

*Creating a better world
by serving people in need.*

FOCUS

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Nancy's Place Changed My Life *by Nichelle*

I went through so much trauma as a child, I don't trust anyone. What I experienced, every day, was so bad, I purposely got pregnant when I was 15, just so I could get away from my family.

But my life didn't get much better. I got married and had my first baby, but I was already strung out on crack at age 16. When I left my husband five years later, I had no idea who I was or how to take care of myself. I was terrified and often had to sell myself to make ends meet.

I stayed high for years. I had three more kids, I was a drug addict, I was homeless off and on, and I did whatever I had to do to survive — my whole life was a hot mess.

I tried to get clean a couple of times, but it never lasted. But by the end of 2014, I saw my whole life passing before me. I was homeless again and fed up with having to sell myself. I wanted a different life, but I had to make a choice.

Dealing With Me

For the first time in my life, I was determined to deal with me. I wasn't going to sweep my issues under the carpet anymore. I told God, no matter how long it takes, I'm going to get the help I need to change. So I chose to come to Nancy's Place.

Nancy's Place was perfect. They gave me a safe place to stay, they got me into counseling, and got me on medications. They taught me how to deal with stress, how to appreciate life, and how to take responsibility for my life — and they held me accountable. And slowly everything started to fall into place.

I just left a couple of weeks ago, and I don't have a job yet. But Nancy's Place helped me move into my own place and my future looks good. For the first time, I like who I am. If it wasn't for Nancy's Place, I wouldn't be who I am today. I'm so very thankful.

**"I was homeless again.
... I wanted a different life,
but I had to make a choice."**



This Easter, I'm a different person because YOU cared.

Veteran HOMELESSNESS



About 62,000 or 13% of all homeless persons are veterans. Veterans often experience homelessness because of disabilities caused by their experience on the battlefield. Physical injuries, post-traumatic stress and mental suffering are just a few of the wartime aftereffects that drive the population of homeless veterans.

— Move for Hunger:
Hunger and Homelessness



An Encouraging Word from Sue Villilo, Executive Director

Dear Friend of Faith Mission,

Every winter, I think about all the men and women experiencing homelessness in Columbus who are struggling to survive out in the bitter cold, and my heart just breaks for them. I can't imagine the fear, desperation, and overwhelming anxiety they must feel, never knowing whether they'll be able to get a warm bed for the night.

Those who don't find shelter risk frostbite, bronchitis, flu, pneumonia, and sometimes even death. And psychologically, the stress is unimaginable, too. As the temperatures drop, it really hits home just how vulnerable our homeless neighbors really are — and they're suddenly aware just how much they've really lost and how far they've fallen.

You provide more than shelter — you save lives.

But here's the encouraging thing. There are people all over this city who make sure Faith Mission is here to provide warm shelter, hot meals, and real, tangible help to our homeless neighbors. This winter, your gifts will enable us to shelter 275 people every night. And on extra cold nights, we hope to offer up to 400 people safe shelter. And what that means is that precious men and women will escape the life-threatening cold this winter.

You see, the truth is, *when you support Faith Mission you save lives.*

One of the most painful things we ever have to do at Faith Mission is turn someone away because we don't have room. But I thank God because I know there are caring, compassionate people like you standing with us, people who will continue to do everything possible to offer God's love and lifesaving shelter from the storm to everyone who needs it.

So as we begin our Lenten journey toward Easter this month — *thank you*

Your friend,

Sue Villilo, Executive Director

Please Give Hurting People in Columbus

Tonight, hundreds of men and women in Columbus will have no place to call home. It's hard to fathom the misery, shame, and despair they endure — the hopelessness that cripples their lives.

But there is hope, and despair doesn't have the final word. Easter morning is coming, with its promise of new life. And that promise is the reason Faith Mission offers a helping hand to all those who are experiencing hunger and homelessness in our community. But it's thanks to generous people like you, who share our hope and compassion for hurting people, who make it all possible.

Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People



"I thank God because I know there are caring, compassionate people like you standing with us."

Planting Roots Again

by Armand



A Golden
ANNIVERSARY

When I was growing up in a little town off the Hudson River in New York, it was kind of like that 1960s TV version of the good ol' American family. But after high school, I got crazy for some reason, I left home and moved down to Daytona Beach, Florida, so I could be closer to the one real passion in my life, NASCAR racing.

I lived down there for 28 years, working in the hotel industry. I never got married, but I made good money and bought a house. It was all good, until 2002-2003, when hurricane season did a lot of damage to the hotel I was working at. When the hotel shut down, I lost my job, racked up a lot of bills, and eventually lost my house.



I guess the adventure bug kind of hit me then. I started drifting around the East Coast, picking up jobs here and there. But I was drinking by then and it got the better of me for awhile. Oh, I could always function, but spent a lot of money on wine, women, and song. And the jobs never lasted long, so I kept drifting.

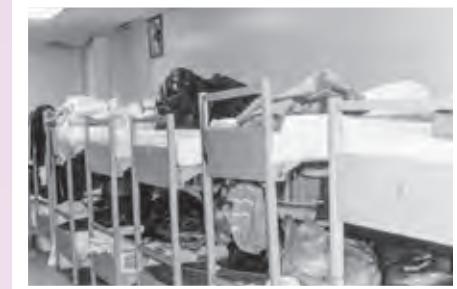
Finding a Gold Nugget

Not too long ago, I moved to Columbus. I'm tired of drifting and I want to settle down, plant my roots here. But I had trouble finding work and ended up homeless. I lived on the streets for six months. Boy, that was cold and dangerous. Faith Mission really saved my bacon. I started coming here for meals and eventually got into the shelter.

"Faith Mission really saved my bacon."

Not only do I have a bed and three meals a day, I got my health taken care of and some new glasses. I also have a case worker too, who's helping me find a job. Things aren't happening as fast as I'd like, but I know it'll all work out.

I tell you, this place is a real gold nugget for someone like me. I kinda messed things up for awhile. But I'm doing it right this time. Thanks to Faith Mission, I get another chance to get my life back on track.



This year, Faith Mission celebrates a very important milestone. We opened our doors 50 years ago on February 6, 1966 in response to the City Mission closing its doors. Back then, we were located at 181 East Long St. and the doors only opened at 5 p.m. A meal was served and beds for twelve men were available. In 1998, Faith Mission joined the Lutheran Social Services family.

Today, thanks to your continued support, Faith Mission has grown into a 24-hour emergency shelter serving both men and women, a community kitchen that serves three meals a day every day of the year to anyone who is hungry, a free clinic that provides medical, dental, vision and podiatry services, and resource centers that provide job training and preparation skills. Our mission of creating a better world by serving people in need is lived out each day within the walls of Faith Mission, and we are so proud to be a part of the central Ohio community. With your help, we will continue to serve our neighbors in need for another 50 years and beyond.

Hope and a New Chance at Life

Every gift you send to Faith Mission offers new hope to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you! But more hurting people come every day — and they need people like you to help give them that same hope and another chance for new life.

To invest in the new life of someone in need, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.faithmissionofohio.org. Thank you for being a caring friend to people experiencing homelessness in our community during the Easter season and throughout the year.

*They need
people like you
to help give
them that same
hope and
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NEW BEGINNINGS AT FAITH MISSION

Faith Mission is celebrating the success of our residents who have found permanent housing, and we need your help! We are hosting a housewarming party on April 23 with open hours from 2 to 4 p.m. at the administrative offices at 245 N Grant Ave. — to collect household goods for someone who will be moving from Faith Mission to his or her own place. There will also be activities for the kids. You can drop off items or stay for the event. The following items (new or gently used) will assist our residents as they move out of the shelter:

Pots and Pans

Bowls

Dish Sets

Shower Curtains/Hooks

New Blankets

Bath Towels/Washcloths

Bed Sheets

Cooking/Serving Utensils

Drinking Cups/Glasses

Cleaning Supplies

Toilet Paper/ Paper Towels

Can Openers

Bolded items are urgently needed.



No RSVP is needed. For more information, call 614-224-6617 or e-mail sdouglas@lssco.org. You may also drop off items at Faith Mission at 245 N Grant Ave., from 7 am to 7 pm, prior to the day of the event.



SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN LSS PROGRAMS IS PROVIDED BY



communityshelterboard



You can show your support of Faith Mission by liking us on Facebook and Twitter.

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My Easter Gift

YES, Sue, I want to help give new hope and a new chance at life to hurting people.

Please bill my credit card:
 VISA MC DISCOVER AMEX

That's why I'm giving my Easter gift of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible

ACCOUNT NO.	EXP. DATE
NAME	SIGNATURE
ADDRESS	
CITY / STATE / ZIP	
EMAIL ADDRESS	

Faith Mission, Inc.
P.O. Box 182010
Columbus, OH 43218-2010

Please mail this completed form with your Easter gift, or you may donate online at www.faithmissionofohio.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.