



# RESCUE PORTLAND

*Hope for the  
Holidays*

Portland Rescue Mission

HOLIDAY 2017

# NEIVA'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Growing up in the infamously dangerous city of Compton, California, Neiva was tough. She learned how to hold her ground in a neighborhood overrun with gangs.

"I was a fighter. Wherever I lived, it was always street fights," Neiva recalls. "Whatever happened at home, I used to bring it out in the streets and just let it out. I had pent up anger because I didn't have the attention and love at home. I was really not part of my family."

Neiva settled for a sense of love wherever she could find it. By the time she was an adult, she had four kids. But she was rarely in any condition to be the mother she wanted to be. Neiva ended up homeless, scared and alone.

But last Christmas was different for Neiva.

In our recovery program for women and children at Shepherd's Door, Neiva and her children were surrounded by a sense of home and family.

**"BEING AT SHEPHERD'S DOOR WAS LIKE MAKING UP FOR ALL THE CHRISTMASSES I DIDN'T HAVE."**

And that was just the start.

"This program has given me hope for the future and for a different life."

"It has helped me grow as a person with life skills, parenting, how to manage my anger."

The key to releasing her anger surprised Neiva. Rather than fight for survival, she had to learn to let go.

"The biggest change is surrender to God, to accept people for who they are, and to forgive myself for everything I have done," she says.

Before Shepherd's Door, Neiva and her kids didn't celebrate Christmas. This Christmas, they have the greatest gift Neiva can imagine.

**"MY KIDS HAVE A LIFE. THEY HAVE A MOM, AND I CAN SEE THAT THEY'RE HAPPY. THANK YOU!"**



This Christmas, help more women like Neiva find the safety, acceptance and healing they long for with your gift today. See Neiva's video at:

[PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG/NEIVA](http://PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG/NEIVA)



# What You Really Give

YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES LIKE BRIAN'S!

## When you give food

"The first meal I had here at the Mission, it was very cold outside. To come into a warm building, have a hot cup of coffee was very soothing, very comforting. I was able to get off my feet and be in community with people who were going through the same troubles. It helped me feel like I wasn't alone."

## When you give peace

"Being on the street is very traumatic. I experienced a lot of fear, a lot of grief. This feeling of being on edge all the time. I was able to come here, have some peace of mind and some comfort. I realized there was a brighter future ahead for me."

## When you give shelter

"I had gone a week without sleeping in a bed. So to come here and sleep that first night was such a blessing. I was able to recharge and feel healthy the next day."

## When you give hope

"I was without hope. I was in despair. I was sad. I was angry. Today, I'm loving towards myself and loving towards others. It's been beautiful."

## Your gifts are connections where life-changing relationships start.

"I was very lonely. I really didn't have any true companionship or true friendship. My time here has brought a change of heart, an opportunity to receive love and to give love. I was able to embrace and accept that I am loved, that I am forgiven and that I'm offered a new life with God."

Thank you for giving so much more!

# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS Giving Guide

12  
CHRISTMAS  
MEALS

\$19.20

11  
HOT SHOWERS  
and restroom access

\$22

10  
FRESH  
TOWELS

\$30

9  
TOILETRY  
KITS

\$45

8 PACKS OF  
UNDERWEAR  
7 pair per pack

\$72

7 PACKS  
OF SOCKS  
12 pair per pack

\$84

6  
PAIRS OF JEANS

\$90

5 BLANKET  
BUNDLES  
2 blankets per bundle

\$150

4 WINTER  
COATS

\$180

3 WEEKS  
OF SHELTER

\$210

2 FAMILIES  
RECEIVE CHRISTMAS  
PRESENTS

\$240

1 LIFE  
RESTORED

PRICELESS

PLEASE SEE THE CUT-OUT REPLY DEVICE IN THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER TO GIVE A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO A HURTING PERSON, OR VISIT:

[www.PortlandrescueMission.org/ChristmasGifts](http://www.PortlandrescueMission.org/ChristmasGifts)

# 3 Lives You've Changed

GRADUATES SHARE ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS



L.J.

“My worst Christmas was a couple years ago, not being able to see my son on Christmas, not getting to share that with him.

*THIS YEAR, I'M THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET MY LIFE BACK TOGETHER. I HOPE TO SEE MY SON ON CHRISTMAS AND GIVE HIM A LOT MORE THAN BEFORE.”*



Royal

“I've spent many holidays homeless. Last Christmas, though, I was at the Mission and it was probably the best Christmas I ever had. The first sober Christmas I ever had. We spent the day cooking dinner just like a regular family.

*NOW I WANT TO GIVE BACK WHAT WAS GIVEN TO ME. PEOPLE WERE THERE FOR ME AT CHRISTMAS AND THANKSGIVING, SO I WOULD LIKE TO BE HERE FOR OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED, JUST TO BE THEIR FRIEND.”*



Timothy

“A couple Christmases ago, I was homeless. My mom had to ask me to leave the house because I was drinking at the time. At the Mission, Christmas was actually fun for the first time. It was genuine. It wasn't about the gifts. It was about being around everybody.

*NOW I HAVE PEOPLE AROUND ME THAT I TRUST, THAT I CAN BE VULNERABLE TO, ALLOWING THEM TO SPEAK INTO MY LIFE. I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT IS REAL.”*

# THANK YOU, COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



## BARCLAY EVENT RENTALS

donated over \$1,000 in rental supplies for our Raise the Roof Soiree



## DAVE'S KILLER BREAD

donates thousands of loaves of bread each month to feed those we serve



awarded Portland Rescue Mission the community grant for our Raise the Roof Soiree



collected hundreds of pairs of shoes for our guests and put on an event to supply them to our friends in need

## WAYS TO GIVE

### DONATE FUNDS

- Give monthly. Receive less mail.
- Cater an event with Mission BBQ
- Leave a lasting legacy through your will, annuity or trust

### DONATE GOODS

- Receive a maximum tax deduction by donating your car
- Drop off blankets, socks or jeans

### DONATE TIME

- Volunteer to serve a meal, teach a class or work with kids
- Spread the word by joining us on social media: [PortlandRescueMission.org/Join](http://PortlandRescueMission.org/Join)

### Donate via credit card:

Circle One:  VISA  M/C  DISC  AMEX Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donate securely online: [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL)

### Keep me updated with news and stories through email:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tell me more about:

- Monthly giving through checks, auto-pay, or electronic transfer
- Donating my car
- Planning my estate, annuity, or trust
- Volunteering at the Mission (Please complete contact information at left)

Donations to the Mission are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Any gifts received above our current need will be used to help care for hurting people throughout the year.



# Christmas Gifts That Change Lives

My parents were always generous with my siblings and me at Christmas. But my most vivid memories of Christmas don't revolve around presents. Instead, I treasure the special times of reunion with family and friends.

Like when as a young boy we traveled halfway across the country with a Christmas tree to spend Christmas with my grandparents.

Or the Christmas my brother Ernst and I pulled away from hectic careers to reconnect while cross-country skiing and camping.

It's the joy of loving relationships that I most warmly recall. This Christmas, you can give that same sense of connection and friendship to people who feel lost and lonely.

*When you give this Christmas season you help renew hope.*

You provide compassionate services that stir hope and change lives.

Hot meals, blankets, clothing, safe shelter, showers and restrooms mean so much to people beaten down with exhaustion, sickness and despair.

*You bring joy that has not been felt in a long time.*

Most of the people in our programs haven't enjoyed a holiday for quite some time. But as they share Christmas morning together at the Mission, celebrating the birth of our Savior, they make new memories surrounded by people who care and receive meaningful gifts you make possible.

*You give the gift we all really long for – to be loved.*

Because you care, countless men, women and children experience God's love through every interaction at the Mission. Meeting immediate needs opens the door. And then ongoing supportive relationships help transform their lives.

This Christmas, thank you for giving what can't be gift-wrapped — relationships filled with hope, joy and love!

Rejoicing with you,

Eric Bauer  
Executive Director

*For 12 great ways to give a hope-filled Christmas, see our "Christmas Gift Guide" inside!*



**SELECT ANY OF THE GIFT ITEMS BELOW, OR WRITE YOUR OWN GIFT AMOUNT ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM.**

- \$19.20** equals 12 Christmas Meals
- \$22** equals 11 Hot Showers
- \$30** equals 10 Fresh Towels
- \$45** equals 9 Toiletry Kits
- \$72** equals 8 Packs of Underwear
- \$84** equals 7 Packs of Socks
- \$90** equals 6 Pairs of Jeans
- \$150** equals 5 Blanket Bundles
- \$180** equals 4 Winter Coats
- \$210** equals 3 Weeks of Shelter
- \$240** equals 2 Families to Receive Christmas Presents
- Priceless** 1 Life Restored \$\_\_\_\_\_



**Portland  
Rescue Mission**  
Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

P.O. Box 3713  
Portland, OR 97208-3713  
503.MISSION (647.7466)

To donate online, visit  
[PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL](http://PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL)

Enclose your check or complete your credit card information on back.

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**