



GOOD NEIGHBORS


Restoring Lives Together in Western New York



Rise!
Renew!
Rejoice!



EASTER 2024

A large, grayscale portrait of a woman with blonde hair tied up, smiling gently. She is wearing a necklace with a small cross pendant.

How you helped Brandy **rise** above her difficult circumstances, **renew** her life at the Mission, and have every reason to **rejoice** this Easter season!

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

A Message from
Aubrey Calhoun

Rise, Renew, & Rejoice

Several of our mailings this Easter season — including this newsletter — have been wrapped in a three-word theme that I love:

Rise, Renew, & Rejoice.

Those words strike me on several levels. First, they're a great description of the Easter story. When Jesus *rose* from the dead, his followers felt *renewed*. And they certainly *rejoiced*!

Second, those words are an apt metaphor for what happens every day at Buffalo City Mission. Here in the city of good neighbors, the Mission is a place where struggling members of the WNY community can come and find the means to *rise, renew, and rejoice*.

Look no further than Brandy's story on page 3. Depressed, in an abusive marriage, and addicted to drugs, she was in desperate need of *rising* above her circumstances. So she came to the Mission and did just that. Her life has been *renewed*, and thanks to you, she has reason to *rejoice*.

This Easter, as you contemplate and celebrate the Resurrection, I pray that you and your loved ones will *rise* with Christ, feel *renewed*, and *rejoice*!



Aubrey Calhoun
Aubrey Calhoun
CEO and
Executive Director

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

- John 11:25-26

Help Our Neighbors in Need This Easter Season



A meal at Buffalo City Mission is the first step toward healing and recovery. Your support will also help provide safe shelter, warm clothing, and other vital recovery services. Taken together, these are the steps that help our neighbors *rise, renew, & rejoice*.

Life Transformation Starts With YOU!

**This Easter, we need
your help to provide**



**More Than
24,000 Meals**



**More Than 7,820
Nights of Shelter**

***A hot meal for \$2.40 - often the
first step to a new life in Christ***

***Thank you in advance for blessing those in
need this Easter season!***

3 Ways to Give

- Send your gift with the enclosed reply card.
- Give online at buffalocitymission.org
- Scan the QR code.



You Helped Brandy to Rise, Renew, & Rejoice!

Brandy never experienced a mother's love. Her parents divorced when she was young, and whenever her mom was around, there was no relationship.

"I always felt like I was a burden to her, like I was in the way," Brandy says. "I felt abandoned, and that made me feel very sad, depressed, and angry. I just wanted to be loved."

She got plenty of love from her dad, who "was and is and will forever be my best friend, my hero. He was always there for me."

Still, that feeling of abandonment weighed on Brandy. She tried to find love in other ways. She had her first child at 18 and got married at 19 to an older man. But it was an abusive marriage, so she ended up looking elsewhere for comfort.

And that's when she found heroin. She was addicted by 21. When she temporarily lost her children due to legal issues, Brandy got clean, got the kids back, and pressed on.

When her mom died of a drug overdose, Brandy dealt with more intense feelings. But not as intense as when her dad died of cancer 10 years ago.

"He was holding my hand when he died," she says. "I was devastated, and my world started unraveling again."

"A Whole New Person"

After her dad's death, Brandy left her abusive marriage. While that was a good choice, another choice was costly: She reconnected with old friends in the drug scene, and soon became addicted to crack cocaine, "and my life spiraled downhill."

Someone stepped into Brandy's life and made a suggestion: **"Check out Buffalo City Mission. They'll help you get your life straightened out."**

So Brandy walked through our doors, and "since then, my life has been nonstop blessing after blessing."

Brandy has embraced our programs, worked hard in her recovery classes, and given her life to Jesus. She even got baptized!

"I've grown into a whole new person, someone I'd never been before," she says. "I'm excited about the future."

"Thank you for helping to save my life. A lot of people walk out of here with brand new lives, and that's because of people like you. Thank you!"

- Brandy

A Simple Way to Give

Consider a strategy with Donor Advised Funds

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) have quickly become America's most popular tool for charitable giving. DAFs are like your own private foundation, but without any of the administrative red tape.

One of the simplest ways to give real estate, stocks, mutual funds, or commodities, DAFs offer an immediate tax deduction for the market value of your donation, but also allow you time to decide when you want to give.

DAFs offer the opportunity to create an easy-to-establish, low-cost, flexible vehicle for charitable giving as an alternative to direct giving or creating a private foundation.



We've made it simple for you by setting up an easy-to-use platform on our website. The platform allows you to login whenever you choose and make distributions in just a few clicks.

Check it out here:
[buffalocitymission.org/
donor-advised-funds](http://buffalocitymission.org/donor-advised-funds)



Host a Drive

We are always in need of donations of **food, toiletries, clothing, and other essentials**. Please consider hosting a drive for some of these much-needed items at your church, office, school, or other group.

Contact the Volunteer Department at **(716) 854-8181, ext. 419** to learn how you can start a donation drive.



Scan the QR code
to see our current
needs and view
items on our
Amazon Wish List!

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Aubrey, here's my Easter gift to help our hungry and hurting neighbors:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$176 ☐ \$201
☐ \$_____ to help as many people as possible.

Donate online now! buffalocitymission.org

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

24BDNU

Return this form with your gift in the envelope provided.

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ BILL MY CREDIT CARD

☐ VISA ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER ☐ MASTERCARD

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

CIV/SEC # _____

PHONE # _____

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