

“I can already see changes in myself.”

Rachael believes that God sent her here to be in our Humbled Hearts recovery program. She can already see the changes in herself, and so can others!

Humbled Hearts has also put Rachael back on the “straight and narrow.” “I had a warrant for my arrest because I was driving without insurance. I was terrified! But a staff member said to ask if I could do community service because I was here in the program.”

Not only did Rachael not go to jail, but the judge dismissed the warrant and the fine!

“I'm not living on the streets. The Mission is giving me the structure I need and the freedom to do what I want.”

“Everything that's happened to me has made me who I am today. It's given me the strength to get up and move on. I'm getting past all the bad stuff and with God's help I'm moving on with my life!”

Today, Rachael has graduated from the program and moved out on her own. She is still trying to figure out just who she is. “I am trying to be patient because God is the only one who knows.”

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A Message from Jim Kizer

This year Great Falls Rescue Mission has been busier than ever. We have already served almost 80,000 meals! We have more people in the men's shelter and Haven of Hope than ever before and it looks like the need is going to be greater than ever in the coming year.

We helped a lady that lost her job, came to the Mission, found a new job and walks to her job at the airport! She praises the Lord that she has a job when so many others are out of work.

We are blessed with wonderful donors like you who help the poor and reach out to those who are needy. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you so much for your donations. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents. Thank you for your gifts.

I pray that you and your family will have a blessed Thanksgiving. As families come to the Mission for help, volunteers and staff will share the hope of Christ along with a meal. It is because of you that we can share our blessings with the homeless and poor. May the Lord richly bless you during this Thanksgiving season!

"A Beacon of Hope Since 1963"

Jim Kizer
Jim Kizer
Executive Director

Thanksgiving & Christmas Kitchen Needs

- Turkeys
- Hams
- Yams
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Dinner Rolls
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Canned Fruits/Vegetables (#10)
- Butter
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Brown Sugar
- Cool Whip
- Pies (any kind)
- Christmas Cookies



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

Upcoming Events

- Sat, Nov. 20
- Tues, Nov. 23
- Thurs, Nov. 25
- Sat, Nov. 27
- Friday, Dec. 10
- Wed, Dec. 15-
Thurs, Dec. 23
- Fri, Dec. 17
- Fri, Dec. 17
- Tues, Dec. 21
- Tues, Dec. 21
- Thurs, Dec. 23
- Fri, Dec. 24
- Sat, Dec. 25
- Fri, Dec. 31
- Sat, 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
- Christmas Escape for Neighborhood Kids
- Serve Meal to Residents
- 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 sign up to help with any of these events, call Penny at (406) 761-2653.

Home for the Holidays You Make It Happen!

How does the old song go? "Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays..."

For many people here in North Central Montana, that home is going to be the Mission.

And we're going to make it the best place we possibly can!

There will be decorations. Bountiful, home-cooked holiday dinners. Some small gifts. And most of all, Christian love and acceptance. Because that's the best gift of all for people who have nowhere else to

turn ...no family or friends to turn to.

This year, there will be "room at the inn." A home for the holidays! It's so much better than homeless for the holidays and you have the power to make it happen.

Please use the enclosed holiday gift card to provide meals, shelter and other loving care this Christmas season. Or, go online to www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org and make a gift right now.

God bless you during this holy season!

“I Love the Lord...”

“He Took Away My Addictions!”

Frank's younger years were far from ideal. And perhaps, his trials would have made a weaker person lose faith. But not Frank!

“I didn't know my parents real well because they was alcoholics. The only time they came home from the bar was for my dad to beat on my mother. Then they just went back to the bar.”

“My older sister was ‘mom’ to us kids... she used to go to the potato chip factory and get potato chips so we could make potato chip soup. That's all we had to eat in the house.”

When foster parents took the children, Frank says it was “like a weight” off his sister's shoulders. “We found families that loved and cared for us.”

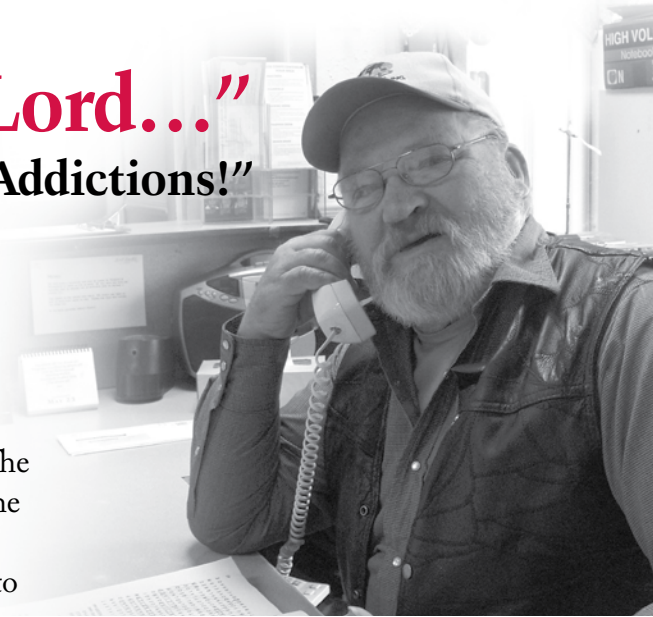
“I've known the Lord all my life.”

Frank attended church as a child with his foster parents. But he actually started walking with the Lord on his own in 1970, “letting Him take over my life instead of me running it.”

Perhaps that's because Frank hadn't done the best job.

When Frank graduated from high school in Idaho, his stepfather offered him a partnership in the farm, but they had a disagreement over whether they should continue to keep cattle, and Frank opted for the Army instead. He was married, and left behind a wife and daughter.

When he got out of the Army, Frank joined the Merchant Marines and got to see “a lot of the world.” But no matter where he went, the



addictions that he'd developed to drugs and alcohol followed him.

“Sober for 31 years.”

Once he let the Lord take over his life, Frank quit drugs and alcohol except for a brief relapse in 1979. But he's been clean and sober now for 31 years!

“He took the addictions away from me and it was like my whole heart just renewed itself.”

Frank believes it was the Holy Spirit that brought him to Great Falls. “I was coming in on the bus and I looked at the town and said, ‘there's no way I'm staying here.’ But the Lord had other ideas!”

“He said, ‘I want you to minister in my name to the poor.’ I looked up to heaven and said ‘I'm poor.’ And He said ‘No, you're not.’ Three hours later, I had a job.”

When Frank had a “run in” with his landlord and moved out of the apartment he was in, someone told him about the Mission. He came in for shelter and stayed on to enter our Christian Discipleship Program.

Today, his goal is to start giving back. “I want to serve the Lord. He serves me every morning by opening my eyes, and I want to give back.”

GFRM Online

Have you visited GreatFallsRescueMission.org lately? This is the best way to learn about what's going on at the Mission 24/7.

You can read about how our programs are helping change lives, learn about volunteer opportunities and share prayer requests.

You can also save us administrative costs by donating securely



through our website. With the cost of nearly everything increasing,

this is the most cost-effective way to support our ministry.

Christmas Gift Ideas

On Thurs., Dec. 23, Great Falls Rescue Mission will host its Family Christmas Party and Gift Give-Away. Last year, we served lunch to almost 700 people. More than 400 of those were children who received gifts due to the generosity of our donors who gave gifts, money and time to put together gift packages for each of those children. Here are some ideas of gifts to donate for children:

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

Donated items can be dropped off at the back door of the Rescue Mission Men's Shelter, 326 2nd Ave S. If you have items that need to be picked up, call Marion at (406) 761-2653.

GFRM Mission Tributes

Honorary and Memorial gifts are thoughtful ways to pay tribute to special people. Tributes received after September 15, 2010 will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Beacon*. Persons being honored are listed in bold.

Memorials

In Memory of

Lorna Beerman
Danny Berg
Catherine Brewer
Daisy Buck
Leonard & Pete Cote
Florence Cross
Marie Dahlman
Jim & Judy Eagen
Josie Eve

Ken Evenson

Darrel Gabriel
Quincy Henry
Wilbert Hrapchak
Rita Jones

Emma Kulbeck
Janice Leslie
Emma & Luella Lundby
Frances Markus
Fred Mital
Carl Rosenleaf
Thelma Rowland
Evelyn Williamson
Gordon Young

In Honor of

Pete Bleskin
Charles Huber
Lohr Grandchildren Birthdays
Mark Mathson
North Side Van's IGA
West Side VFW Post 5590

Great Falls Rescue Mission is a non-profit, Christian organization committed to caring for the hungry, hurting and homeless of North Central Montana. The Mission believes lives can be changed by actively demonstrating and sharing the love of Jesus Christ and meeting a person's spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs. Great Falls Rescue Mission's various ministries ease the burden of the most vulnerable, rebuild the lives of the broken and offer dignity to those who feel cast aside.

Given by

Jeannine Manuel
Melody Pospisil
Patricia Knottnerus
Thomas & Shirley Mahoney
Evelyn Cote
Patricia Knottnerus
Adam & Barb Dahlman
Donald & Leanne Wilson
Robert & Patricia Kercher
Darrell Tucker
Emma Beirwagen
Geoffery & Lynette Byrd
Donald & Esther Finlayson
Jay & Marion Horne
William & Lois Leach
Greg A. Luinstra
Robert Niebuhr
Betty Peterson
R. Lois Schmidt
Don & Jean Shumsky
Gene & Helen Wike
Karen Henry
Ethel Williams
Robert & Patricia Kercher
Michael & Betty Mehegan
James & Carol Mungas
Larry & Barbara Steele
Diana Talcott
Duane Talcott
Shirley Thiebbs
Patricia Knottnerus
Francis Mitchell
Jan Smith
Ivan & Jeanette Wollersheim
Frank & Lois Stimac
Mrs. Patricia Rosenleaf
Fred & Marcia Kaste
Delores Gregory
Esther Shoquist

Chris Johns
David Clark
David & Jan Irvin
DA Davidson IT Department
Samuel Boor
CMSgt Russell Jacques

Sponsor Someone for Christmas

We have two kids' parties for homeless and at-risk children. We need you to sponsor the children that come to these parties. In addition to the kids' parties, we provide Christmas gifts to the men and women who are part of our Christian Discipleship Programs.

Both our Women's Humbled Hearts Christian Discipleship Program and our Men's Christian Discipleship Program are Christ-centered recovery programs 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 that is pleasing and glorifying to the God of the Bible.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or providing

Thanks for Providing

As you may remember from last month's newsletter, we were seeking funds to purchase a new or used commercial convection oven. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we have reached our goal!



Christmas gifts to these people who have made a commitment to complete our program, contact Viki or Samantha at (406) 761-2653 to pick up a wish list.

We were able to purchase a new convection oven to help prepare meals for our upcoming holiday meals as well as the meals we serve every day here at the Mission. Thank you for providing so generously!