

URM TODAY

HOLIDAY 2019

Changing the Future of the Homeless... One Life at a Time

NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNION RESCUE MISSION



BECAUSE OF YOU...
“My Story
Has a New
BEGINNING!”

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

Don't miss... **2** Your Gifts Fill Hearts With **Joy!** **3** “My purpose is in Christ.” **4** More Than a Meal!

“I was spiritually lost, but now I’m found... MY PURPOSE IS IN CHRIST.”

Merrill sat in his jail cell listening to a Bible study on the radio, remembering when he was a boy and walking with the Lord. “I’d always believed,” he says. **“I’d always felt God calling me.”**

When he was 13, Merrill was serving as an altar boy in his family’s church. But later that year, he was drawn away from God by the need for others’ approval. **“I was friends with a lot of older kids and I wanted to fit in with them, so I started drinking and using drugs,”** he says.

It was the beginning of a 34-year struggle with addiction that destroyed his family, left him homeless and landed him in jail. “Life was not really life. I felt dead inside,” he says.

But there in his cell, while listening to that Bible study, Merrill heard God call him back to life. **“I had a dramatic awakening that almost knocked me off my stool.”**

When he was released, Merrill entered our New Beginnings life-change program, where faith-based classes, chapel services and Christian counseling helped him strengthen his relationship with the Lord.

“ I LEARNED THAT **GOD WAS ALWAYS THERE.** IT WAS ONLY ME THAT WAS RUNNING AWAY.”

Merrill’s growing faith gave him the courage to address the root causes of his addiction. “I really looked at myself, how I’d been in the past, what needed to change, and how to change it,” he says.

He graduated from the program, lives in our transitional housing and is now on our bookstore staff, sharing his faith at every opportunity. “I don’t worry about what others think of me anymore,” he says. “All I need is God.”

This Christmas, because of your compassion and God’s love, Merrill’s story has a new beginning. Through the gift of Christ’s birth, his future is filled with joy and meaning. “I was spiritually lost, but now I’m found. My purpose is in Christ.”



A MESSAGE FROM
DOUG NOLTE



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 through our New Beginnings life-change program 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.

Doug

Doug Nolte
Chief Executive Officer



Give a Meal... *Change a Life*

6,994 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
- The message of God’s life-changing love



It costs only \$2.15 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 urmwichita.org/donate.



PLEASE REMEMBER your hurting neighbors by making a donation this **Giving Tuesday**. On this special day, your gift to the Mission will provide basic necessities like food and shelter plus life-changing care. Thank you!

📄 Mark December 3 on your calendar and don’t forget to give at urmwichita.org/donate.



Year-End Matching Opportunity!

1 + $\frac{Y}{O}$ = TWO!

Exciting news... Your generous gift to the Union Rescue Mission will go **TWICE as far** to bless our homeless guests through our \$47,000 Year-End Matching Challenge!

Thanks to a generous friend of the Mission, your gift will be doubled to provide meals, shelter, recovery programs and other life-changing services that our hurting neighbors desperately need.

DEADLINE TO GIVE: DECEMBER 31

\$50 → **\$100**

\$100 → **\$200**

This Matching Opportunity ends December 31 – so please don't wait. Rush your gift today so it will turn \$47,000 into \$94,000 to help more hungry families and homeless men in Wichita!

There are 2 easy ways for your generous gift to double:

📄 Give online at urmwichita.org/donate.

✉ Add your gift to the reply card and send it today.



MORE THAN A MEAL

Need a caterer for your next event? Look no further! KP Cuisine is here. **Now you can have the highest quality cuisine and impeccable service for your event, while changing the lives of those in need!**

Through this social enterprise of the Union Rescue Mission, professional chefs and the men in our KitchenPrep Culinary Program serve up delicious fare using the freshest ingredients purchased especially for your event. And we provide buffet-style services in a variety of sizes, menus and price ranges.

But KP Cuisine provides much more than delicious meals tailored to your needs. When you choose us to cater your event, you're also providing hours of vocational experience for men working to build careers through our KitchenPrep Culinary Program. **An amazing 97% of our Culinary Program graduates obtain employment!** And your business helps us feed, shelter and clothe our hungry and homeless neighbors in Wichita, as well!

To book us for your next event, contact KP Cuisine at 📞 (316) 687-4673, or email us at 📧 catering@urmwichita.org.

Let us help you host the perfect event for your family, friends or employees, and you'll be helping us save and transform lives in our community! **Thank you!**

