



*A Beacon of
Hope Since 1963*

The BEACON

A Newsletter for Friends and Donors of Great Falls Rescue Mission

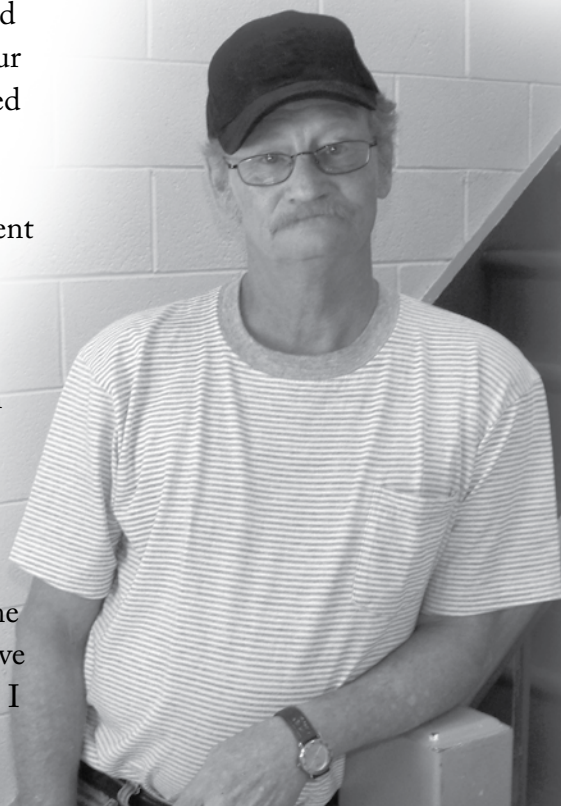
“I Was Committed to Staying Sober”

John wasn't a stranger to the Mission or to our Christian Discipleship Program when he came here. He had stayed here with us for a couple of weeks when he came back to Great Falls from Louisiana. “I heard people talk about the program while I was at the Mission.”

Once he found a job and got his first paycheck, John moved out on his own. But he still continued to hear about the Mission and our programs through men he worked with who had been here.

When he was fired from his job, John decided to seek treatment for his drinking problem and went to the Montana Chemical Dependency Center in Butte. “I went through the program down there and graduated. When I came back to town, I stayed at my sister's place. She was great about offering me a place to stay as long as I wanted and taking me to AA meetings, but it would have been just a matter of time before I started drinking again.”

Sometimes when you're on your own, things don't go the way you'd planned. John's never been in trouble. Never been arrested, never been on parole. “As long as I took care of myself, I thought I was doing okay.” But John was really committed to staying sober, and he knew he'd need help. So he turned to the Mission and signed up for our six-month Christian Discipleship Program.



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John is convinced that the fact that our program is Christ-centered really made a big difference. “This is the first time I've ever been introduced to God and religion, and it made a big difference!”

**“The Mission is
a safe haven.”**

Along with Bible studies and life-skills classes, John volunteers in our clothing room as part of our work therapy program where everyone “does their part.” As he gets his feet more firmly planted in sobriety, he's going to start looking for a job and an apartment, and this time, thanks to the program, he's committed to doing it “without drinking.”



A Message from Jim Kizer

I know one thing as I begin my work as Executive Director. I have a lot to learn: ministry, fundraising and day-to-day operations. I'm blessed with a wonderful staff and great programs, but more than that, I realize that it's not us who "do it all." It's the Lord. He's called us to this work and He will bless us through it!

My work with young people here in Great Falls tells me that we need to reach out to more boys and girls who are at risk, to transform their lives so they don't have to follow in mom and dad's footsteps – help them see that they don't have to be in a situation where they are homeless!

There's also a crying need for longer-term care for both individuals and families. When our women and family shelter, Haven of Hope, was opened, our goal was to give those in need a place to stay for two to three months. What we are finding is that single moms and families often need much longer than that to get back on their feet. Transitional housing may be the answer.

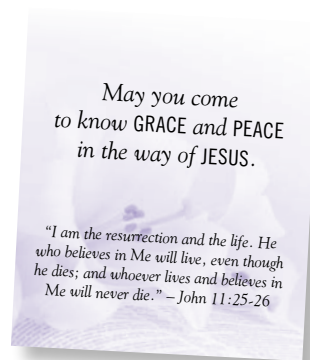
We have some great challenges ahead of us, and with God's help and your support, we'll move forward to meet them.

Jim Kizer
Jim Kizer
Executive Director

Easter Celebration!

On Friday, April 2 there will be a very special Good Friday celebration at the Mission, including a festive Easter dinner and service. You can take part by joining us, or by donating some of the food and supplies we'll need to serve more than 7,098 meals and fill the personal item kits we will distribute this Easter season (see list on page 4).

Please contact Samantha or Penny at **(406) 761-2653** for more information.



Thanksgiving Was a Time of Celebration!

We celebrated another wonderful Thanksgiving season last year thanks to our donors, volunteers and staff. Volunteers put together 70 food boxes and served hundreds of meals at both our Family Thanksgiving Dinner (where the food boxes were distributed) and our Great Thanksgiving Banquet. We also provided meals for the Juvenile Detention Center.

In total, we provided over 700 meals for homeless and low-income men, women and children in addition to the

regular meals we serve every day! Thank you and God bless all of you, our faithful donors!

For more information or to volunteer, call **(406) 761-2653** or visit www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org.



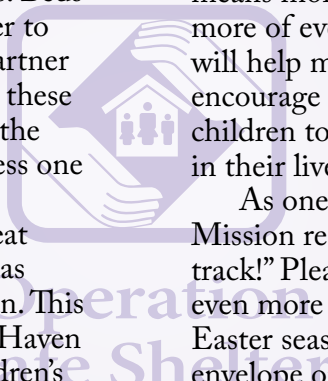
Operation Safe Shelter

Food to fill empty stomachs. Beds to rest weary bodies. Prayer to restore worn out souls. As a partner with the Mission, you provide these benefits and more – giving us the means to help end homelessness one person at a time.

As temperatures drop, Great Falls Rescue Mission takes in as many people as we possibly can. This time of year, the Mission and Haven of Hope, our women and children's shelter, are filled to capacity. This

means more meals, more clothing... more of everything. Your gift today will help make a big difference and encourage these men, women and children to make permanent changes in their lives.

As one guest said recently, "The Mission really gets you on the right track!" Please help us transform even more lives now, and during the Easter season, by using the enclosed envelope or making a gift online at GreatFallsRescueMission.org. Thank you!



“There Was a Big Empty Spot in Me”

By all conventional measures, Steve was a successful Montana boy. “I have a family and children I love. I made money, lots of money, but I still didn’t care about anything.” Steve compares his feelings to having lost your sense of taste: “You eat food, but it really doesn’t matter because nothing tastes good. You eat because you know you have to survive.”

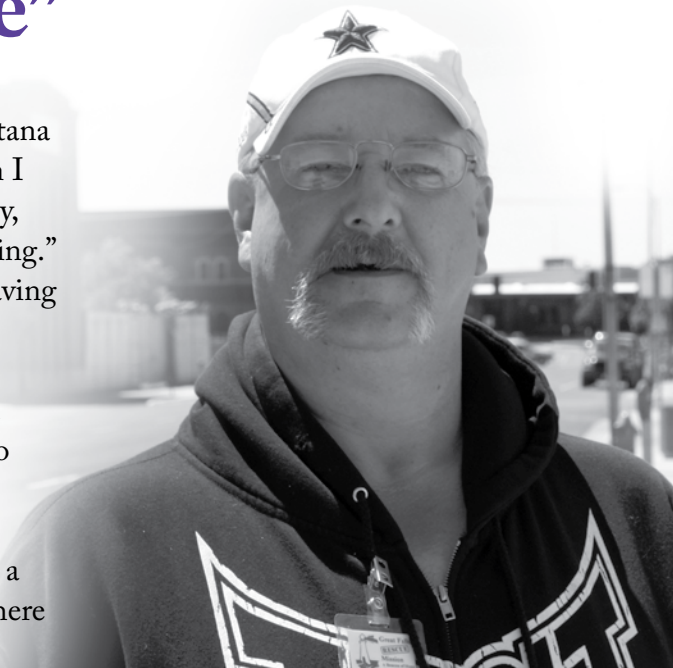
After living in Bozeman for twenty-five years and working as a painter, Steve got to the point where he “didn’t care about anything.” Thinking that he might be suffering from depression, he started checking out retreat and rehab centers.

“What was missing in my life was God.”

Steve “drifted” into Great Falls and landed at the Gateway Recovery Center. “It was going to take them five or six days to actually get the paperwork rolling and get me a bed somewhere, and since I didn’t have a place to stay, they recommended the Mission. They said, ‘There are some great people down there and they’ll make you feel at home.’”

“The program was exactly what I was looking for.”

Steve came down to the Mission and checked in as a guest. That evening, he talked with a staff member about our Discipleship Program. “The more he explained, the more I knew that was exactly what I was looking for! I signed up the next day.”



What Steve found began to fill the emptiness inside. “There’s always someone here for you if you need help. And it’s not just the staff but the pastors who come in for chapel every night to share the good news.”

Steve has found he much prefers the Mission’s approach to his uncompromising religious upbringing. “It’s like they’re offering you a plate with food. It’s offered, not forced down your throat.”

Today, Steve is pursuing Mission work himself through our Leadership Training Program. And that “empty spot” is gone. Today, Steve has “a real sense of inner peace and self-accomplishment.” “I’ve allowed God into my life and learned how to make Him a part of everything I do.”

“One of the rewarding things for me is that I can share with guys that come through the door. You can tell they are searching for something, and I say, ‘Hey, we have a program here. Maybe you should check it out.’ Some get into it, and it’s great for them. It’s a big reward to see that happen.”

A Special Christmas Celebration

Christmas was truly a blessed time here at the Mission. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the graciousness of our volunteers and the cooperation of our staff, we were able to provide meals and gifts for the homeless and needy in our community.

Between our Family and Adult Christmas Parties, we fed more than 700 people and provided gifts to more than 400 children. The adults received a small gift bag filled with candy, fruit, hats, gloves and other items. Our “Ornaments of Hope” sponsorship program provided gifts for 40 more children, including some residents of our Haven of Hope Women and Families Shelter and other children from the community.

Thank you to everyone who had a part in making this Christmas special for so many!

Services Provided in 2009

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Meals..... | 64,671 |
| Men Sheltered..... | 13,555 |
| Women & Children Sheltered..... | 6,413 |
| Chapel Attendance..... | 14,677 |
| Optical Clinics..... | 107 |
| Chiropractic Clinics..... | 49 |
| Dental Clinics..... | 202 |
| Medical Hours..... | 320 |

Upcoming Events

Good Friday Dinner
April 2

Easter Egg Hunt
April 2

Annual Banquet
April 19

Great Falls Rescue Mission Tributes

Honorary and Memorial gifts are thoughtful ways to pay tribute to special people. Tributes received after December 31, 2009 will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Beacon*. Persons being honored are listed in bold.

Memorials

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>In Memory of Tina Agre Katy Rae Lynn Arthur Jack Ball Dick Baumberger Gary Lee Birkenbuel Harry Leo Birkenbuel Pete Buck Brian Burchak Mary Ellen Canoy James Cares Marge Carlson Mary Ann Connelly Phil & Jeanine Cook Leonard Cote</p> <p>Pete Cote</p> <p>Floyd Crelley Adam P. Dahلمان Daughter Grand Frederick Davolt</p> <p>Mrs. Irene DeVries Anne Dhane Joseph Duffy Jim Eagen</p> | <p>Given by Mr. & Mrs. Duryce Jamie & Lonnie Arthur Madelyn Ball Joyce Goodman Renata Birkenbuel Renata Birkenbuel Mr. Frank Burke Mr. & Mrs. David Ripley Elizabeth VanDyken Georgine Andrews Esther Shoquist Barbara Hoskins Mr. & Mrs. Robert McKinnon Evelyn Cote Donald & Leanne Wilson Evelyn Cote Donald & Leanne Wilson Cathy Field Adam & Barbara Dahلمان Lyda Powless Ed & Marie Bert C. Evans Betty Filius Richard & Marcia Hocoever Howard & Betty Huff Lenore Jacobsen Janice Kawasaki Mr. & Mrs. Roy Knudsen Denny & Betty McCall Dr. Bryan K. Pike Stephen & Doris Varga Inez Gaarder Mr. & Mrs. Francis Raucci Donald & Leanne Wilson</p> | <p>In Memory of Judy Eagen Ester Enghusen Dave Eye Max Farmer</p> <p>Pauline Mary Fenwick Steve Field Dorothea Fitch Libby Fry Pauline Grena</p> <p>Pauline Gunderson Magdalen Hager</p> <p>Tom Hansmann Kenneth L. Hanson Ross Heikkila</p> <p>Sam Hill Kathryn Hodges John Iwen Stella Jaques Rose Laya Keeler C. R. "Bob" Kemp Gertrude Kohut Dan Korn Harvey Livix Barbara Long Emma Lundby Luella Lundby Bill Misner Vernon Muretta June Ormsby Don Ostrem</p> | <p>Given by Donald & Leanne Wilson Eunice Rogers Norvil & Avalyn Carlson Rebecca Charest Chauncey Robinson Robert Savage, PC Cathy Field Pat & Candy Wagner Patricia Knottnerus Patricia Grena Elaine Reeves Charles Wolff Ruth Hodges Harold & Inez Gaarder William & Collette Neuman Jon & Shirley Fugelstad Ruth Smith Sherry, Morgan, Codi, Erik, Allison, Atticus Heikkila Mr. & Mrs. Swede Malmberg Laura Hodges Mr. & Mrs. Francis Raucci Joseph Jaques Almeda Pfeifle Bernice Kemp Jerry & Carol Schroer Jon & Shirley Fugelstad Robert Savage, PC Ken & Delores Evenson Jan Smith Jan Smith Linda Misner Bowman Ranch, Inc. Richard & Dorothy Schott Mr. & Mrs. Francis Raucci</p> | <p>In Memory of Elsie Panemter</p> <p>Tom Patte Fern Helene Paul Elmer Pearson Janet Pfennigs Elizabeth Pohold</p> <p>Jim Rettig Tim Sanford Russel Lyle Sartain Waven Schlepp Ron Schmid Clyde Schmidt Gertrude Schmidt Herb Schmidt Scarlett Schock Pauline Semmens</p> <p>Gil & Arlene Skaer Ann Somers Amy Stokes Lyle M. Sundine Kari Taylen</p> | <p>Given by Dorothy Anseth Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DiLello Mary Pauline Gemmell Joanne Holman Cynthia Hustad Albin Johnson Karen Peterson Knaup Ed & Mary Kyler Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Pallett Myrtle Skorvpa Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Tempel Merlyn & Myrna Witty Mr. & Mrs. Robert McPeck Renata Birkenbuel Violet Vihinen Ronald & Melinda Winchell Patricia Grena Elaine Reeves Charles Wolff Patricia Knottnerus Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Dahلمان Mr. & Mrs. Arden Sunwall Bowman Ranch, Inc. Luella Kangas Gladys Schmidt Mr. & Mrs. Harold Gaarder Renata Birkenbuel Mark & Rose Marie Walsh Semmens Ronald & Melinda Winchell Elaine Reeves Michael Frenick Jamie & Lonnie Arthur Clarence & Helen Wiprud</p> | <p>In Memory of Norma & Lewis Thenell Joe Thompson Borghild Thorp Mary Ann Tingle Neil Ugrin Donna Underdal Jerry Andrew VanDyken Mike, Dick & Dorothy Winchell Joe Wynn</p> <p>In Honor of Larry & Gay Bernard Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carlson Charles & Marcella Clark Mrs. R.B. Egan William Ferguson Mr. & Mrs. Lance Ivanish Mr. Shane Ivanish Steve & Patsy Kirkhart Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kreton Mr. & Mrs. Art McCafferty Ms. Rae McCafferty Mr. & Mrs. Phil Newhall James & Demares Renville Phyllis Reynolds Ann Rice Mr. & Mrs. Caleb Stephen Tyler Tucker Mr. & Mrs. John Waugh Andrew Widhalm Big Sandy Church of God Good News Club GFRM Volunteers My Family</p> | <p>Given by Linda Misner Luke & Marilynne Krebs Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dillard Jeannine Manuel Robert Savage, PC Mr. & Mrs. John Williams Richard & Dorothy Schott Ronald & Melinda Winchell</p> <p>Brenda Horn</p> <p>Given by Don & Molly Brewer Mr. & Mrs. Norm Newhall James & Demares Renville Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Tureck Robert Ferguson Joanne Peres Hershman Joanne Peres Hershman Mr. William Barton Joanne Peres Hershman Joanne Peres Hershman Mr. & Mrs. Norm Newhall Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kropp Shirley Kontos Sheila Rice Joanne Peres Hershman Mr. & Mrs. Kendall Switzer Mr. & Mrs. Norm Newhall Rev. Ryan Reed</p> <p>Penny Jordan Joyce Goodman</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|

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.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the homeless as they deal with the extreme cold.

Pray for our volunteers as they share God's love with hurting people.

Pray for our Christian Discipleship Program graduates as they seek employment.

Pray for single moms who are staying at Haven of Hope.

Easter Needs List

Kitchen

Hams
#10 Cans Fruits & Vegetables
Potatoes
Coffee
Creamer
Sugar

Dinner Rolls
Easter Candy
(individually wrapped)

Men's & Women's Personal Item Kits

Shampoo

Soap
Deodorant
Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Brush/Comb
Body Lotion
(Gender Appropriate)
Chapstick

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

Enclosed is my gift to provide meals, shelter and care at Easter and throughout the year:

- \$16.11 to help feed and care for 9 people
 \$26.85 to help feed and care for 15 people
 \$51.91 to help feed and care for 29 people
 \$_____ to help feed and care for as many as possible

Donate online at www.GreatFallsRescueMission.org, or call 406-761-2653.

- Bill my credit card
 VISA MC AMEX DISC

CREDIT CARD #

CIV/SEC #

EXP. DATE

PHONE #

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



NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

EAST 10