



GOOD NEIGHBORS

Restoring Lives Together in Western New York



HOLIDAY 2023

THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU GAVE JOSE

Jose's childhood was so tragic and dysfunctional, it left him nearly hopeless and suicidal as an adult. He came to Buffalo City Mission to stay off the streets. And here, you gave him new hope.



Your Gift Doubles in Value –
and Impact
See inside for details.

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

A Message from
Aubrey Calhoun

Hope for the Holidays

When Jesus was born into our world that first Christmas, He came to “proclaim good news to the poor ... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,” (Luke 4:18). He came for people like Jose.

When you stand with Buffalo City Mission — in prayer, through financial support, by volunteering, or however else — you join Jesus in His sacred mission. I can never thank you enough for serving our God and your neighbors in need this way. Your compassion transforms lives at Christmas and all year long.

I rejoice to know that you (and so many other good neighbors) refuse to turn a blind eye to suffering in our community. The resources you share so generously give men, women, and children from every background and walk of life hope for the holidays, and it’s beautiful. Because of you, they will continue receiving meals, shelter, and life-changing care.

Thank you for serving your hurting and homeless neighbors. May you and yours enjoy a very Merry Christmas!



Aubrey Calhoun

Aubrey Calhoun
CEO and
Executive Director

“When Jesus was born into our world that first Christmas, He came to “proclaim good news to the poor ... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”

- Luke 4:18



\$20,000 Year-End Matching Challenge Doubles Your Donation!

Outstanding news! Thanks to a generous group of donors who share your compassion for our neighbors in need, **every dollar you give by December 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, by our \$20,000 Matching Challenge!**

Your gift will provide 2x the food, 2x the shelter, and 2x the life-transforming care. Our goal is to raise the full \$20,000 by the end of the year to help the men, women, and children who come to Buffalo City Mission for meals and care.

See page 4 on how to DOUBLE your gift to help twice as many people!



A Renewal of Hope, Purpose, and Transformation

Jose's childhood was a nightmare. He experienced such vile abuse that authorities removed him from his home and placed him in a protective facility. But there, where he should have been safe, he was abused again. The effects were catastrophic to him — to his spirit and psyche — and he understandably suffered from mental-health challenges.

"I stopped trusting people and I had a lot of rage," Jose recalls. *"I shut myself away and isolated myself from everyone. I was overwhelmed with anxiety when I was around too many people."*

In that state of mind, it's no wonder that Jose struggled to hold down a job. *"I always felt like I was tumbling down the side of a mountain and I couldn't grab onto anything to stop the fall."*

His issues grew so severe, he became suicidal. He cycled in and out of homelessness and psychiatric hospitals. After he recently experienced a stroke, he knew he needed help ...

Finding a Solid Foundation to Rebuild His Life

Asking for help is never easy, but Jose knew he needed help to deal with the demons of his past. He was also running out of money and didn't want to be on the streets. That's why he finally chose to come to Buffalo City Mission.

"It was hard at first because there are so many people," he says. Little by little, though, he made progress. *"The principles I'm learning here are bearing fruit. They're helping me build a solid foundation. I'm discovering a sense of purpose I didn't have before, and I'm learning about discipline and responsibility."*

He continues, *"For the first time, I feel like I've finally found something to grab onto so I won't fall farther down the mountain."*

This Christmas, Jose knows his life will never be the same. He's even learning IT and computer skills and plans to start working again!

"I'm so grateful to the Mission and donors," he says. *"Thanks to them, I can do more than survive. I've learned that I'm worth caring for."*

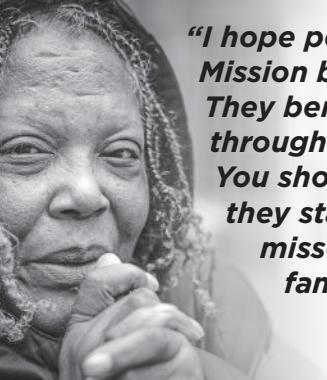
"For the first time, I feel like I've finally found something to grab onto so I won't fall farther down the mountain."

– Jose



Giving Thanks With a Grateful Heart

Our guests share their thankfulness for you.



"I hope people will support the Mission because it's only right. They bent over backwards through the 2022 winter storm. You should have seen the staff, they stayed here for days; they missed holidays with their family to be here with us."

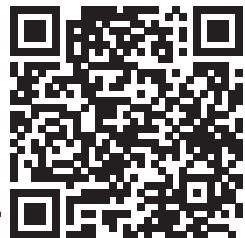
-Cecily, guest of the Mission

\$20,000 Year-End Matching Challenge

\$2.40=2 Meals and Care

Please take advantage of this special opportunity. Here are 3 ways to send your generous gift today!

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



Are you connected yet?
Be the first to know what's going on!

Join the Hambone Express



Deliver meals and holiday cheer to homebound neighbors on Christmas morning!

If you want to inspire joy in the hearts of your neighbors in need, there might be no better way than by joining Buffalo City Mission's Hambone Express.

On Christmas morning, we'll deliver approximately 3,500 meals to homebound seniors who live alone or families living in poverty. This event is made possible through teams of volunteers to take meal reservations, package and load meals, and deliver them to those in need.



Serving during the Hambone Express event is a wonderful way to love others, to live your faith, and to get your children involved in caring for their neighbors in need. Volunteer registration opens on November 13.

If you'd like to sign up, please contact:

Julia Dressler, Manager of Volunteers & Community Engagement
Phone: (716) 854-8181, ext. 419
Email: volunteer@buffalocitymission.org

Or visit buffalocitymission.org to find out more or sign up now!



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