

Because of you...

*“My Story
Has a New
Beginning!”*

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




For more information: (716) 854-8181, ext. 429 • buffalocitymission.org

Don't miss...

2 Your Gifts Fill Hearts
With **Joy!**

2 Giving
Tuesday

3 “God is always
there for me.”



“Now I know
God is always
there for me.
He is my
everything.”

“We were the ‘nice’ family,” Mary says.


Mary grew up in a middle-class family that seemed normal. But the truth was hidden: Her mother was an alcoholic and another family member abused her. Mary started smoking and drinking at age 9 and tried running away many times. She spent years caught in addiction, trying to escape her pain. “I have been using drugs and drinking all of my life. This is the first time I’ve been clean and sober.”

Mary spent years living on the streets, homeless, until she finally decided to go to rehab. As soon as she was released, she came to Buffalo City Mission’s Cornerstone Manor for women and children. **Here, through your gifts, not only did she receive essentials like safe shelter and nutritious meals, but through counseling and Bible study, she experienced God’s love healing her heart.**


“One day in the chapel, I found God, and I got baptized last year,” she says. “I have a purpose in my life now – my whole life is dedicated to Jesus. It’s remarkable how much Cornerstone has done for me.”

For the first time ever, Mary was able to celebrate the miracle of Christmas with God’s joy and peace in her heart.

Mary completed our DREAM Transitional Housing Program, and continues to take advantage of every class and Bible study she can attend to allow God to speak to her heart. She is the president of our Beautification Committee, working each day to ensure Cornerstone Manor is clean and presentable. She is learning how to set boundaries and build healthy relationships, as she continues to depend on the Lord’s guidance. **“Jesus has given me strength, hope and a future.”**



**“The Mission is a place of
second chances, and it has
changed my life.”**



This Christmas, because of your compassion and God’s love, Mary’s story has a new beginning. Through the gift of Christ’s birth, her future is filled with joy and meaning. “I have hope, gladness and a purpose now that I didn’t have before. I just want to share the joy and share the Word with other people.”

A MESSAGE FROM
STUART L. HARPER



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 hurting 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, 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.

Stuart L. Harper
Executive Director

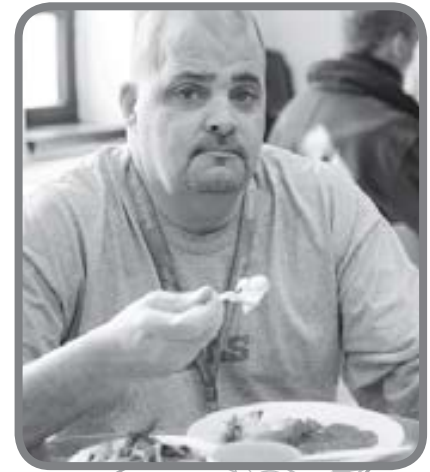


Give a Meal... *Change a Life*

14,654 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 \$1.98 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 buffalocitymission.org.

You can choose *the perfect gift* with **#GIVING TUESDAY**

Make your **Giving Tuesday** gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog! There are so many ways you can give to bring joy and hope to our neighbors in need.



\$50 provides
nourishing meals



\$75 provides
warm clothing



\$100 provides safe
beds & shelter

📄 Shop online at buffalocitymission.org/GiftCatalog.

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

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of those we serve. Donations may be used to support the area of our ministry with the greatest need.

Year-End Giving Ensures Ongoing Blessings



Did you know that nearly 1/3 of the Mission's annual operating budget is donated by our community from October 1 through December 31? Your generous year-end gift to Buffalo City Mission will help us meet our fall fundraising goal of \$2.47 million so we can continue to bless our homeless guests with vital assistance and life-changing guidance.

✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card below.

SPONSOR *Spotlight* **THIS BUSINESS IS CHANGING LIVES!**

We are so grateful for our Corporate Sponsor, GEICO! With over 3,300 local associates, GEICO's impact in our Buffalo community has been extraordinary.

Over the past two years, GEICO associates have partnered with Buffalo City Mission to help meet the needs of neighbors who are homeless and hungry through our annual **Mission: Possible Food Drive Challenge**. This drive, with a goal of collecting over 33,000 canned goods to feed more than 8,300 people, is only possible because of the dedication and support of partners like GEICO.

It's been a joy to see GEICO associates also take part in our **"CanCreation"** project, constructing eye-catching displays like GEICO's famous Gecko, and an American flag – using only canned goods! Cans collected for displays are distributed to help local people struggling with hunger. And GEICO employees alone have collected over 6,000 canned goods for those in need!

What a blessing that GEICO is partnering with us again this year as a Corporate Sponsor of **Mission: Possible!**

Thank you, GEICO, for your partnership and the difference you're making in local lives!



"We are happy to be able to support Buffalo City Mission and all that it does for our community. We look forward to continued success in our partnership as we work together to improve the lives of our neighbors." – Jeremy Connor, GEICO Regional Vice President