



GOOD NEIGHBORS

Restoring Lives Together in Western New York



**“THIS IS THE
LOVE I NEED”**

When John came through our doors, he was lost and miserable. But your kindness led him to the best gift a person could ever receive.



HOLIDAY 2024

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

I cannot imagine the brutal childhood that John experienced. Like many who survive such circumstances, John turned to the bottle for relief. But what he truly needed was a much deeper remedy, down to his very soul.

He needed the unconditional love of God.

Thanks to the support of friends like you, John — our cover story in this issue of *Good Neighbors* — found that love at Buffalo City Mission. Which means that this Christmas, John has found the greatest gift ever given: Forgiveness and eternal life.

John has found hope for the holidays.

That's our theme this Christmas season, and it's our prayer for everyone who walks through our doors ... that they encounter a love so radical, that God gave His only Son — here at Christmastime — to show it.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said to the shepherds near Bethlehem on that holy night. *"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you"* (Luke 2:10-11).

Your kindness makes it possible for the Mission to share that saving gift with our guests, during the holidays and all year round.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you are inspired by the good things happening here. Because of you, struggling men, women, and children from throughout our community are receiving meals, shelter, and life-changing care.

Thank you for giving them *hope for the holidays!*



Aubrey Calhoun
Aubrey Calhoun
CEO and Executive Director

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."
- Luke 2:10

**MATCHING
GIFT
DEADLINE
12/31**



Your Christmas Gift Will do Double the Good!

Thanks to a generous group of donors who share your compassion for 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 have twice the impact — 2X the meals, 2X the shelter, and 2X the life-transforming care. We hope to raise the full \$20,000 by the end of the year to everyone who walks through our doors seeking help and hope.

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



Thanks to You, John Found the Love He Was Looking For

John was just 8 when he drank his first beer ... and he kept drinking for the next 45 years, till it almost killed him. He was drinking almost half a gallon of vodka every day when his body decided it had enough.

"I was in bad shape," he says. "I came very close to putting myself down."

His organs were failing, and he developed sepsis. He ended up in the hospital, and when he was well enough to be released, he came to Buffalo City Mission.

John's ongoing physical healing has been the relatively easy part. The psychological part has been much harder.

"I had a rough childhood," he says. "I had a seriously violent father." John's dad, a Vietnam veteran, had PTSD and took his anger out on his wife and three children. John says that's why he started drinking so young.

"I quickly realized that when you drink a beer, you feel kind of goofy," he says, describing a feeling that was much preferable to mental anguish. His father's abuse continued for years, and then John's mother died in a fire when he was 14. He ran away from home at 16, and never looked back.

John was a relatively "functional" alcoholic for a while, holding a job, paying the bills. He fell in love with a woman in his early 30s; they were together for 18 years. But John's drinking got worse, along with his depression, and the relationship ended.

"The more I lost, the more I drank," he says. "And the more I wanted to forget about being me."

Feeling Happy Again

When John came to the Mission, he came to realize that "being me" meant so much more. He was a child of God, loved unconditionally. Through the Mission's programs, spiritual guidance, and daily encouragement, he found peace, hope, and joy.

"I've screwed up so many things in my life," he says, "but the people here never gave up on me. I accepted Jesus as my Savior because I realized, This is the love I need."

"I was miserable when I got here, but this place lit a spark in me. I actually feel happy again, and I haven't felt that way for a very long time."

"This place lit a spark in me."

- John



Thank YOU for Giving Me Hope for the Holidays

"This year I'm not alone. I'm part of a family here. For the first time in years, I feel truly blessed."

"The biggest blessing in my life this Christmas is knowing I'm not forgotten ... The Mission reminded me that I matter."

\$20,000 Year-End Matching Challenge \$2.40=2 Meals and Care

Don't miss this opportunity for your generous gift to have twice the impact! 3 ways to give today:

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



Aubrey, here's my Christmas gift to help **TWICE** as Many Neighbors in Need:

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

Donate online now! buffalocitymission.org

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

24KDNU

Here Comes the Hambone Express

Help us spread cheer and the warmth of a holiday meal this Christmas!



Buffalo City Mission is excited to once again host **Hambone Express** this Christmas! Each year, we distribute over 3,500 meals on Christmas morning to hungry neighbors and families in need across Western New York.

If you would like to get involved with Hambone Express as a volunteer, you can sign up at www.BuffaloCityMission.org.



Help bring warmth to a neighbor this Christmas!



Did you know that the Mission has a current needs list? All items purchased on our Amazon Wishlist come **RIGHT** to the mission and into the arms of a man, woman or child who needs them the most!

Visit our Amazon Wishlist here: buffalocitymission.org/wishlist or by scanning the QR code!



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