

# STORIES of HOPE

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**MOLLIE'S LIFE  
WAS FOREVER**

*changed by  
God's love...*

**AND THE GUIDANCE  
OF OUR EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR.**



Because of your support and the guidance of our Executive Director, Mollie has joy in her heart this Easter!

**SPECIAL INSERT!  
Darryl Bartlett's  
Legacy of Hope!**

## DON'T MISS...

**2** Help our hurting neighbors this Easter

**3** "He shows God's love to everyone around him."

**4** Leave a legacy of blessing



“When I was struggling, I would go to Mr. Bartlett. He would always have the right words.”

*“He shows God’s love to everyone around him.”*

**M**ollie experienced childhood trauma at the hands of family members that left her fearful. Drugs and alcohol became a way to cope with her past. They helped numb the fear – until they created a new type of fear.

“Addiction began controlling me,” Mollie says. “I had no friends and nowhere to live. I was homeless.”

**She came to the Mission searching for a way forward in life.** At first she was unsure if we were the right fit for her – but those reservations melted away when she heard Darryl Bartlett share his testimony.

“He was preaching about struggles and temptations and turning your life over to God. What he said made me do a complete 180-degree turn and change my life. **I decided I wanted to give my life to God and live by the Bible,**” she says.

Now resolved to overcome her addiction, Mollie joined our recovery program. She worked in our thrift store and, after graduating the program, was hired in our kitchen.

Mollie thrived in the Mission’s loving and supportive environment, and she continued to be inspired by Darryl’s counsel and mentorship. Even after she left the Mission, Mollie and Darryl kept in touch.

“I’m so grateful for his friendship and for the way he shows compassion and God’s love to everyone around him,” she adds.

“He helped me believe that with Christ, I can be a good person.”

Your gifts and prayers over the years made it possible for Darryl to impact countless lives here at Gateway. Read more about Darryl’s legacy and gratitude on the enclosed insert. With his leadership and your support, you helped men and women like Mollie receive the guidance they needed to move forward into happy, productive lives.

“To Mr. Bartlett I say... Thank you for all the times you have been there for me. You have shown me grace and compassion. You have been beside me and encouraged me for all these years. **You have been a big part of my life. You and Mrs. Bartlett changed my life completely, and I thank you both.**”



## Farewell from Darryl Bartlett

# CLEAR EYES, *Full Heart*

It's rarely an easy decision to retire, especially when your work is as fulfilling as mine has been for the past 30 years with Gateway Mission. Yet, as with everything in life, seasons change. It was with clear eyes and God's leading that **I decided my season of active ministry leadership was to end.**



I'm comforted in remembering all we've accomplished – all the lives changed, hope found and souls redeemed through the Mission. Time and space don't allow me to thank everyone God used to encourage me over the decades. But I would like to acknowledge the incredible leadership of Gateway's Board of Directors, who have been an unfailing source of support for me personally and the ministry as a whole. I've had a front-row seat to watch God work, and it's been an amazing journey!

**I also know the Mission is in good hands.** I wholly respect and trust the staff to continue their incredible work. The Board has identified an Interim Executive Director, Jay Riemersma, whom I support wholeheartedly to lead Gateway into the future.



Finally – and perhaps most importantly – I leave **you** with my sincerest thanks. **Nothing in the past 30 years would have been possible without the support of friends like you.** You have given so generously to support the work of the Mission, and I'm eternally grateful.

Know that I will be watching and praying from the sidelines. I'm excited about how the Lord will continue to work in the lives of our homeless neighbors through your support and the Mission. The best is yet to come.

Darryl Bartlett



## HELP OUR HURTING NEIGHBORS THIS EASTER



Help make a new beginning possible for more men and women this Easter!

- ♥ **A hot meal for \$2.43 – often the first step to a new life in Christ**
- ♥ An overnight stay in our safe shelter
- ♥ Christ-centered care & healing in our life-change programs
- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 🌟 Give online anytime at [hopefoundhere.org](http://hopefoundhere.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date!

Annual Golf Outing:  
June 6, 2023

Great Thanksgiving Banquet:  
November 22, 2023

**Volunteer anytime!**  
We'd love to have you.  
Contact (616) 928-3451 or  
[volunteer@hopefoundhere.org](mailto:volunteer@hopefoundhere.org).



# Leave a legacy of *blessing*

Thank you for your generous spirit. It's reflected in all you do to share your blessings with those in need.

Would you like to continue bringing healing and hope to the broken beyond your lifetime? When you remember Gateway Mission in your will or estate plan, you ensure that your spirit of compassion continues blessing others tomorrow and beyond.

For information on planned giving opportunities, please contact our Development Team at **(616) 396-2200** or [info@hopefoundhere.org](mailto:info@hopefoundhere.org).



## *Serving Others = Blessing Others*

None of the work we do would be possible without caring, committed friends who selflessly donate their time and talents.

**In fact, last year over 400 volunteers donated 10,041 hours of their time!** That's equal to the cost of paying 5 full-time staff members – with their help, more of our money can go right to helping people in need!

And we're always looking for new friends to join us! There are plenty of opportunities for you to choose from... whether you're looking to volunteer on your own or as part of a group. We can also help set up a service project for your family, business or youth group.

If you or your group are interested in volunteering this spring and Easter season, please contact Katie Taylor at **(616) 928-3451** or [volunteer@hopefoundhere.org](mailto:volunteer@hopefoundhere.org).



*"Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." - Romans 6:4, NIV*

# Celebrating a job well done

*Honoring our retiring Executive Director, Darryl Bartlett*



Darryl Bartlett's steady leadership was a driving force at Gateway Mission for 30 years. Under his guidance, Gateway Mission became one of West Michigan's leading providers of support services for our most vulnerable community members. We offer food, shelter, addiction recovery programs and more to individuals and families struggling with homelessness, poverty or other life-dominating challenges.



**Just a few of the things accomplished under Darryl's watch include...**



- Launching the Gateway Center in 2017 – a retail thrift store and donation center that now provides nearly 40% of the revenue needed to fund our ministry
- Opening our Women and Children's Center in 2000 – which has since impacted thousands of lives
- Laying the groundwork for Gateway Spoon Café & Grill – a brand-new restaurant, gathering space for the community and culinary training facility on our



campus where men and women will receive culinary training, gain sobriety and be disciplined

"Throughout his tenure, Darryl's insightful and godly influence has shaped the Mission and been a positive light within the community, raising awareness and support for our homeless neighbors," says the Mission's Board Chair, Bryan Linn.

**Thank you, Darryl, for your dedication to God's mission at Gateway!**



# You're Invited!

Join us for an open house and retirement party honoring Darryl.  
Visit [hopefoundhere.org/celebratedarryl](http://hopefoundhere.org/celebratedarryl) for more information.



*“Gateway Mission is what it is today thanks to the decades of vision and leadership that Darryl has given to this organization. The Board of Directors thanks him for a job well done and for the scope of his foresight, which will carry the Mission into the future.”*

– Bryan Linn, Gateway Board Chair

## A Parting Word from Darryl



In my departure, I leave you with a final challenge and prayer...

First, the challenge: stay gospel focused! The power of God to transform lives is the primary mission of Gateway Mission. As we provide housing, food, clothing and a myriad of other forms of assistance, we must continue to do it with a gospel focus – pointing men, women and children to the only ONE who can save: Jesus Christ! He is their only hope.

Now, the prayer: I will be your faithful and persistent prayer warrior. I pray that you will be effective in offering compassionate and real help to those in need. I pray that you stay vigilant in focusing on the gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray that you will be able to expand the Kingdom of Jesus Christ among the homeless and those struggling with addiction.

And with that, I bid you farewell.

Darryl Bartlett