

STORIES of HOPE

A PUBLICATION OF GATEWAY MISSION • Summer 2022



MARIA IS SO GRATEFUL

You have given her a chance at a whole new life.



DON'T MISS...

2 Show Them You Care

3 "God brought me to the light."

4 Make a Difference This Summer

“I WAS IN A DARK PLACE, AND GOD BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE LIGHT.”

As a child, Maria thought she had the perfect family. So she was shocked when her parents divorced when she was 15.

“My life went down from there... I just didn’t care anymore. I started drinking, using drugs and skipping school.”

For decades, Maria used drugs. First alone, and then she did drugs with her husband after they married. After 18 years together, they divorced – and Maria was devastated.

“I just felt like my life was over. To cover up my pain and hurt, I started every day by using drugs. It consumed my thoughts and my heart... took over my life.”

It got so bad that Maria was stealing from stores and even her own kids to get money to support her habit. **When her kids said they didn’t want anything to do with her anymore, Maria finally decided to get help.**

“My cousin called the Mission, and they had a room for me. It was just the biggest blessing.”

When Maria heard about our Gateway Addictions and Discipleship Program on her second day at the Mission, she knew this was where God wanted her to be. She signed up and immediately felt the Lord

working in her heart as she rededicated her life to Him.

“God has shown me how to be patient... To be more open and communicate. The Bible classes help so much, and everybody here helps me through my problems.”

“God broke my chains of addiction. I pray people come here and see the blessings God can do in their lives!”

Today, Maria has a good relationship with her kids and grandkids, and they are proud of the changes they see in her. She’s close to completing her GED and looks forward to the day when she can find a job and permanent church family to serve the Lord wherever He calls her.

Maria is thankful for the kindness and compassion of loving neighbors like you – and how you have given her hope for the future. “God put peace and joy in my life again... Now He’s helping me be who I’m supposed to be. I’m just so happy!”



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

A meal is only the beginning...



A Message from DARRYL BARTLETT

Will You Love Your Neighbor This Summer?

Did you know the Bible tells us to love our neighbor in *eight* different verses? So clearly the Lord calls each of us to not just love, but to love generously. At the Mission, our hearts are filled with love for those who are hurting and lost... and YOU put that love into action with your faithful support.

The summer months can be especially challenging for our neighbors in West Michigan. Those living on the streets face added stress and health risks due to the heat. Parents already struggling to pay the bills have the added burden of childcare costs and more meals to serve.

What's more, the summer months are when we typically see a decline in donations as people are busy with vacations and other activities... and often forget about those living at the Mission.

That's why I hope we can count on you during the Love Your Neighbor campaign!

I know you won't let these precious men, women and children be forgotten during the summer season. That you'll show them someone cares and there is hope for the future.

Thank you for loving our neighbors with your financial support and for keeping us in your prayers this summer as we minister to the hurting – we need it!

Darryl Bartlett
Executive Director

*“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
- 1 John 4:11, NIV*

THESE “Summer 6” CAN CHANGE LIVES!

What is the “Summer 6”? These essentials are in high demand for our Mission guests this summer... and **YOU can help by donating any – or all – of these items!**

1. Kleenex
2. Bottled water
3. Flip flops/sandals
4. Hand towels
5. Shelf-stable food
6. Scrubs in all sizes

You can deliver your Summer 6 donations to 661 East 24th St., six days a week, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. To see a comprehensive list of our ministry needs, visit hopefoundhere.org/needs. Thank you for caring for Mission guests during the summer season!

SHOW THEM YOU CARE Help meet our community's needs!



Your gift today provides:



38,000 meals



11,700 beds



hundreds of hygiene items



countless hours of counseling & education



life-transforming decisions for Christ



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

DONATIONS SLOW DOWN IN SUMMER... PLEASE HELP TODAY!

Give now! hopefoundhere.org
Support our Summer Campaign now!

Make This the Summer YOU Make a Difference!

The ministry of Gateway Mission simply wouldn't be possible without the hard work of our faithful volunteers. This summer, we are looking for caring, compassionate friends to lend a hand in the following areas:

- Serve an evening meal
- Organize a collection drive for food or other supplies
- Work in the office
- Help sort clothes at the donation center
- Explore one-on-one ministry opportunities with our guests
- Plus other opportunities to serve!

For more information about how your family, church group, coworkers or organization can help, please call **(616) 396-2200** or check out upcoming volunteer opportunities online at **hopefoundhere.org**.

Thank you for choosing
to love your neighbor by
volunteering!



Your monthly gift makes a **HUGE** impact!

When you set up ongoing support as a monthly HopeBuilders partner, Gateway Mission can be ready to help anyone who comes through our doors. That's because your partnership provides reliable, steady income to care for our homeless and hungry neighbors *all year long*.

For someone like Roger, that generosity transformed his life!

“At Gateway, you get a roof over your head and they provide for your basic needs. Through Bible study, classes and structure, I’ve learned that

Jesus is the only way you can really change your life. Now I’m a changed person and I’ve got a support group and friends that hold me accountable.”



If the Lord is leading you to become a HopeBuilders partner, simply visit **hopefoundhere.org** or complete the back of the enclosed reply form. Thank you!