

“Family” and Home for the Holidays

Your support gave me a whole
new family — thank you!

by Michael



When I came to Waterfront Rescue Mission in November 2014, I was 63 and burned out. I didn't have a problem with drugs or alcohol. But after years of working in a health care center, dealing with death and dying every day, I was depressed and ill. And with the holidays coming, I knew I needed some kind of change.

It sure didn't take long! I grew up Catholic but I never really knew God. So on November 15, 2014, I got saved right in this chapel, and I spent my first Thanksgiving and Christmas as a new creation in Jesus Christ here at Waterfront Rescue Mission.

The holidays can be pretty challenging for folks who are homeless or dealing with addictions. A lot of them don't have family or friends to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with. But I wish you could have seen the faces of the people here at the Mission that holiday season. There was so much food and joy. It was just like one big family. This place was filled with the true meaning of Christmas.

That's what it was like the whole time I was here. I found a band of brothers in the Lord who changed my life. We loved each other, supported each other, and prayed for each other every day, morning, noon, and night. It was a special time. And this is a special, life-changing place.

“ I spent my first Thanksgiving and Christmas as a new creation in Jesus Christ here at Waterfront Rescue Mission.”

God is amazing, and He just kept blessing me after I left. But I never forgot my Waterfront Rescue Mission family. So last November, when my mother died just before Thanksgiving, I needed that support again. So I came back and spent the holiday season with my brothers and sisters here.

So this Christmas, I guess that's what I want you to know. Your support for Waterfront Rescue Mission not only changed my life, it gave me a new family. *Thank you!*

The photo has been changed to protect the privacy of our client.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Thanksgiving Day Banquet
Thursday, November 22, 11:00 am

Christmas Day Banquet
Tuesday, December 25, 11:00 am

Holiday Donations Needs

- Hams (10-12 lbs)
- Stuffing mix
- Large cans of green beans and corn
- Pies or cookies
- Cranberry sauce
- Gift cards to grocery stores

Other Needs

- Razors
- Deodorant
- Travel-size toiletries
- Men's t-shirts, underwear and socks
- Blankets
- Warm clothes
- Jackets
- Gloves
- Knit hats

DID YOU KNOW?
100% of the net income from our Thrift Stores goes to the Emergency Shelter and Recovery Programs. We are in need of furniture for resale purposes. To donate call **888-853-8655**.



A Message from Devin Simmons, President

Thank you for showing men, women and children here how loved and important they are.

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to the first issue of our newly redesigned *Rescue News* newsletter! I hope you enjoy reading about Michael and Adam because people like these men inspire me — and I know they inspire you, as well. Their stories are what Waterfront Rescue Mission is all about.

That's why we've completely reshaped the look and feel of *Rescue News*. We wanted to create a newsletter that would communicate to you, in every issue, stories of courage, life-transformation, and inspiration, as you see the power of God at work in the lives of our guests and in your life, too. We want to show you how God is using you to help transform the lives people like Craig and Ray, so they can experience new life today and for eternity.

Thank you for being a part of our family!

“Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever” (Jeremiah 33:11). With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming fast, I can't help but reflect on all I have to be grateful for. For me, the holiday season is such a wonderful family time — not only with my immediate family — wife, children, grandchildren — but also with my family here at the Mission. Those I work with. The precious people we serve. And yes, YOU.

The truth is, there is no Waterfront Rescue Mission apart from you. There is no shelter, no meals, no long-term care. And that's why I am so grateful for you.

This Thanksgiving and Christmas, I pray we all remember this big, wonderful family — and especially those among us who are the least fortunate. Together, we can be neighbors helping neighbors. And family helping family.

Blessings,

Devin K. Simmons
President



A NEW DREAM FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you for the best Christmas gift ever!

by Adam

I guess you could say washing dishes saved my life, in a way.

Up until about a year and a half ago, I was a total meth junkie. I always worked, but I wasn't going anywhere. I had no dreams, no hope, no direction — I just lived in total despair, shooting up meth every day so I didn't have to face it.

Two years ago, I ended up going to jail on a drug charge. By the grace of God, after two months, my lawyer was able to arrange for me to come to Waterfront Rescue Mission.

“What donors like you do to help guys like me is overwhelming.”

I used to go to church when I was a kid, and I even got saved. But like the prodigal son, I ended up taking my eyes off God and I got lost. It took coming here to the Mission to get that focus back. Then God really started to bless me.

Shortly after I got here, I started washing dishes in the kitchen for about 300 people a day, as part of my service. That's a lot of dishes! Later, I started assisting the head cook, and finally I ended up head cook myself. Who knew that God would use that experience to show me a talent I never knew I had? And He gave me a new dream for my life. Cooking for people gives me sense of overwhelming joy I never experienced before.



Cooking meals here has become a kind of ministry for me, it's my way of giving back for everything the Mission has done for me.

Now I'm even studying at Bishop State Community College, pursuing my dream to earn a degree in culinary arts.

God used washing dishes here at Waterfront Rescue Mission to give me this new dream. But He used **you** to make it all possible. What donors like you do to help guys like me is overwhelming. You've given me the best Christmas gift ever — a new life. If it weren't for you, I'd probably be in prison now. Instead, because you blessed me, now I get to bless others.
Merry Christmas!

The photo has been changed to protect the privacy of our client.



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, PLEASE HELP OUR STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS IN MOBILE

“While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:6-7).

It's almost unimaginable. Jesus Christ, Creator and the world's one true King — was born homeless, in poverty. Yet because of that, God teaches us to see His face in every hurting, homeless man, woman, and child who comes to Waterfront Rescue Mission. And your generosity toward these same precious souls proves you see what we see—and we are so grateful!

Please remember those who are homeless this Christmas

This Christmas, friends like you who support Waterfront Rescue Mission

give the greatest gifts of all: nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter, and the promise of God's transforming power to precious soul who needs our help. So please remember our hurting and homeless neighbors who are seeking hope and a new start this holiday season.

In the spirit of this holy season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering and pain of those who come through our doors. Please use the response slip in this newsletter, or you can donate on our secure website at **waterfrontmission.org**.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of people in need!

Thank you for remembering our hurting and homeless neighbors who are seeking hope and a new start this Christmas.



With Gratitude to the Waterfront Community...



Karen Lange spent a few days before Thanksgiving helping us in the kitchen. She came alongside Adam (who was a graduate of the program) in the kitchen and they cooked and baked in preparation for Thanksgiving. Karen made several homemade pies as well as a green bean casserole that got rave reviews from the guests.

Karen and Adam prepared around 30 turkeys, including stuffing and side dishes as well. She was a joy in the kitchen, ever so helpful and informative. She gave some great advice to Adam on becoming a chef and different tips on maintaining a kitchen. She not only prepared the meal, but also helped in instructing the volunteers who were serving on proper proportions. Her role in serving was on the desserts, which, of course, included her homemade pies with a special crust. She told me that she loves to volunteer around the holidays if she is not working. She truly helped in being an example of what it looks like to be thankful!



As Waterfront Rescue Mission enhances its Recovery and Career Development Program (RCD), it has partnered with more than 20 businesses and organizations in 2018 to provide a variety of educational classes, employment services and training. In April, Waterfront Rescue Mission entered into a partnership with Austal USA, one of the largest shipbuilders in the United States.

The partnership affords qualified clients, who have successfully completed Waterfront Rescue Mission's RCD Program, to participate in Austal's pre-employment training program, which provides paid, on-the-job training and a pathway for career growth for those who successfully complete the program. While healing and restoration are the ultimate goals of our programs, it's only through the collaborative work of our supporters and their investments that our clients are learning the skills necessary to become self-sufficient, productive members of the community.



MY HOLIDAY GIFT

YES, I WANT TO HELP GIVE NEW HOPE AND LIFE TO HURTING NEIGHBORS.

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Here's my holiday gift of:

- \$21.70** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
 - \$32.55** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
 - \$65.10** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
 - \$_____** to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card:
 - VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Waterfront Rescue Mission (Mobile Campus)

279A North Washington Ave
Mobile, AL 36603



Please mail this completed form with your donation, or you may give your gift online at waterfrontmission.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.