

# THE MISSION Bell

*"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS, AND SO FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST." GALATIANS 6:2*

## Brianna Bruce

### RESIDENT TESTIMONY

I grew up around addiction. Both of my parents were addicts, and because of that, I had to grow up fast. At 12 years old, I started smoking and sneaking out of my house. I have been my family's caregiver my whole life and have been handed a lot of responsibility. At 20 years old, after my grandfather passed away, I inherited a 150-year-old wholesale produce business. I became responsible for my grandmother, who has never had to write a check in her life. They were very big shoes to fill. I thought I could handle it, but I succumbed to the pressure. When I was 23, I began using methamphetamine, which took everything from me. My job, house, car, and relationships were all gone in an instant. I did not have a lot of guidance in life. As a result, I sold our family business for half its worth after working more than 35 hours at a Metallica concert at SunTrust Park. I was praised for my "resiliency," but I was tired of always being expected to handle adversity on top of adversity that was being passed to me. It needed to end.

I am mandated to be at the Mission, but I am very grateful for God's timing that brought me here. My pregnancy forced me to become sober but losing my mom 20 days before my daughter was born was more than I could bear. On September 12, 2023, I relapsed while grieving my mother. This relapse landed me a possession charge on her birthday. While at the Mission, my dad passed away after a long battle with cancer. I am unsure I would be alive today if I had not been at the Mission.

In the past, I've always lived in survival mode, "fight or flight," and have always run to drugs or alcohol to numb my pain. I truly believe God brought me here for a purpose: to save my life. Other than two years of sobriety, this is the first time I've been sober in fifteen years, and it feels incredible. After a long time, I finally feel my worth. I feel like I am valuable. I am truly ready to make this change for myself and my daughter. For the first time now, I have a close relationship with God that I never thought possible. I am truly blessed. I'm no longer an anxiety-filled addict but a daughter of the Highest God, and I feel at peace.

I've finally made it past the uncomfortable phase of learning to be sober, and now the walls I've built so high are coming down. There was a day when I could not have imagined making it this far, but now I'm excited about my future.

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After graduation, I plan to move to Augusta to start a new life while building on my solid foundation in Jesus Christ. I have a background in the entertainment production industry, and I hope to further my career in that area by working on live events, theatrical productions, and arena concerts.

The most important thing I've learned during my recovery at the Rescue Mission is that healthy boundaries are necessary. I have learned how to say "no" without feeling guilty, set higher standards for myself, and stand up for myself. I've learned that the generational curses must end with me. I don't have to carry around this trauma and be a victim, but I can be, and I am, a survivor. I can continue to improve myself and become the best mom for my daughter. Growing up with parents who were addicted and neglectful has shown me how I want to be there for my daughter and show her that she will never have to second-guess my love. My past does not define me, and the future is mine. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13*

## Good Friday Community Meal

*Because of people like you who love the Mission and celebrate Easter, we delivered the Good News of Jesus Christ on Good Friday.* Donors and volunteers generously gave their time and money so that over **50** volunteers, residents, and staff at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia could deliver and hand out over **1500** meals on Good Friday. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support as we shared a meal and the love of Jesus with the community.



# Faces of Recovery



My life has changed so much since being at the Mission. I have reestablished a relationship with God. I pray He will use me and allow me to be His vessel. Thank you to the Rescue Mission for establishing me with a solid foundation in Christ. - Cleo



I came to the Rescue Mission because I knew that I needed to change my life—I needed help! I saw that the Mission was faith-based, and I knew that was where God wanted me to be. God is truly working in my life. He is changing how I speak, act, think, and move. Thank you, Jesus! - Natasha



Coming to the Mission has been a life-changing decision because of the deeper relationship I developed with Jesus Christ. I realized that without Him, nothing in this world is possible. - Landry



Exhaustion is what brought me to the Mission to start my recovery. I was beyond tired of the control my addiction had on me. My soul is being restored by way of Christ, and I know He brought me here for healing and restoration. - Nick



Since arriving at the Mission, God has shown me that I am forgiven for my sins. My family relationships are being restored. God is changing me, and I am so thankful for this place. - Larry



I am off the streets; I no longer have to sleep in my vehicle. The Mission provides me with clothes, shelter, food, medical care, classes, and transportation. I can spend quality time with Jesus Christ. The love of the staff here at the Mission makes me realize that I am safe, giving me hope and peace. - Lavella



## Meet Stephanie!

Stephanie Ramirez is the Women's Program Director at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia. She has worked here for a year and a half and is loved by residents and the other staff! In her daily life, she will meet and walk with our women, with Grace and love, exactly where they are. Stephanie is glad to be "the hands and feet of Jesus" on a daily basis. Stephanie says the best part of her job is "watching the hand of God totally transform and restore the lives of our residents."

Stephanie has two daughters, Jewels and Starla. They love that she works with the Rescue Mission

of Middle Georgia and will say, "It's amazing, Mama, we are so proud of you!"

When asked what the Mission needs, besides small daily items like bookmarks, feminine products, and trash bags, Stephanie would love us to have a Heat Press machine for making Rescue Mission t-shirts. It would be a fantastic work therapy job for the women, and it would provide shirts for the men, women, and children to wear as well as one day sell them!

If you or a woman you know is in need of a life recovery program where we provide a path of hope, redemption, and empowerment through Jesus Christ, please get in touch with Stephanie at the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia today!



If a woman is interested in coming to the Rescue Mission, she should reach out by phone at 478-743-5445 ext. 305 or email at [Stephanie@rescuemissionga.com](mailto:Stephanie@rescuemissionga.com). Stephanie says they will respond very quickly! A phone interview is needed, and the woman must have ID. An application can be emailed and filled out at the office at the Rescue Mission located at 6601 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31220.

# MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH



May is Military Appreciation Month, which gives us the opportunity to honor everyone who has served in a branch of the U.S. military and reminds us that we owe many of our freedoms to the sacrifices made by military personnel. Thank you to all our military personnel for the sacrifices you have made for our freedom.

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# Rescue Mission OF MIDDLE GEORGIA



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