

A Publication of the Evansville Rescue Mission and YCC

Thanks to you... WEST HAS HOPE THIS Christmas!

Don'tCelebrating the HOPEMiss...of Christmas ......2

Visit Our Thrift Store......2 How West Emerged From the Dark ......3

500 East Walnut Street • Evansville, IN 47713-2438 • EvansvilleRescueMission.org

A Message from TRACY L. GORMAN

### Celebrating the 🐔 HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our community's less fortunate too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was "no room at the inn." It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at your Evansville Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter, and discipleship are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ's love and grace to our neighbors – like West (whose story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.





Tracy L. Gorman President/CEO

## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!





#### **Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**



When you make a donation or shop at our Thrift Store, you're blessing others in so many ways!

Our neighbors in need find well-priced necessities. Our program guests receive on-the-job training. And Thrift Store proceeds support our ministry that saves and transforms lives.

Shop or drop off your donations at 1107 Washington Square, 9 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays – and while you're at it, stop by our **Mission Grounds Coffee Shop**, which is connected to the Thrift Store inside the Washington Square Mall.



For more information, contact us at (812) 421-3800 or info@ermstaff.org.

Learn more online! EvansvilleRescueMission.org/store

## How West emerged from the dark – thanks to you!

**C** 've struggled with mental health issues since I was a teenager," says West, a 35-year-old guest at your Evansville Rescue Mission. "Bipolar disorder, crippling depression, and severe anxiety have caused me a lot of problems."

West traces many of his issues back to childhood, when he experienced traumatic times – which are too painful for him to talk about. In addition, his mother struggled with drug addiction and has spent nearly half of his life in prison.

Around 2017, however, things looked up. West got engaged and he and a friend started a home improvement business. "By 2019, our business was really successful and growing," he says. "But when COVID hit in 2020, it all came crashing down. We lost 90% of our business and the woman I was engaged to packed up all her things and left."

It became harder and harder to manage his mental health issues. "I was trying to white-knuckle through my problems, but I didn't have a huge support network around me. I got a little lost."

Unable to work, West experienced homelessness for 18 months, couch-surfing in the homes of a few friends, before he turned to your Evansville Rescue Mission. "At first, it was hard for me to be around a big group of people, so I'd sit in a dark room by myself for weeks at a time," West says.

Through your Mission staff's loving patience and gentle encouragement, West slowly emerged from his shell. Counseling and different classes helped West find tools to manage his emotional challenges. He also started seeing a psychiatrist to help him with medications that have given him stability.

#### "I'd sit in a dark room by myself for weeks at a time."

"The faith-based environment here has supported my healing," West says. "This Christmas, I'm really thankful for the Mission and the donors for giving me a safe place to work on myself and get my life together again. I'm ready to get back out there."

West has hope this Christmas – and he wants to thank YOU for supporting his journey toward a new life.

## **Visit Us Online**

The upcoming holiday season is the busiest time of the year at your Evansville Rescue Mission – and this year, there is so much going on! <u>Of course, you're welcome to</u> <u>come volunteer or take a tour all year</u> <u>round, but over the holidays, you are</u> <u>especially welcome</u>!

Our website is a great way to learn about everything we have planned, sign up to volunteer, donate, or learn about our many programs.

### Here are some other reasons to visit us online:

Our website is open for business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

It's a great way to stay up-to-date on current events and urgent needs and read stories of changed lives.

Donating online is fast and easy through our secure website and your donation goes to work immediately to help people recover.

For all of this and more, please visit our website today at **EvansvilleRescueMission.org.** 



# YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT Your Mission Special!

#### **Christmas Morning:**

Thanks to local donation drives and the generosity of people like you, your Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.







Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship, and a message of God's love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals, and a reminder of the true reason for the season!