

“I ran  
away  
from  
*God's*  
call.”

Today, Rocky is on a path to a new beginning – and his heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who are making his journey possible.

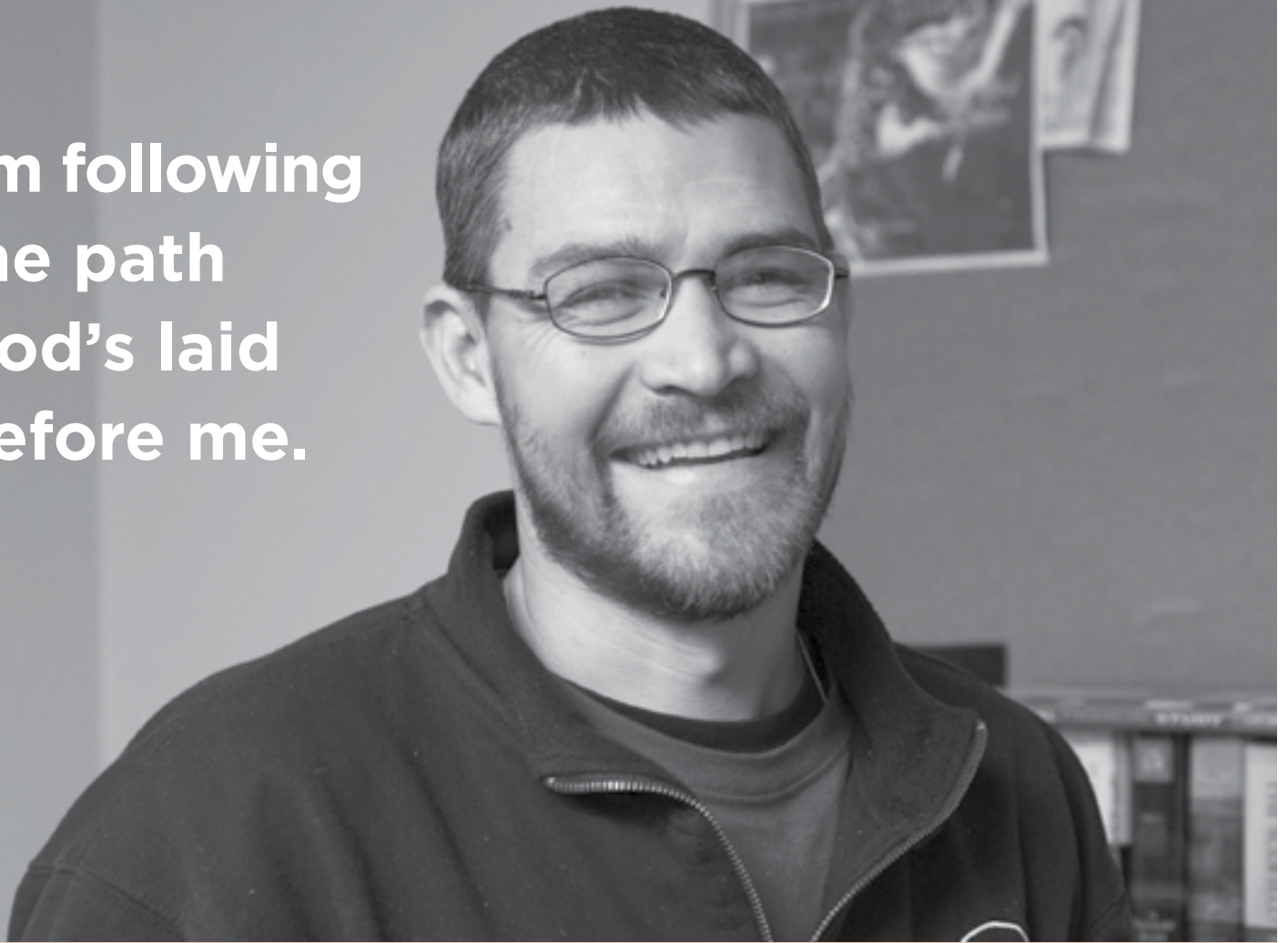
*You'll be moved by his story, on Page 3.*

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**Don't miss...** **2** You Fill Hearts with Thanksgiving **3** “They’re doing wondrous things here.” **4** We’ve Broken Ground!

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I'm following  
the path  
God's laid  
before me.



When Rocky came to the Mission with a meth addiction nine years ago, he found much more than sobriety. He found a relationship with the Lord that would change the course of his life. **“Through the program, the Lord delivered me from addiction and I started living fully for Jesus,”** he says.

He graduated from our program and became a small group leader at a church but, when he felt the Lord calling him to become a children's pastor, he refused. **“I didn't think I was prepared, so I ran away from God's call,”** he says. “For seven years, I got distracted by living everyday life, working jobs here and there.”

Then Rocky lost his job and his apartment and he realized he couldn't run from God's call anymore. “The Lord broke me down and said, ‘I have plans for you and I'm ready to show you,’” he says. “Then he led me back to the Mission to go through the program again.”

By the time Rocky returned, our New Beginnings

life-change program incorporated a Bible study on self-confrontation. “It was exactly what I needed,” he says. “I realized I'd been holding bitterness toward other people and myself, and I needed to ask forgiveness for the hurt I'd caused in the past.”

He found freedom and healing when he addressed the issues that arose. **“The Lord did amazing things in my life through the program,”** he says. “I'm much more joyful.”

Rocky graduated and is now earning his bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry at Barclay College. “I see what the Lord has for me and I'm following the path He's laid before me,” he says. **“The Mission has given me the tools I need to live my life to please the Lord.”**

He's a man with a heart of gratitude for friends like you who have made his journey possible. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**“They're doing wondrous things here.”**

A MESSAGE FROM DENNY BENDER



Your kindness fills hearts with thanksgiving

Those we care for at the Mission face a litany of challenges. Like Rocky, who you'll read about on Page 3, each story of heartbreak and tragedy is personal and unique.

Yet all of our guests share one thing in common: **deep gratitude for friends like you who are providing a pathway to hope and healing.**

From the essentials of food and shelter to our New Beginnings life-change program and practical training, your generosity lays the financial foundation for our faith-based outreach. Sharing the love of God is at the center of all we do, and we know true and permanent life change is only possible when men have invited Him into their hearts.

With you alongside us, **we have the amazing opportunity to accompany homeless and hurting individuals – whom God loves deeply – on their journeys to restoration.**

The Thanksgiving season offers a special opportunity for everyone on our staff – and each man, woman and child we serve – to reflect on the many blessings of your kind compassion. With a heart of gratitude, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent, gifts and prayers to uplift our neighbors in need.

Denny

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director

Add Our Shopping List to Yours

23,832!

That's how many meals we'll serve this Thanksgiving season, and we need your help to do it. As you do your holiday shopping, please pick up these items for the Mission as well!

Then deliver your donations to 2800 N. Hillside, Wichita, any day of the week.

- Turkeys
- Hams
- Canned sweet potatoes or yams
- Stove Top stuffing
- Brown Sugar
- Butter
- Apple cider
- White onions
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Fried onions



With Grateful Hearts...

As you give thanks for your blessings this Thanksgiving, those in our care will be giving thanks too – for you and for the gifts of comfort, compassion and life-changing opportunity you so generously provide for them.

This Thanksgiving Season Alone...



23,832 Hot Meals



10,584 Safe Beds



265 Food Boxes



Thousands of hours of Training, Counseling & Prayer

Please continue your heartfelt support with a gift to our 2018 Thanksgiving Campaign. Because you care, your neighbors in need can overcome their challenges and embrace a new beginning.



God bless you for being generous

- Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- Give online, anytime, at [urmwichita.org/donate](http://urmwichita.org/donate).



# We've Broken Ground! Eagles Wing is Underway!

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. – Isaiah 40:31*

## **Union Rescue Mission broke ground May 8 on our new Eagles Wing transitional housing project!**

Graduates of our discipleship and recovery programs are now one step closer to having a new place to call home as they move from life at the Mission to sustainable, productive, independent living.

Eagles Wing's 24-units on our six-acre campus on North Hillside will give graduates who are in transition the time, space, and support they need. In addition to one-bedroom and studio units, the facility will also house administrative offices and a community room that will double

as a storm shelter.

"Eagles Wing will provide a bridge as our graduates transition from homelessness to contributing roles in our community," says Denny Bender, the Mission's Executive Director.

We've raised most all the cost to complete construction, but we need help furnishing the individual residences (approximately \$5,000 each). **Will you consider a gift toward one of the 24 units?** Contact John McLaughlin at **(316) 687-4673, ext. 131**, or **John@urmwichita.org** to learn more. Thank you for your generosity!



**Leave a legacy  
of compassion  
and hope**

To ensure your *heartfelt giving* continues beyond your lifetime, contact **John McLaughlin** about remembering the Mission in your will or estate plan.

**(316) 687-4673, ext. 131**   **John@urmwichita.org**

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