



RESCUE CHATTANOOGA

News from Chattanooga Rescue Mission

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2011

www.chattanoogarescuemission.org

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I might as well have been drinking Drano ... that's how much I was abusing my body with alcohol

My name is Tina, and I can tell you one thing. I was dead set against ever wearing someone else's clothes — and that's what I knew I'd get if I came to a rescue mission. I felt I was too good for such an indignity. I also promised myself I wouldn't last three months here.

Well, if there is crow to be eaten, I'm eating it. Coming to Chattanooga Rescue Mission saved my life. I had abused alcohol and other drugs for 30 years. People would call my dad and say, "I don't think Tina is breathing." I was one step away from living on the streets, which would have killed my mother. "Out there," I might as well have drunk Drano. That's how bad it got for me. When I was drinking, I didn't know what I was doing. I was hateful, angry and someone you wouldn't want to spend much time with.

I'm thankful to God, the Mission and to you for your kindness

Now I wear your donated clothes with pride, and I've lasted here at the Mission a lot longer than three months. This has all happened because of my relationship with God, the compassion of the Mission staff and your generosity as a donor. I never thought I would ever leave my old life behind — which was nothing but a black hole in the bottom

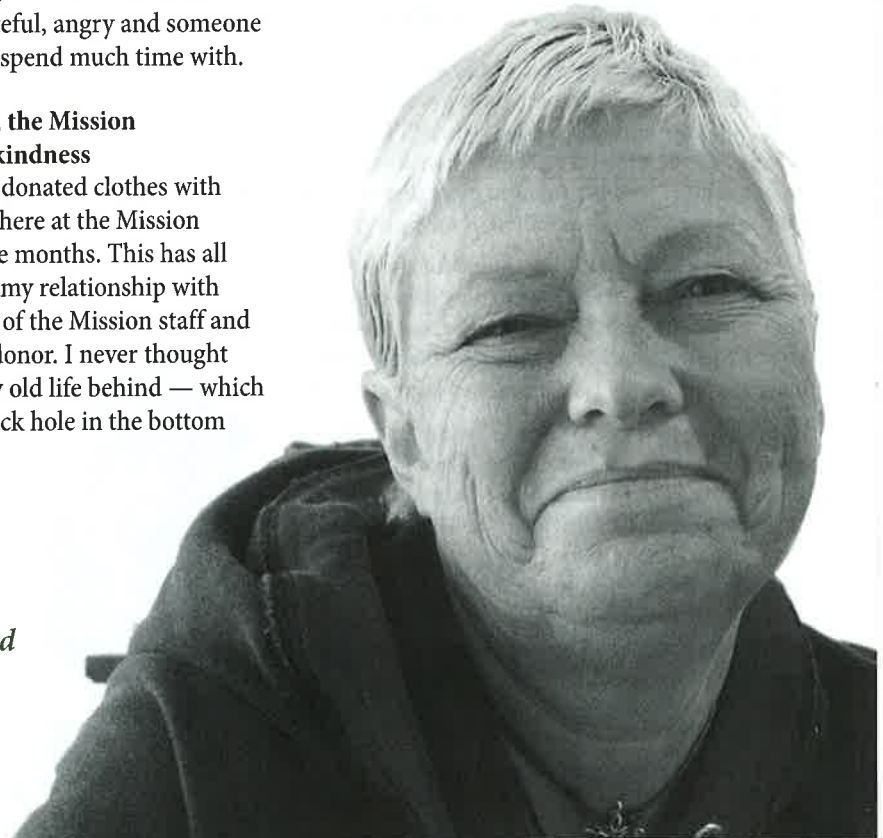
*I had a choice
between life and
death; I thank God
I chose life.*

of the ocean. Today, I live in peace and am slowly becoming the person God created me to be.

"When I was drinking, I didn't know what I was doing. I was hateful, angry and someone you wouldn't want to spend much time with."

I know this holiday season will be a good one for me, because of who I'm becoming. I'm so glad God and the Mission have given me a second chance at life. And I thank you again for your kindness and compassion.

Your friend,
Tina



An Encouraging Word from Dale Grisso

Dear friend of Chattanooga Rescue Mission,

The great news of Christmas is that there is room in the inn with the Savior. But we speak at another *inn*: heaven's *inn*. What if there were no room in heaven's *inn* for you and me? What if those mansions were already occupied? What if our heavenly Father had no time for us?

The good news is that He *does* have time for you and me . . . just as He does for every person who comes through the doors of Chattanooga Rescue Mission. And during the colder months of winter, more guests than ever will come to the Mission for help.

More than food and a bed

Yes, we will feed, clothe and provide safe shelter for the needy. But because of your ongoing concern for the needy, we're able to give so much more to those in distress . . . like the restoration of hope . . . an opportunity to reunite with their families . . . and the possibility of gainful employment. Once rejected by society, our residents now begin to know they have value. It's a blessing for our staff to see lives transformed by the power of Jesus Christ — once a babe in a manger and now King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Your prayers, acts of service and generous financial support are making new creations in Christ. God bless you richly for your concern and compassion.

Your servant to the needy,



Dale Grisso
Director of Men's Discipleship Ministries



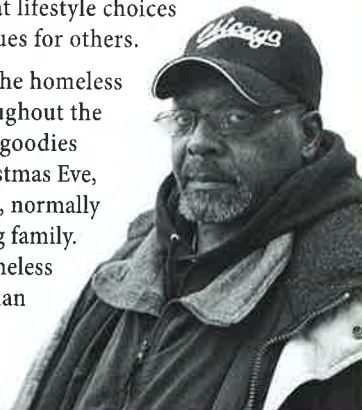
"Your prayers, acts of service and generous financial support are changing lives. God bless you richly for your concern and compassion."

I'll Be Home for Christmas

The bright, happy days of Christmas, with its parties and family gatherings somehow never seem complete without that melancholy moment when "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is sung. It's the time we remember our Armed Forces, or the sons and daughters who have moved great distances away. How we wish we could magically be reunited, if only just for this one special day!

For the homeless, being home for the holidays is a virtual impossibility. Homeless people may have migrated miles from their hometown. Neither the homeless person nor their family knows where the other is. It may be that lifestyle choices have severed family ties. It's money issues for others.

We like to think of CRM as being the homeless person's "home for the holidays." Throughout the season, friends will bring home-baked goodies or personalized cards and gifts. On Christmas Eve, we give special gifts to our shelter guests, normally handed out by the children from a caring family. At CRM, we do our best to make the homeless feel like they are at home — and more than only in their dreams.



You've invested in many lives during the past months

. . . and now we urge you to share Christ's love with the homeless during the holidays



During this time of year, your generosity is helping us move mountains of pain for people who come through the Mission's doors. Thank you for your prayers, your volunteer work and your continued support for this work of rescue.

Now the holidays are soon upon us, and again Chattanooga Rescue Mission is continuing to do all it can to share the message of Christ's love with our residents and guests.

If you've paid us a visit recently, you may have been surprised to see the range of people who come through our doors. Often the homeless are not who you think they might be. It's true that many are fighting to break free from addictions to alcohol and other drugs. Others have spent years on the streets struggling to survive.

Arms of Compassion

But there are also those men, women and children who've been evicted from their homes because of foreclosures. They've lost good jobs and have been otherwise upended by a faltering economy. Whoever they may be, the doors of the Mission remain open wide for all who need food, shelter and God's love — thanks to your support.

To invest in the life of a homeless person this holiday season, kindly use the remit slip enclosed in this newsletter.

"The doors of Chattanooga Rescue Mission remain open wide for all who need food, shelter and God's love — thanks to your support."

You may also give your donation on our secure website chattanoogarescuemission.org. God bless you for being a friend to people in need during the holidays and throughout the year.

The Joy of Giving

Thank you for giving our Troop a tour of the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. I absolutely loved giving cookies to all of the ladies. It was very fun for all of us and it was exciting. Thanks again!! Best wishes, Lily M.

We believe that seeing the shelter and what we do had an impact on these young girls' hearts. The shelter guests responded to the girls' gift bags and cookies with huge smiles and hugs.

We see those same smiles and hugs at our annual Thanksgiving meal. Many volunteers and donors give of their time and resources to help with the annual meal. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you who are so much a part of what we do here at CRM.

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"We know that unless our residents place the power of a living, loving God at the center of their hearts, nothing will change."