



Changing Lives



A Word of Gratitude from Darryl
page 2



Thank you for your love and compassion . . .
page 3



Our Volunteers
page 3

**HOLIDAY
ISSUE 2016**

I'm making progress *on my long road to recovery*

My name is Ken. Before I came to Holland Rescue Mission, my life was in shambles. I was homeless, and I figured I just needed a job. *I now know what I needed was Jesus Christ.* My former life was all about alcohol, pornography, women and money. It seemed like I committed every sin against God possible. One of my darkest moments was when, at age 13, I attacked my second cousin. Because of what I did, I wanted to kill myself . . . and for a long time I kept cutting myself with razor blades. I had no answers to the problems that surrounded me. One thing is for sure: if I hadn't come through the doors of Holland Rescue Mission and the Gateway Ministry Center, I know I would be back on the streets, making trouble, begging for food and having no life at all.

God is helping me forgive myself

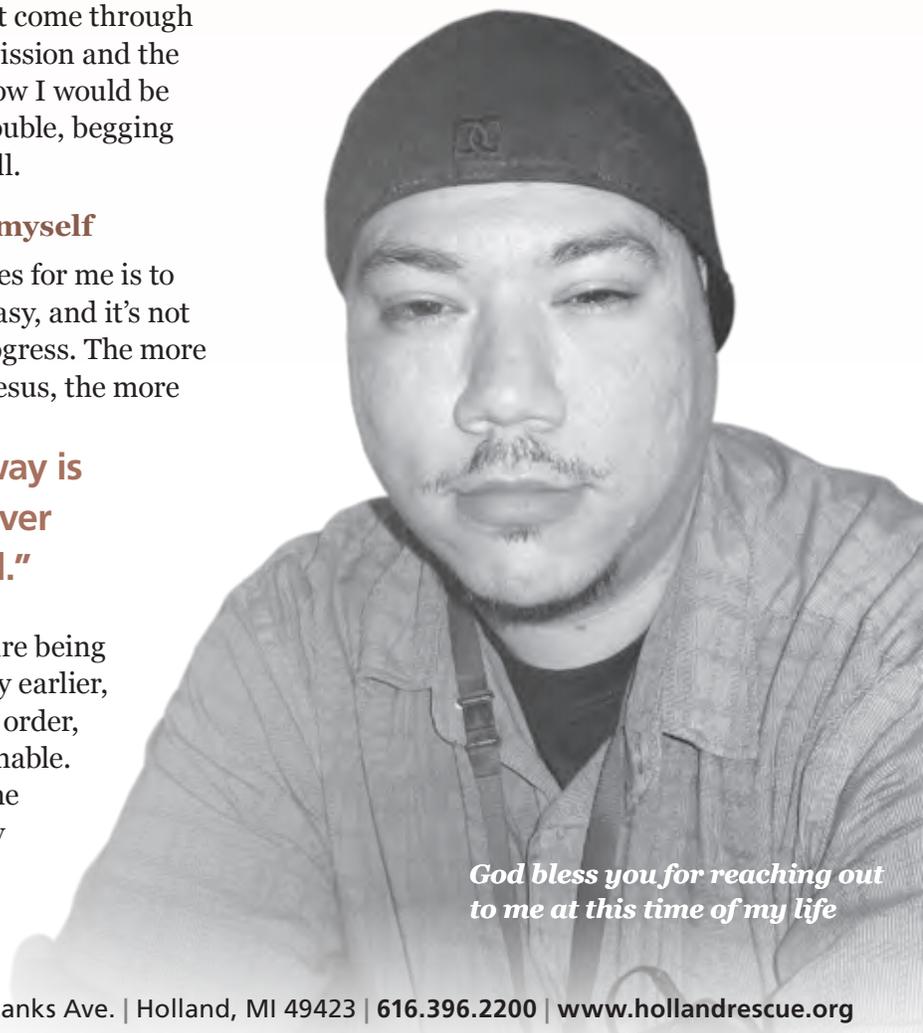
One of the greatest challenges for me is to forgive myself. It hasn't been easy, and it's not easy now. But I am making progress. The more I give every part of my life to Jesus, the more

"I now know God's way is the only way I will ever make it in this world."

the sinful burdens of my past are being lifted from my shoulders. In my earlier, feeble attempt to put my life in order, I sampled every religion imaginable. But none of those faiths gave me the answers I needed to put my life in order. I think I was just

eating "religious snack food," when what I needed was to sit down at God's table and enjoy a full course meal of His Truth. I now know God's way is the only way I will ever make it in this world.

I am excited about the Gateway Ministry Center. I'm doing well in the Bible classes, and I am also showing some exceptional mathematical skills. I'm not bragging. I'm just telling you how happy I am for where my life is today. Thank you for supporting me in my journey of recovery.



God bless you for reaching out to me at this time of my life

Thank You!

We want to thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of construction and renovation.

We are nearing the end and anticipating the newly renovated Gateway Center. Please continue to drop your donations off at our Donation Trailer in the parking lot.

If you have large loads, please drop off at the back of the Gateway Donation Center door located by the trash compactor.



Donation Trailer in the parking lot

In Our Hearts . . . the Hope & Promise of Christmas

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry of rescue. Your friendship and compassion allow us to keep the hope and promise of Christmas alive in the hearts of our Mission guests. Thank you for being one who cares.



A Word of Gratitude from Darryl

Dear Friend of Holland Rescue Mission,

As we approach this holiday season, I want to thank you for continuing to use your resources to help us share the greatest gift the world has ever received — *the Person of Jesus Christ* — His life, death and resurrection. Yes, you help us provide nutritious food, safe shelter and warm clothing for men, women and children in need. But the greatest gift you give is the opportunity for people to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In the commercial world we often hear the phrase . . . *give a gift that keeps on giving*. That's true for some material gifts. But there is no gift that has a greater ripple effect than the gift of eternal life. When a man or woman invites Jesus into his or her life, that decision affects children, relatives, a church and even a community. So I want you to always remember that whether your gift is large or small, your donation takes effect immediately and develops a life of its own.

Hearts are changed and lives rearranged

Those who come through our doors are accustomed to the darkness of life. For most, *chaos* has been their middle name. Fear, oppression, abuse and addiction have been the hallmarks of their lives. Then they come to Holland Rescue Mission, where the light of God's Son begins to shine in those dark places. That's when lives are transformed and hearts changed forever by receiving the greatest gift in the world. Thank you for helping us give our friends the opportunity to unwrap God's great gift during the holidays . . . *and every day of the year*.

Until the next time, God bless you and keep you always.

Your servant,

Darryl Bartlett, Executive Director



"Thank you for helping us give our friends the opportunity to unwrap God's great gift during the holidays."



You are a special friend to the needy . . .

Because you continue to be a faithful ministry partner, you are a valued friend to more people in our community than you could possibly imagine. When the economy is challenged — *you stand with those in need*. Thank you. When things go well, you remember the Mission and those we serve. You read about the challenges our guests and the Mission face each day — and you continue to respond with acts of loving kindness . . . *because you know it is the right thing to do*. Thank you. Your actions reflect the compassion of our Savior.

Our Mission guests especially feel your presence during the holiday season, when you provide an even greater abundance of food, clothing and concern for their well-being. And you do all this with arms of love. As always, the overall

I thank you for your love & compassion . . . from the bottom of my heart

My name is Juana. I am an immigrant/refugee from Mexico. I know a lot is being said about immigrants these days, but I want you to know that I'm doing everything legal to stay in this country so I can make a better life for myself and my children. But I never thought I would be able to be in such a wonderful place like the Holland Rescue Mission and the Gateway Center. I am learning so much here. I am becoming more disciplined in my Christian faith, and I am waiting to see what God will do next in my life. I have many good friends here at the Mission. These are men and women who

work full-time. The process is slow, but I'm doing everything legally and patiently, knowing God will take care of my family and me. I already have a job lined up teaching Spanish as soon as I get my work permit. Sometimes, I admit it's hard to be patient, but I know in the long run God will give me what I need.

You and I may never meet, but I want you to know how much I appreciate your support. Thank you for reaching out to me during this holiday season.

Juana

"You and I may never meet, but I want you to know how much I appreciate your support . . ."

reach out to me, who love me, accept me and who want the best for my life. If I did not have the privilege of being here, I don't know where I would be today. I just know it would be difficult.

I'm learning how to be a servant to others

The Mission may be a lot of things to a lot of people, but for me it's an opportunity to be of service to others: to be a student, a volunteer, to learn more about the Bible and even how to write a resume for the day when I'm able to



Thank you for keeping the doors of the Mission open for my children and me

Our Volunteers



Looking to be a helping hand and volunteer at the Holland Rescue Mission? Volunteering can be done in so many unique ways! Want to see ways volunteers are getting involved? Sign up for our Volunteer Newsletter, and read firsthand how you can make a lasting impact at Holland Rescue Mission. For more information on volunteering, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Anna Southwell, at annas@hollandrescue.org. We look forward to ministering with you!



especially during the holidays

well-being of our entire community depends on the contributions of each one of us. Thank you for doing your part to help those many have forgotten.

You are so generous . . . and we are so grateful

Best news of all: because of your ongoing support during the holidays, no homeless or hurting person who comes to us will be able to escape the goodness of a loving God — *and the concern of a loving friend*. You are so generous . . . *and we are so grateful*.

To continue to invest in the lives of those in need, please use the remit slip enclosed. Or, if you desire, you may make your donation online at www.hollandrescue.org. Thank you for standing by us as a loyal friend as *together* we reach out to the homeless during the holiday season . . . *and every day of the year*.

Thank you
for standing
by us as
a loyal friend!



Eat Your Greens!

Researchers at Texas A&M University recently analyzed plate waste data from nearly 8,500 students and found one main variable between whether or not children would eat veggies: *what else was on their plate*. These findings suggest adults who want their children to eat more healthy greens should initially remove any other delicious “competition” from their child’s plate. By serving a veggie first and alone, a child is at their hungriest, not distracted by anything they may find tastier and perhaps more likely to eat them.

Good parents and grandparents want what’s best for the children they love — healthy bodies, safety, education, character development and emotional health, but there’s an even greater gift you can give them — a generational legacy of faith and values.

Another way you can give your best is by prayerfully creating an Estate Plan that’s structured to

yield the best possible blessing for your loved ones and the ministries you care about like Holland Rescue Mission. Here are two things an up-to-date Will can help you do:

Mitigate unnecessary taxation. Certain assets carry higher tax implications than others. Consider leaving lesser-taxed items like life insurance for your heirs and retirement assets to a nonprofit organization.

Eliminate potential stress and create peace. An up-to-date Will allows you to put your financial house in order. This can help your loved ones avoid unnecessary emotional or relationship strain.

You can leave a wonderful legacy for those you love — one that honors our Heavenly Father, the ultimate Giver of good gifts.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “The Greatest Gift You Can Give Those You Love” by contacting Rachael Neal from Holland Rescue Mission at (616) 396-2200 ext. 425 or rachaeln@hollandrescue.org — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/hrm.



Business Spotlight Coupon

Every month when you donate items to our thrift store or Gateway Center, you will receive our **Business Spotlight Coupon** with a discount to a local business that supports our organization. Thank you to all local businesses that have partnered with us so far! For more information on becoming one of our business spotlights, contact **Nicole Meengs** at nicolem@hollandrescue.org or **616-928-3445**.



My Holiday Gift

YES, Darryl, please use my donation to provide food, clothing and shelter for the truly needy during the holiday season.



RM_46-1108_G03HL

Here’s my donation 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
- Please bill my credit card: VISA MC Discover
- Please send me a free copy of *The Greatest Gift You Can Give Those You Love*

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Holland Rescue Mission

Mr. Darryl Bartlett

356 Fairbanks Ave.

Holland, MI 49423-3718

► Please mail this completed form with your generous holiday gift, or donate online at www.hollandrescue.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.