



# Changing Lives

*Don't miss...*



**Your Gifts Fill  
Hearts With  
Joy!**  
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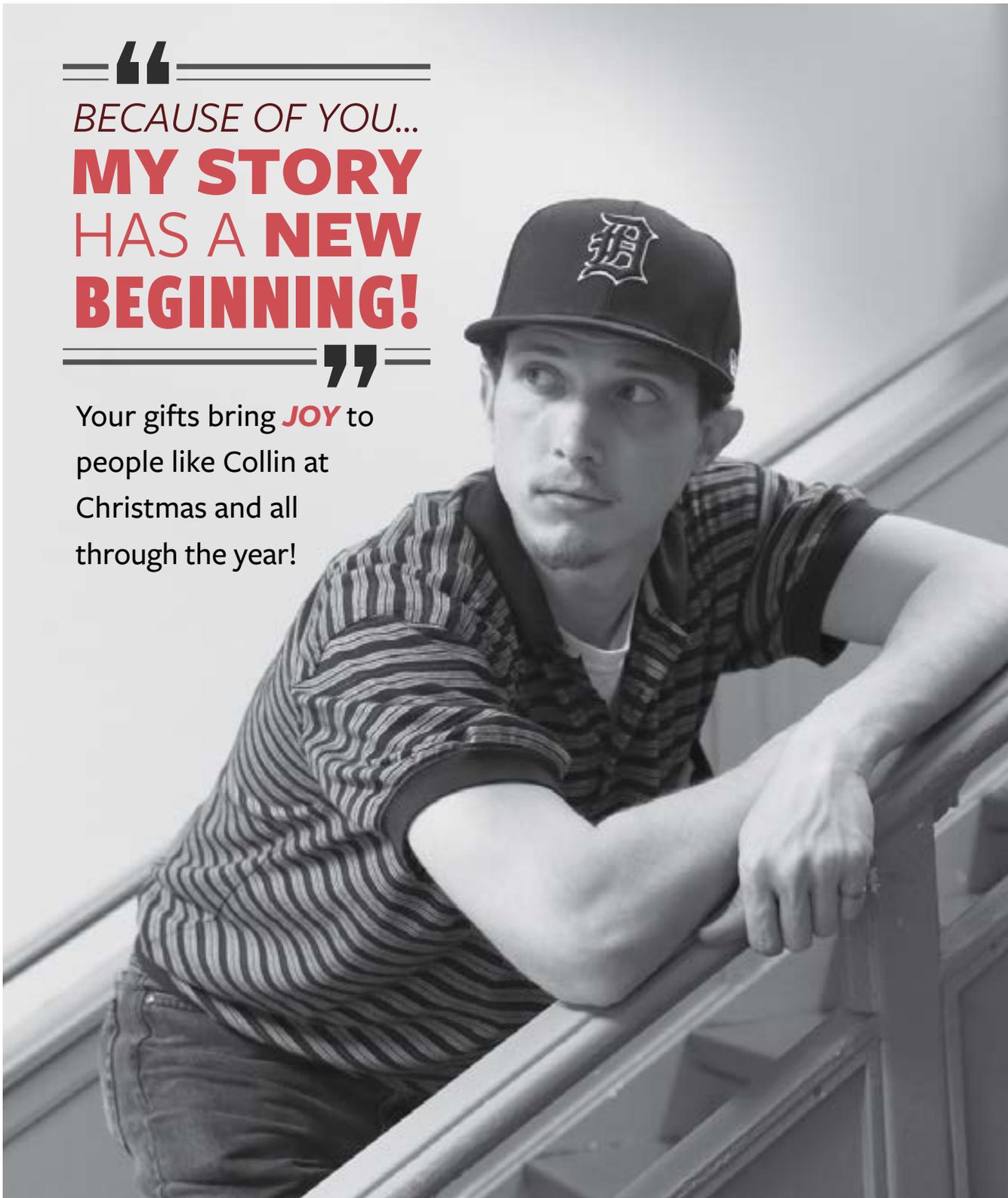


**Great  
Thanksgiving  
Banquet**  
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**"Following  
Christ is an  
incredible  
experience."**  
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**HOLIDAY ISSUE  
2019**



—“  
*BECAUSE OF YOU...*  
**MY STORY  
HAS A NEW  
BEGINNING!**  
”—

Your gifts bring **JOY** to people like Collin at Christmas and all through the year!

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**“Without the Mission, I would’ve been out on the street,” Collin shares. “There are so many things I’ve been guided to through the Lord that I never would’ve done on my own.”**

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**“I had good folks, but we did fight a lot,”** Collin says.

Collin’s parents divorced when he was 15, so he rebelled by using drugs and alcohol. “It was a way to cope with things I was dealing with in an extremely unhealthy and self-destructive manner.” He dropped out of school at age 17, then started a string of jobs that never lasted long.

Collin had just learned he was being evicted around Christmas when he heard about Holland Rescue Mission. He had been homeless before and didn’t want to go back to the streets, so he swallowed his pride and came to the Mission. **Here, through your gifts, he was blessed with the essentials of safe shelter... nutritious meals... and everything he needed to feel comfortable and at home.**

“I didn’t eat well before I came to the Mission, but the food is fantastic here. The people are really welcoming and supportive. After coming to the Lord and going into the

program, my perspective completely changed.”

For the first time, Collin was able to celebrate the miracle of Christmas with God’s joy and peace in his heart.

After a few months in our care, Collin felt led to enter our 9-month Gateway Discipleship & Vocational Program. He sees the transformation in his heart and life thanks to the daily classes, Bible study and chapel services. He also works on one of the Mission’s trucks, going out each day to pick up donations for our Thrift Stores, and plans to get his GED.

*This Christmas, **because of your compassion and God’s love**, Collin’s story has a new beginning. Through the gift of Christ’s birth, his future is filled with joy and meaning. “Now I try to follow the Lord and go where he leads me. It’s an honor to be adopted into God’s family and be able to help others in their walk with the Lord.”*

**FOLLOWING CHRIST  
IS THE HARDEST  
THING ANY  
CHRISTIAN WILL  
EVER DO,  
BUT IT IS AN  
INCREDIBLE  
EXPERIENCE AND  
TOTALLY WORTH IT.**



A MESSAGE FROM  
DARRYL BARTLETT



Your Gifts  
Fill Hearts  
With *Joy!*

The “Christmas story” isn’t fiction, fable or fairytale. It’s God’s reassuring Truth!

Christ was born to bring hope to a troubled world and healing to broken souls.

That’s the joy-filled message we’re honored to share with our guests at Christmas, and remain faithful to every day of the year.

Jesus’ birth begins a new story for all of humankind. But for a new story to begin, an old one often must end. Through the Christ-centered care your generosity provides, we help individuals close chapters of loneliness, pain and tragedy in their lives and ask the Lord to be the author of their futures. I invite you to partner with us in the coming weeks to provide gifts of food, shelter and life-restoring guidance, as we celebrate the joyous new beginnings the season brings.

The redemptive story of Christmas continues today, each time friends like you reach out with compassion to those who are homeless, addicted and downtrodden.

Thank you for keeping the story of Christ’s birth alive – and filling hearts with the joy of Christmas – every day of the year.

May God bless you and yours this holiday season and into the New Year.

Darryl Bartlett  
Executive Director



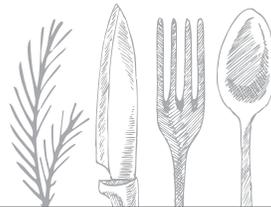
**Give a Meal... Change a Life**  
Hundreds of meals by Christmas!

A plate of hot, wholesome food can change someone’s story from struggle to strength... from heartbreak to hope... from despair to joy. With each meal you give, you offer so much more:

- Safe shelter and clean clothing
- Life skills classes and practical guidance at our Gateway Center
- The message of God’s life-changing love

It costs only \$2.05 to provide a meal and care for one hungry person...

**Please Send Your Gift Today!**



✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

🖥 Give online anytime at [hollandrescue.org](http://hollandrescue.org)

You can help make this year’s  
**Great Thanksgiving Banquet**  
a success!

It’s almost that time of year again... time to celebrate our Great Thanksgiving Banquet. And there is still so much to do to get ready before the feast! You can help by donating food, Care Box items or financial gifts, or by signing up to volunteer the day of the event.

This annual dinner invites everyone in our community who can’t afford a Thanksgiving dinner or is unable to celebrate the holiday with family or loved ones. It takes place on Wednesday, November 27, at DeVos Fieldhouse (222 Fairbanks Ave, Holland, MI 49423), from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., and the doors will open to guests at 5:30 p.m.

The Thanksgiving menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, cranberries, rolls, and homemade desserts. Care Boxes containing household and hygiene items donated by generous friends and community partners will also be handed out to each household that attends.

Over 1,500 people will be served, and your help is needed! Sign up to donate pies or turkeys, or volunteer at the event: [hollandrescue.org/gtb2019](http://hollandrescue.org/gtb2019). Thank you for caring about our neighbors this Thanksgiving and giving them a reason to celebrate!



Make This the  
*merriest Christmas*  
ever for local children!



We will soon be stocking the shelves at our annual Christmas Store – and we can't do it without you! Generous friends like you are encouraged to donate new toys, books, games and other gifts for local children – infants through 17 years of age.

Each year, guests of the Mission and low-income parents are invited to come to the Christmas Store. We provide them with tickets, then they are able to “shop” for their children and pick out gifts they know their children will love. This is such a special time of joy and laughter as parents are able to get gifts they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford, and think of the smiles they will receive on Christmas morning.

Donors can purchase \$20 gift cards, new toys, or wrapping paper and deliver to the Gateway Center Administration Offices (661 E 24th Street, Suite 300). The deadline is December 11.

Want to help at the event? Visit [hollandrescue.org/volunteer](http://hollandrescue.org/volunteer) or call us at (616) 396-2200.

## Ways to Share the *Joy* of Christmas

### FILL OUR TABLES



Donate these foods for the thousands of meals we'll serve throughout the holiday season.

Please deliver them to **166 South River Avenue** by December 23.

turkeys & hams \* boxes of stuffing \* bags of potatoes \* canned fruits and vegetables  
coffee, creamer & sugar



### GIVE GIFT CARDS



Gift cards to these merchants allow us to purchase holiday gifts and year-round necessities for our guests. Simply mail or deliver them to **661 East 24th Street**.

Walmart \* Target \* meijer \* Sam's Club

### MEET URGENT NEEDS



These items are a vital part of the Mission's everyday operations and the comfort of our guests. Please drop off your donations at **661 East 24th Street**.

garbage bags \* paper towels & toilet paper \* laundry detergent  
hygiene products \* tissues

View a current needs list at [hollandrescue.org/needs](http://hollandrescue.org/needs).

