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

Vol. 15 No. 1 • Winter 2015

# Putting the Mission out of business...

Wouldn't it be great if we could banish hunger and homelessness? Just make them stop so we could get ahead of the problem and catch our breath.

We could just feed, shelter and change the lives of people who are already here. We wouldn't have to worry about more men, women and children coming in every day. Soon, the Mission would be empty and we could close our doors!

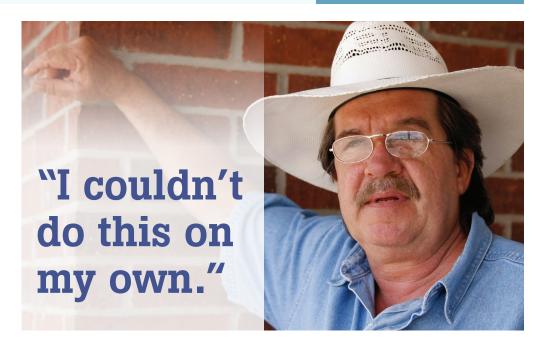
What a blessing that would be!
And you're helping us get
there with programs like our
New Creation Discipleship
Program that gets people off
the streets permanently by
providing counseling, job
training and addiction recovery.
Your support of other vital
services like holiday meals and
our Tyler Outreach Team can
keep people from becoming
homeless in the first place!

As a part of the Hiway 80 Rescue Mission family, you are helping end hunger and homelessness one individual and one family at a time! Thank you and God bless you for doing your part!

Road to a New Life Starts Here



Rev. Eric Burger, Executive Director



Donald has been coming to the Mission for meals and shelter "off and on" for six years when the weather got really bad. Then, he'd leave again to live in the woods and on the streets of Longview where he could continue to be in his addiction.

But last summer was brutal. And when he suffered heat stroke twice while working and had to be hospitalized, members of our staff finally convinced Donald that this was a **life or death situation**.

Coming from a dysfunctional family and being on his own at 13 made it easier for Donald to survive on his own "on the outside." But, coming to the Mission with all its rules and regulations was even more of a challenge.

Today, thanks to our long-term New Creation Program, Donald has overcome the anger that sometimes erupted when people didn't do things his way. [He was one of the men in our New Creation Program who helped with building the new cottages at the Women & Families Shelter. He tries to set an example for the "newbies" - new men coming into the program.]

Even before graduation, Donald had **reunited with one of his sisters**, and had a job offer to help with the construction of the new \$12 million water park in North Texas!

Today, Donald has gone from saying, "Me? In a Mission?" to encouraging others who have a heart for positive change in their lives to become a part of this "great place."

# Thank you for making 2014 a year of help, hope & healing!

These photos are great reminders of the life-saving, life-changing work you've made possible during the past year.

It is all possible because dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies and families donate money, clothing and more than 3,000 hours of their time to make life better for neighbors in need.
THANK YOU!

#### **Emergency Food & Shelter**

70,080 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women and children who might otherwise be sleeping in cars or on the streets.

182,500 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.

#### Women & Families Shelter

**305 homeless women and 191 children** were given the physical, emotional and spiritual support they needed to begin living healthy, self-sufficient lives.

#### Men's Shelter

**1,010** homeless men were cared for, receiving shelter, meals and medical care, and attended chapel services and classes.

#### Men's New Creation Program

**28 men graduated** from our year-long rehabilitation program ready to 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 hungry and homeless women and men in Tyler, and offer a free health clinic with the support of Special Health Resources of Texas, DRL Labs and UT Tyler School of Nursing (Advanced Practice Nursing). 350 were fed at Thanksgiving and 250 needy families received a Christmas meal and gifts for their children.

#### **Love Totes**

packages for the homeless, were given out: 500 in Longview and 300 in Tyler. Thank you to our sponsors, 89.5 KVNE & 91.3 KGLY.





Joyous Holiday Celebrations. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers, decorations, worship services and holiday gifts. More than 2,700 holiday meals were served this year at the Mission's Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. These special events are open to the community.

Family Christmas Parties. Thanks to generous donors, more than 600 children received toys and gifts at Christmas at two family Christmas parties. The number attending the meals was around 1500.



# Warm smiles and home-cooked meals. This year volunteers helped serve more than 182,500 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!



Food, fun and fellowship. Food, fellowship and a very special performance by Bill and Kim Nash were the highlights of the Mission's annual New Life Banquet. Good Samaritan awards were presented to Sue Lawyer, Gary Don, Holly, Cynthia Manning, and Lee Williams. First Baptist Church of Longview and Macedonia Baptist Church received the Great Commission award. Thank you to all who helped us minister and serve!



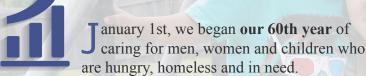
More room for families, women & children. 2014 saw an almost 100% increase in the number of women and mothers with children seeking emergency shelter at the Mission! In September, six new cottages were opened specifically designed to be "home" to homeless mothers and their children and families in crisis.

More help. More hope. In addition to the cottages and a new welcome center, the renovation included expanded office and meeting space, a computer learning lab and activity rooms for children and teens staying at the mission.



A summer of joy. This summer, 45 children from kindergarten through 12th grade including homeless boys and girls living at our shelter, at-risk children living in local motels and youngsters from the south side had an opportunity to attend camp! Kids spent time swimming to beat the heat, exploring area parks, visiting the Tyler Zoo and Sci-Port in Shreveport. A special trip to Splash Kingdom celebrated the end of the seven-week camp.

### 2015 Forecast



Today, thanks to the life-saving, life-changing programs and services offered by the Mission, there are hundreds, if not thousands of individuals who are no longer homeless, hungry or addicted.

During the next twelve months, we plan to add even more names to that growing list.

These are not statistics. They are living, breathing mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, brothers and sisters who, with our help, and your gifts of time, talents and treasure, will come to the Mission seeking help and leave to live better lives!

Please continue to partner with us to change people's lives and give them hope!

# **349** more days of changing lives.

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349 opportunities to bring help, hope and healing to homeless, hungry men, women and children!

What awesome possibilities!

And how grateful I am for your support that enables people to receive the help they need here at the Mission.

Whether you support this ministry with your gifts, your time, your donations or your prayers...or all four...your partnership is the reason our doors are open. Without your help, we would be unable to care for neighbors who are hungry, homeless and in need.

Please continue your support as we move forward saving and changing lives.



Get connected



Become a fan

Visit us online: www.Hiway80Mission.org

## Here's my gift to begin a year of help, hope and care:

- O \$19.69 to feed and care for 11 people
- \$50.12 to feed and care for 28 people \$75.18 to feed and care for 42 people
- to help as much as possible


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Donate online at www.Hiway80Mission.org, or call (903) 759-8101.

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission P.O. Box 3223 Longview, TX 75606-3223 որբիկնիիիրիրությունինինիիուկինիինիուկինիր

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