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Good News

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission • Men's Shelter • Women & Family Shelter • Tyler Outreach Team

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"I always went back to drugs..."

Cedric spent years addicted to drugs, and they took a huge toll on his health and his family. "I wasn't eating, staying in old abandoned cars, doing anything to get my next high. I wasn't there for my kids," he says. "Every chance I got, I just wanted to stay out and get high."

He knew he needed help and so, he decided to go to rehab. **But rehab didn't fix the hurt and pain inside him.** "I always stayed

clean for six months. But I always went back to drugs."

Cedric wasn't sure where to go until – at his mom's suggestion – he got down on his knees and prayed. When he did, Cedric felt God strongly leading him to Hiway 80 Rescue Mission. Within a few days, he was on our doorstep and joined our long-term New Creation recovery program.

Even though his mom was a minister, and he'd grown up in church, Cedric never had a relationship with God. But as he went through classes, Bible study and Christian counseling in our program, he discovered God's unconditional love. **"The Mission gave me a chance to wake up and see that there was a better side to life than drugs."**

After graduating, Cedric took part in our Leadership Training Program, where he continued his spiritual growth while supporting both our staff and new program residents. "It's important to have someone to look up to, who you can talk to, who tells you that God will listen and help you through... because they've been there."

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Today, Cedric has a job working at an assisted living facility here in town. "Everything I learned at the Mission is what I'm doing in my job," he says gratefully. He's also saving up money to get his own place. "I have always wanted my own place so my kids can say, 'I'm going to stay with Dad.'"

Cedric still visits the Mission on a regular basis. "It helps me remember that I do have a support system."

He's grateful for the opportunity the Mission's given him to completely transform his life. **"It's more than a meal and a place to stay.** If you need help, there's always someone here who will help you."



A Message From Eric Burger



You and I are so blessed!

In just a few days, we will give thanks for all the blessings that have come our way this year.

Then, we'll start looking forward to Christmas. Familiar carols. Fragrant greens. The celebration of Christ's birth.

It's a truly wonderful time here at the Mission. A time made even better because Christmas is when folks open their hearts extra wide.

What a blessing that is to men, women and children who will be celebrating their holidays here with us – knowing that you care about them; that you're reaching out to them – extending the hand of Christian fellowship – offering a meal, shelter, and most of all – Hope.

Your holiday donation to the Mission could be the most valuable gift you give this year. Because it will make the holidays – and the coming year – better and brighter for people who desperately need food, shelter and loving care.

Thank you! May your holidays be the best, most blessed ever.

Road to a New Life Starts Here

Rev. Eric Burger
Executive Director

Thanksgiving & Christmas Shopping List

Help make the holidays brighter by conducting a food drive! Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 3117 W. Marshall.



Turkeys
Hams
Yams
Stuffing
Potatoes
Canned sweet potatoes
Canned fruits/vegetables (#10 size)

Dinner rolls
Butter
Brown sugar
Pies
Cool Whip
Christmas cookies
Coffee creamer

Holiday Volunteers Needed

With more than 50 events planned between Veteran's Day and Christmas Day, the Mission needs faithful volunteers to ensure another blessed holiday season for hungry and homeless men, women and children in East Texas.

For volunteer groups, Christmas Central at the Longview Fairgrounds Expo Hall offers many opportunities to get involved. Several times are available from Dec. 16-20 to help sort and prepare gift bags for children and set up for our **Family Christmas Party** on December 21.

Sponsors are also needed now for



toy and food drives, as well as groups to sponsor holiday parties and events.

Please pre-register today to volunteer for one of these holiday events, as time slots fill quickly.

Contact Gary Crim at (903) 759-8101 or garyc@hiway80rm.org for more information.

The secret ingredient in all our meals is...

Even on a fast food dollar menu, you can't get a complete meal for \$1.79.

But here at the Mission, we serve nearly 500 of them every day.

3,462 meals a week. More than 180,000 meals by year's end!



But there's more to Mission meals than just food. **Each and every meal is served with love** – an ingredient that is often more important than

what goes on the plates!

A meal served with love and compassion does so much more than just feed a person. It encourages those who are hungry, homeless and without hope to think about beginning new lives with Christ at the center. This simple, home-cooked meal is often the all-important first step on the road to a new life.

You can provide one of those hope-filled meals for just \$1.79!

Please donate safely and securely online at www.Hiway80Mission.org.

Thank you!

“God brought His child back...”

Leigha grew up in a world split between church and drugs.

“Whenever my parents weren’t using [drugs], we’d go to church,” she says.

The rest of the time, her parents’ addictions reigned in her home, their responsibilities for their seven children falling on their eldest daughter’s shoulders.

“I wasn’t really involved in school because I had to be home and take care of my brothers and sisters,” Leigha says. “I made sure that they got their homework done. I made sure my mom and dad ate. I would cook food and wake them up to eat. I would be the one that had to discipline my brothers and sisters. **I had to grow up really fast.**”

Leigha was 15 when, at her stepmother’s bidding, she used drugs for the first time. Before long, her entire world revolved around substance abuse. “Everywhere I went there were drugs,” she says. “My father was murdered three years ago from a drug deal.”

Eventually, Leigha found herself addicted and homeless, with two children to care for. It was then that Child Protective Services stepped in, putting her two daughters in foster care, and bringing Leigha to Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

She was still reeling when she arrived, but the staff was quick to comfort her. “**They said, ‘Everything is going to be okay...you can do this,’**” she says, “**and they were right.**”

With the help of her caseworker, Leigha has faithfully attended



outpatient rehab and complied with CPS requirements necessary to be reunited with her daughters.

Best of all, she has rededicated her life to the Lord. “God had to really do something to bring His child back to Him, and He did,” Leigha says. “I am in the light...I feel like I am actually who God wanted me to be in the first place.”

When Leigha graduates from rehab, she intends to look for work, find an apartment she can eventually share with her daughters, and continue attending services and recovery meetings at the church she now calls home. “I am really dedicated to keeping my life straight. I don’t ever plan on using again,” Leigha says.

“The Mission is my safe haven where I got away from all the drugs,” she adds. “They are the ‘clean’ family I never had. I’ve finally found a place I could call home.”

Like us



An Enduring Gift

We would like to thank all those who have established legacy gifts to benefit the Mission or have named the Mission in their wills. This enduring support is a true blessing to the Mission, as well as a lifeline for men, women and children throughout the East Texas area who are hungry and homeless.



To explore ways you can leave a lasting gift to continue your legacy of care for those in need, our Executive Director, Eric Burger, has some suggestions. Call him at **(903) 759-8101**. There’s no obligation.

Holiday Prayer

Move in our hearts and encourage us to reach out to our neighbors in need.

Where there is hunger, let there be food.

Where there is despair, let there be hope.

Where there is illness, addiction or sadness, let the light of love and compassion shine.

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission

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Hiway 80 Rescue Mission Women & Family Shelter

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A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

The Good News is a publication
of Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

Give an Extra Special Gift this Christmas

This Christmas season, in partnership with KVNE 89.5 and KGLY 91.3, Hiway 80 Rescue Mission is sharing the love of Christ by giving our homeless neighbors – who are often excluded from gift-giving – a special gift made just for them: a **Love Tote**.

Each cloth backpack will be filled with items of necessity and printed with the words of 1 John 3:16: “This

is how we know what love is, Jesus Christ laid down His life for us,” reminding whoever carries the bag that they are loved throughout the year.



See below for a list of specific items you can donate, or call Gary Crim at **(903) 759-8101** to help fill the Love Totes and pass them out to homeless men and women at our Christmas Eve Lunches in Longview and Tyler.

Items to be donated:

Men's Totes*

Disposable razors
Toothbrush / Toothpaste
Deodorant
Chapstick
Knit hat
Gloves
Socks
Nail Clippers
\$5.00 fast food gift card

Women's Totes*

Disposable razors
Toothbrush / toothpaste
Deodorant
Chapstick
Hair brush
Body wash (18 fl. oz.)
Lotions (21 fl. oz.)
\$5.00 fast food gift card

**If possible, please provide all items on the list.
The estimated cost to fill a Love Tote is \$20-\$25.*

Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 3117 W. Marshall.
For information about other drop off locations, call **(903) 759-8101**.