

THE

MISSION

Bell

Providing a path of hope, redemption, and empowerment through Jesus Christ

Thanks to you...

**JASMINE HAS  
HOPE THIS  
Christmas!**

Learn More... Visit [rescuemissionga.com](https://rescuemissionga.com) (478) 743-5445



## Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

**How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our hurting neighbors too!**

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have spent years struggling with addiction... domestic violence... homelessness... and other challenges that have left them feeling hopeless.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe housing, and life recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

**This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ's love and grace to our neighbors – like Jasmine (whose story is on the next page).** Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



God Bless,

Pat Chastain  
President/CEO

## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with addiction, domestic violence, or homelessness.. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



**\$2.77**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$63.00**  
for 1 night  
of rest

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



### Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

## Labors of Love

*What it means to give to the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia*

Many of us have heard of the phrase “labor of love,” but have you ever really looked at the definition? We tend to think of this phrase when we think of the unpaid work that we do out of the goodness of our hearts, or the hobbies we love doing but don't get paid for, but what does the phrase “labor of love” actually mean?

Webster's dictionary defines “labor of love” as: “A labor voluntarily undertaken or performed without consideration of any benefit or reward.” The Oxford Lexico defines it as: “A task done for pleasure, not reward.” While many people attribute the phrase “labor of love” to writers going back as far as the 1500s, especially Shakespeare's

comedy “Love's Labor's Lost,” did you know the expression actually comes from the Bible?

In Hebrews 6:10 it says: “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 says: “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.”

At the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, we see labors of love happening around us every day. From the labors of our kitchen staff, residents, and volunteers as they cook, prepare, and serve 3 hot meals every day, to the labors of our Processing Center staff,

# “I HAVE GONE FROM DEATH to life.”



Jasmine was trapped in a destructive cycle and knew she needed to break free – for herself and her daughter. **“My mom was a drug addict,” Jasmine remembers. “She gave me and my little sister up when I was only 7.”**

Her mother’s absence left Jasmine feeling unstable, hurt, and confused. She began turning to drugs to numb the pain by the age of 14. “I graduated high school and had a job for six months, and then the drugs took over... **I found myself homeless.”**

When her daughter was born, Jasmine knew she needed to change and find a way to provide for her. Instead, she stayed in an abusive relationship, succumbing to the pull of drugs, and hating herself for repeating the mistakes of her mother.

**“I wound up in jail, and while there I prayed ‘God, if you are real, please save me. Please help me. I don’t know what else to do.’”** God heard her prayer and led her to the Mission.

From the moment she arrived, Jasmine began to heal. **“I’m constantly reminded of God’s forgiveness, love, and mercy... it makes me draw closer to Him.”** Embracing God’s grace has transformed Jasmine, motivating her to become the mother her daughter needs.

Life skills classes, biblical teaching, and a job at the donation center have all played a part in building a new life and overcoming her addiction. **“The accountability and structure have helped me develop a work ethic, which I didn’t have before.”** And building bonds with fellow Mission guests has given her the support she never had from stable

**“Walking in, I felt instantly surrounded by God’s love and grace.”**

parents. **“I have relationships with my sisters here, we’re a family.”**

As Jasmine looks to the future, she knows she can give her daughter the love and support she needs. “I just want to give my daughter everything that I didn’t have.”

**Jasmine has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life.** “I used to look in the mirror and hate the person I saw. Now, I love myself. I have my daughter, and I trust God and His plan for us.”

residents, and volunteers as they sort, price, and prepare household goods, clothing, furniture, and other items for our thrift stores, to the labors of our dedicated program staff who walk with the men, women, and children in our life-recovery program to help them overcome past traumas, and the obstacles and challenges they are facing as a result of their pain and brokenness.

Along with these incredible staff, residents, and volunteers, we also see labors of love performed every day behind the scenes by our unsung heroes: the maintenance team who diligently keep all our facilities functioning, and the business office who works tirelessly to keep the administrative side of the Mission running smoothly. These are just a few of the Mission’s staff, residents in work therapy, and volunteers that constantly, day in and day out, perform labors of love to meet the needs of all those we are called to serve.

But as much as our staff, residents, and volunteers work to help those in need, our labors would fall short **if not for the selfless devotion of those who support the Mission in other ways.** By donating food, clothing, and hygiene/cleaning products, by praying on our behalf, and by donating your financial resources, **your labors of love are the foundation on which the Mission is able to rise to meet the daily challenges we face.**

During these times of inflation and economic uncertainties, **we recognize how you still go above and beyond to support this ministry.** We too are facing the rising costs of providing food, housing, and recovery services for over 190 people each day, and as these expenses continue to rise it’s easy to become overwhelmed with doubt. But although many of you are also facing financial challenges in our earthly economy, we have seen you practice “kingdom economics”: loving

God above all and practicing this love by being faithful to share with others what God has shared with you.

The impact that your generosity continues to make is not just about providing food, housing, and services. It’s also about providing someone with hope, grace, and a second chance in life. For those individuals and families who have been handed the legacy of hunger, abuse, addiction, homelessness, and insecurity, your gifts help us create a generational change and make a generational impact in their lives. Even if you are not with us physically, you are making a huge difference by giving your time, prayers, and financial resources. **That is YOUR labor of love, and it makes all the difference to the work of the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia...** *Thank you for continuing to support us!*

Source: TRM Ministries





# HOLIDAY DRIVES: NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 15

Thanksgiving and Christmas are special times at the Mission. You can help **put love into action** this holiday season for the 190+ men and women in our life-recovery program and their children, and for others in need in our community.



## SPONSOR A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS

Because many of the men and women that enter our life-recovery program are low-income or homeless, they come with very limited resources. To provide

Christmas gifts for their children, we are seeking sponsors to help fill this need.

We'll be providing gifts for approximately 300 children this year. If you are able to sponsor a child, please contact Stephanie for full details:

Stephanie Ramirez  
(478) 743-5445, ext. 407  
[stephanie@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:stephanie@rescuemissionga.com)



## SPONSOR A MAN OR WOMAN IN OUR LIFE-RECOVERY PROGRAM

You can help us bless them this Christmas with a \$50

Amazon gift card. Thank you for helping to spread JOY this Christmas season!

## STOCKING STUFFERS FOR 140 MEN & 50 WOMEN AT THE MISSION

Each resident will receive a Christmas gift bag. Donations are appreciated to help us make these **"bags of love:"**

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH DRIVES

The Mission is asking for donations of the following items to support our holiday community outreach activities for the homeless and others in need:



## HOLIDAY MEALS

In addition to providing three meals a day for our residents, we'll be providing a holiday meal for over 1,500 of our neighbors in need on both Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve Day. Please help with your donations of:

- hams
- turkeys
- boxed stuffing mix
- canned corn
- green beans
- yams
- mac & cheese
- instant mashed potatoes
- sugar
- coffee
- family size tea bags
- paper towels

## COLD WEATHER WEAR

In addition to the holiday meals, we'll be distributing warm clothing: new or gently used coats for adults and children, blankets, hats, and gloves.

## HYGIENE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS

Travel size soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, lotion, razors, Q-tips, and quart & gallon Ziploc bags.

### All donations can be delivered or mailed to:

Attention: Patti  
6601 Zebulon Road  
Macon, GA 31220

Deliveries received in the Admin Office from Monday – Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Patti Stevenson at (478) 743-5445, ext. 403 or [patti@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:patti@rescuemissionga.com).