

SEARCHLIGHT

Serving the needs of the homeless in the community since 1971

The Weight of Change by Daniel

During the holidays, most people look forward to all kinds of treats — turkey dinners with all the trimmings, pumpkin pies, Christmas cookies. But I can't.

A lot of people turn to drugs, alcohol, or gambling to escape the pain in their lives. I turn to food. Food is my go-to drug. When I was 3, I was severely mauled by a dog. My parents comforted me with food. Whatever I wanted, they gave it to me. By the age of 5, I'd learned that whatever my emotional problem, I could eat it away. So at the age of 12, I weighed almost 500 pounds, and I suffered a stroke, heart failure, and severe sleep apnea. But it was too late. Nothing could stop me from eating.

And I was miserably lonely. As I grew older, I sat on my bed every day, watched television, chatted with internet friends, and ate pizza. But in October 2013, someone in Las Vegas invited me to move in. I decided to take a chance. When I got there, however, it didn't work out and I ended up homeless on the streets — until a police officer told me about the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

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My first day here, a complete stranger said, “You don't know me, but you need to know that I love you, because God loves you.” I was hooked. Maybe this was what I needed to change. I joined the program, and I told them, whatever it takes, I have to get free of this addiction.

They put me on a strict diet and got me a membership to a gym. I got into OA — Overeaters Anonymous. But more important, they introduced me to Jesus and got me into the Word of God. I've been in recovery for a year now, and I've dropped from 466 pounds to 400 pounds, so I still have a long way to go. I'll have to battle this the rest of my life. But I'm going to make it.

Thank you for giving me this chance to really grow and change my life.

Thank you for giving me this chance to grow and change.



Visit Us Online!

www.vegasrescue.org

Our website shows how we're helping the needy every day.

Visit us online at

www.vegasrescue.org

to make a donation and learn more about our programs, fundraisers, needs, events and how you can help.



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A Message from My Heart . . .

Dear Friend of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission,

With Christmas coming soon, and all its materialistic excess, I'm so grateful for the privilege of working with the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and with homeless men, women, and children. Here I'm reminded that Christmas isn't about buying things, it's about ministry and serving. It's about Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost. It's about what Jesus said in Matthew 25, "What you do for the least of these, you do for me."

That's why the Las Vegas Rescue Mission exists — to share the Good News with the lost, to provide food and shelter to those in need, and to transform broken lives in the name of Jesus. But none of this is really *our* ministry. It's yours. It's your compassion and generosity that make it all possible — right now, during the holidays, and all year-round, 24/7.

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity

In the same way that Jesus was born into the world, offering hope to a lost humanity, that's what you offer homeless men, women, and children through your support of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. Whether it's through a meal you provide, a night of shelter, or spiritual nourishment — your gifts offer hope to people who have lost hope that their lives will ever change.

This holiday season, on behalf of myself and the entire staff of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, I want to thank you for your overwhelming generosity toward vulnerable people. We consider your gifts a sacred trust, a holy obligation to use your resources in the best ways possible to serve compassionately those who are in need.

On that first Christmas, hope was born in the world. And it continues today — because of people like you. Merry Christmas!

Your servant to the homeless,

Harry E. Hinderliter, III, President



"Your gifts, no matter how small, are the glue that holds this family together."

MORE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Each day we provide more than just food and shelter. Basic, everyday items are always needed. Collect and donate these items that are urgently (and constantly) needed at the Mission:

- Shampoo
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Toothpaste
- Socks
- Men's and women's underwear



Please Remember Homeless

With the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas just weeks away, please remember all those in need here in Las Vegas — especially those who are homeless, hungry, sick, and lonely. For them, the holidays can be the most painful time of the year.

Your gift today will bring gratitude and Christmas joy to so many hurting men, women, and children who will come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission seeking hope and another chance at life. As a faithful friend of this ministry, you already know how much your support really means to these precious souls.

Searching for Everlasting Joy

“**E**ven though I always believed in God, I feel like I’ve hurt all my life,” says Roshawnia, a 30-year-old guest at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. “There was always something empty inside me that I needed to fill with something.”

Roshawnia’s mother was a drug addict and she never knew her father. When she was 5, she was taken from her mother and placed in foster care. But when Roshawnia got pregnant at age 15, she was on her own.

“I’m learning how to deal with life on life’s terms and how to rely on God”

She dropped out of school and moved in with her boyfriend and his aunt. She struggled. But even after having another child at 18, she managed to keep her head above water — until someone introduced her to PCP. “I liked the high,” she recalls. “It made me feel like I was on top of the world. So I started using it more. After that, I lost jobs, lost places to live, lost my boyfriend. My life just went down the drain.”

By 2014, she had five children and had lost all of them to Child Protective Services because of drugs. “I couldn’t stop using,” she explains. “I didn’t know how to stop. But I finally got tired of doing the same thing over and over. I’d lost so much, and enough was enough. I needed to get my life in order. Not just for me, but for my kids. So I came to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.”

Roshawnia has been sober for three months now. She’s tempted to leave, but she knows God wants her to stay. She still has so much to learn.

“I’ve been running away from my problems all my life. Now I’m learning to deal with who I truly am. I’m

learning how to open up and share all the hurt I feel. And I’m learning how to deal with life on life’s terms and how to rely on God,” she says.

“The people here keep telling me that God has so much for me. And I want that everlasting joy. Right now, I’m so thankful for all the people here who love and care about me.”

Thank you for caring about me and my kids!



and Hungry People This Holiday Season

Thank you for being a special friend to those in need

Thanks to you, hungry and homeless guests at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission enjoy nutritious meals, safe shelter, counseling, spiritual nurture, love, and other tangible care that provides them with the real help they need to turn their lives around today

In the spirit of this holy season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering and pain of those who come through our doors. For your convenience, please use the remit slip in this newsletter to give your donation. You may also donate on our secure website at www.vegasrescue.org. To arrange for a visit to the Mission, please call us today at **(702) 382-1766**.

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WILL BRING
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CHILDREN.”

Did you know...?



EVERY NIGHT, OUR EMERGENCY SHELTERS and our recovery program dorms are filled. This means over 300 men, women and children are safely in a bed instead of sleeping on the streets.

LVRM WILL PICK UP YOUR DONATIONS OF furniture, clothing, electronics, household items and anything else you may have that can be given a second life helping someone else. Call 702-932-8170 or make your request online at **vegasrescue.org** to schedule a donation pickup at your home, business or church any Monday through Saturday.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

Every single day, volunteers make an impact at the Mission. Without the thousands of volunteers throughout the year it would not be possible to serve so many in need in our Valley.

Thank you to the countless individuals, families, churches, civic groups, student groups, and businesses that give of their valuable time to make an immeasurable difference in the lives of those in need.



My Christmas Gift

YES, Harry, I want to help men, women, and families who need our help this Christmas. Here's my Christmas gift of:

- \$20.50 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card:
 - VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER



ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Las Vegas Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 270400
Las Vegas, NV 89127-4400

► Please mail this completed form with your Christmas donation, or you may give your gift online at www.vegasrescue.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.