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# Good News

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

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## A Message from Eric Burger

As we begin our 59<sup>th</sup> year of caring for people who are hungry, homeless and in need, I want to thank you for being a “door opener.”

For many of the men, women and children who come to Hiway 80 Rescue Mission, life has been so hard for so long that it's often difficult for them to believe that there is another way to live, “a door to a better life.”

You are the person who helps open that door!

It may start with a simple meal or a night of safe shelter. A chapel message. Or a conversation with a staff member.

**Tomorrow, new faces will come through our doors.** They will be hungry, homeless and lost.

Please continue to feed them, give them a warm place to sleep and begin the work that returns them to their homes, their families and their communities. Use the enclosed gift slip to make your gift or give online at [www.Hiway80Mission.org](http://www.Hiway80Mission.org).

Your support is a great blessing that is never taken for granted.

Road to a New Life Starts Here

Rev. Eric Burger  
Executive Director

## “They gave me a chance”

**B**efore Bruce came to the Mission and entered our New Creation Program, he was in despair.

**“I hated myself for always destroying what I created. I’d set goals, then it always seemed like I’d sabotage them,”** he says.

Part of the problem was Bruce’s drinking. “I wasn’t a classic alcoholic where I’d wake up in the morning and drink...I would just start drinking around the holiday and I’d be drunk all the way through.”

But this time, Bruce’s drinking didn’t stop with the holidays. And when he finally decided he really needed help, a friend suggested Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

Bruce had never been in a structured program like ours before, but decided to “give it a try.” When he did, “things definitely changed!”

He was especially impressed

with one of our visiting ministers who shared the story of his own transformation. “He talked about how wounded he was and how Jesus healed him,” Bruce remembers.

**“The Spirit just came on me and I just knew this was what I’d been searching for.”**

One of the biggest benefits for Bruce was fellowshiping with others in the program and the relationships he built – being with others who were making tremendous changes in their lives.

Bruce graduated, and joined our Leadership Training Program. He got a job at Smotherman’s Nursery, which inspired him to go back to school for his Master Gardener’s license.

**Today, Bruce is living on his own and actively involved in a local church.**



# Thank you for your support in 2013!

These are truly wonderful reminders of all the great work you've made possible here at Hiway 80 Rescue Mission during the past year.

If you volunteer, you may find yourself in one of these pictures! Dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies and families donated more than 11,249 hours of their time to make life better for homeless men, women and children.

## Emergency Food & Shelter

More than 63,500 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women and children who might otherwise be sleeping in cars or on the streets.

Nearly 180,000 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.

## Women & Families Shelter

801 homeless women and 400 children were given the physical, emotional and spiritual support they needed to begin living healthy, self-sufficient lives.

## Men's Center

Over 41,000 homeless men were cared for, receiving shelter, meals and medical care, and attending chapel services.

## Men's New Creation Program

16 men graduated from our year-long rehabilitation program ready start new lives, reunite with their families and return to being productive, contributing citizens.

## Tyler Outreach Team

A year filled with blessings! The Tyler Outreach Team has made contact with hundreds of hungry and homeless women and men in Tyler, handing out sack lunches, visiting camps and holding weekly Bible studies and Art Outreach classes. 200 were fed at Thanksgiving and 125 needy families received a Christmas meal and gifts for their children.



**Veteran's Day Luncheon.** On Veteran's Day, we hosted a special luncheon to honor the brave men and women who have served our nation. With the help of 16 volunteers, we fed 150 people and honored 10 veterans. Each veteran was given a hat for the branch of service they served in and a gift card.



**KYKX Radiothon raises funds to provide 3,708 meals.** In November, the Mission partnered with KYKX 105.7 FM to host a radiothon to raise money for the Mission. Listeners tuned in to hear amazing testimonies and to learn about other opportunities to give during the holidays.

**Warm smiles and home-cooked meals.** Our kitchens serve meals every day of the year to those in need. This year 4,050 volunteers helped serve more than 180,000 meals to hungry men, women and children. Volunteers also share holiday meals with our guests, turning the loneliest time of the year into a celebration!



**New Life Creation Banquet.** More than 500 guests joined us at the Maude Cobb Convention Center for our New Life Creation Banquet. This special event is our way of saying "thank you" to the donors who help us minister and serve in Longview and Tyler. Along with a delicious meal, attendees enjoyed music, fellowship and a special presentation by *Hurt Healer* author Tony Nolan.



**Holiday Celebrations.** With the help of dedicated volunteers, the Mission served more than 1,800 meals at our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We are especially grateful for those who decorated the Mission, helped prepare and serve meals, led worship services and distributed gifts.



**Holiday Wishes Come True.** More than 900 children received toys and gifts at Christmas thanks to generous donors. The gifts were distributed at two family Christmas parties. The number of families being served is up 200 from a year ago.



**A Summer of Blessings.** This summer, nearly 36 homeless boys and girls living at our shelter, at-risk children living in local motels and youngsters from the south side whose families are barely making ends meet enjoyed a free summer camp sponsored by the Mission.



**Jesus loves them!** Every day at Camp Rescue was chock-full of activities, swimming, field trips, games and great meals. Christian high school and college students worked as summer missionaries, sharing with these children just how much Jesus loves them!

# 2014 Forecast



**T**he Mission never closes. Ahead of us are 365 more days of providing food and shelter, healing and hope, to homeless, abused, addicted and poor men, women and children.

What the statistics do not count are the tens of thousands of hours of care, counseling and classes that help people get back on their feet. Or the

tremendous amount of compassion and generosity shown by our donors, volunteers and staff – gifts of time, talent and treasure that help achieve such outstanding successes.

Please continue to partner with us to create a better life for people who are hungry, homeless and in need of your help.

## You change people's lives and give them hope!

**A**s we marvel at all the good works that have been done in 2013 and look forward to 2014, one thing is crystal clear: **None of this would happen without your support.**

Your generosity provides meals and shelter. Your gifts make it possible for homeless men, women and children to receive the help they so desperately need. Your donations get people off the streets and into programs that will change their lives and give them hope!

Longview and Tyler have an enormous number of people in need

right now. We need your generous support today to feed, clothe and shelter them, heal them physically and show them the love of Christ that will mend their broken hearts and souls.



Please help us start the New Year off strong. Use the coupon below to send your gift today. Or give safely and securely online at **[www.Hiway80Mission.org](http://www.Hiway80Mission.org)**.

Thank you in advance for your compassion and love!

