



Faith IN Action

A Newsletter from


Faith Mission
OF ELKHART, INC.
Michiana helping her own

HOLIDAY 2017

Don't miss...

2 A Message from
Ross Swihart

3 "Faith Mission will
help you..."

4 The perfect gift? Look
no further!



A weary heart **REJOICES.**

Richard was exhausted from his
struggles and searching for
a way forward.

Today, Richard feels the thrill of hope in
his life – because of YOU!

READ HIS STORY ON PAGE 3.

“Faith Mission will help you if you really want it.”

Richard didn't realize how much he'd changed at Faith Mission until the day he bumped into a man coming out of a local tavern.

Looking at the man, Richard saw what he looked like just a year earlier: Hurting. Full of pain. Numb by alcohol. Searching for hope.

“We talked for a while,” he says. “Days later, that man thanked me for helping him. **I felt really good because I've been there... and I'm not there anymore.**”

In fact, before Faith Mission, Richard's life was a series of mornings where he couldn't remember anything about the night before.

As a child of divorce, and with a stepmother who wasn't good to him, Richard started drinking at age 12 to drown the pain of his family life. And from there, it progressed until he could no longer function without help.

He came to Faith Mission... weary from his burdens.

Everything changed when he sat down to a hot meal. “I was shocked by the first meal I ate here... **I hadn't had a good meal like that in a long time.**”

Richard joined our Training Faithful Men Program, where he has learned how to stay sober while strengthening his relationship with the Lord.

“I'm not the one that changed my life. It's been changed by the love of Jesus Christ.”

“**FAITH MISSION REACHES OUT TO PEOPLE ON OUR STREETS WHO NEED A CHANCE TO CHANGE.**”

Today, Richard's heart is renewed by hope. **“The Mission has opened a whole new door in my life.** I see now I can accomplish anything. I spent my whole life thinking I couldn't.”

As Richard works to get his life back on track, he's also excited to volunteer. **“The Elkhart community has given me so much...** I'm excited to give back what I can.”

When he sees his life today and compares it to just a year ago, **Richard is thrilled by his transformation thanks to God's love in his life – and your support.** “Faith Mission gave me all the support I needed... and they'll help you if you really want to help yourself.”



SHARE
The Thrill OF **HOPE**
THIS CHRISTMAS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!



19,220
MEALS



460
ARTICLES OF WARM CLOTHING



Bring **HOPE** to weary hearts

Caroling angels. Christmas pageants. Celebrations around the world. Christmas is truly a thrilling time of year.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

I think the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" puts it best: **A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices / For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

But that's exactly what makes Christmas **a very difficult time** for the men, women and children who make their home with us here at the Mission.

While it feels like the world is rejoicing around them, most of our guests would tell you they have very little to celebrate. Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Their hearts are weary from their struggles with homelessness or other desperate situations.

It's your gifts that **make Christmas the very best day possible for them** – and provide them with the thrill of new hope!

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas... a reminder for them – and for all of us – that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

As you keep Michiana's hurting and homeless in your prayers, I pray you'll share the joy of the season through a gift that transforms lives forever... filling people with joy and new hope.

This then is my Christmas wish for all who join us here at the Mission during the holidays, and for you and those who are near and dear: **Let weary hearts experience the thrill of hope!**

Ross Swihart
Executive Director



19,220

MEALS BY DEC. 25

OUR GOAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Each meal you provide today is so much more than a plate of food. It's a chance to end someone's hunger or homelessness – and offer them the gift of a thrilling new life this Christmas.

GIVE NOW

using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

GIVE ONLINE

anytime at **theFaithMission.org**.

Thank you
for sharing your blessings & bounty!

9th ANNUAL Turkey Stampede

1 WEEK LEFT TO REGISTER

Move your feet so others can eat!

There's still time to register! Make sure you're at the starting line (at the Concord Mall) on Thanksgiving morning at 8:30 a.m. with your family, friends and neighbors to walk, run and stampede through the streets of Elkhart County.

Register now or find out more:

theFaithMission.org/turkey-stampede



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

If you're not a runner or walker, get in touch with our volunteer team!

☎ (574) 293-0358, ext. 119

✉ brian@thefaithmission.org

The perfect gift? Look no further!

Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog – it's full of ways to save and change even more lives! Shop our Gift Catalog online at theFaithMission.org/GiftCatalog. Or simply add your special Christmas gift to the enclosed reply card.

\$35

Your gift helps keep our Thrift Store running, providing warm clothes – especially undershirts & socks – that help restore dignity and self-confidence in people's lives.



WARM CLOTHING

\$55

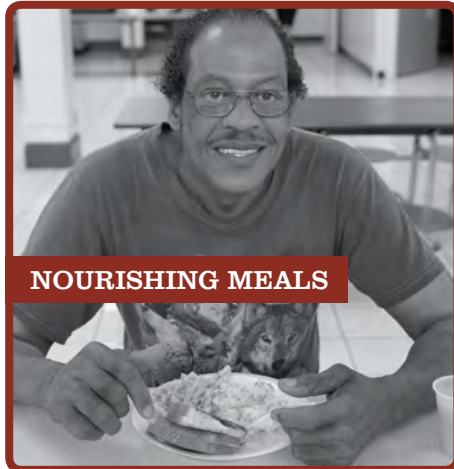
Give even more with our Holiday Hero Pack! It includes 10+ hot meals, 2+ nights of shelter & access to clothing, medical care & recovery programs!



HOLIDAY HERO PACK

\$25

A hot meal at the Mission may be people's only meal of the day.



NOURISHING MEALS

SAFE SHELTER

\$50

It's so much more than a bed! During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite & worse when temperatures drop.



These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of people served by Faith Mission. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.

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