

# SEARCHLIGHT

*Serving the needs of the homeless in the community since 1971*



### Visit Us Online!

[www.vegasrescue.org](http://www.vegasrescue.org)

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

Visit us online at

[www.vegasrescue.org](http://www.vegasrescue.org) to make a donation and learn more about our programs, fundraisers, needs, events and how you can help.



480 West Bonanza Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227  
[www.vegasrescue.org](http://www.vegasrescue.org)  
(702) 382-1766

## Breaking the Family Curse

I was born a heroin addict. That was my mom's drug of choice. I was one of the lucky kids. Two of my siblings died before they were born, after my mom overdosed. But even though I survived, drugs followed me the rest of my life.

I remember my dad's crack pipe. I remember helping him flush drugs down the toilet. I remember drug parties and overdoses.

It really messed me up as a kid — the hurt, the feelings of abandonment, isolation, rage. It seemed like they traded me for their high.

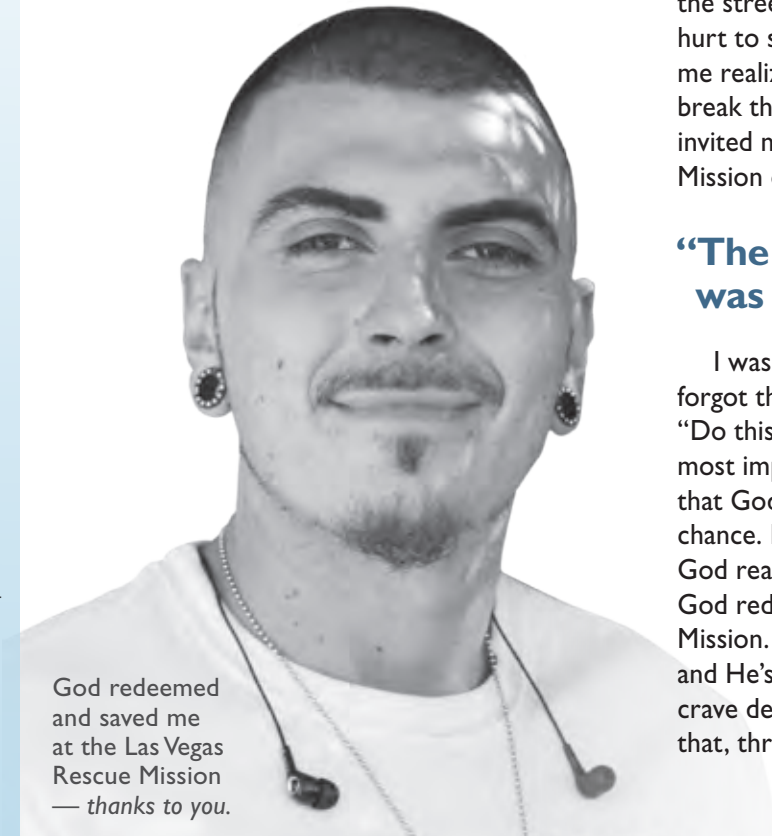
But as I got older, I thought, *why shouldn't I join them?*

I inhaled Freon oxide — the stuff in air conditioners — for the first time when I was seven. I knew it could kill me. But for the next 12 years, that was it for me — even after it killed my best friend when we were 13. The gas froze his heart. But I just got wilder and crazier. Even after I overdosed once and briefly died in the hospital, nothing could stop me.

Not until I watched helplessly as my parents slowly went crazy and ended up homeless on the streets. Despite everything, I loved them. It hurt to see them like that. But one day it made me realize I was going to have to be the one to break this family curse. So when someone invited me to come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission on Christmas Day, 2014, I came.

### “The person I really hated was myself.”

I was the youngest guy here. But I never forgot the last words my brother said to me: “Do this for yourself. For Mom and Dad. And most important, for God.” I had always known that God existed, but I never gave Him a chance. Now I did. This place showed me who God really is and how He could change my life. God redeemed and saved me, thanks to this Mission. He's healing the wounds of my past and He's showing me a better future. I don't crave death anymore — I crave life. And I know that, through God, I can conquer all things.



God redeemed and saved me at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission — *thanks to you.*

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## LAS VEGAS RESCUE MISSION SERVES,

on average, approximately 30,000 meals each month to men, women, and families in need. Each day we also provide emergency shelter, basic needs and many other services to the homeless, hungry, and hurting.

## LAS VEGAS RESCUE MISSION SAYS

thank you for the countless hours of volunteering, special fundraisers, bottled water drives, food drives and so much more. Every service provided by the Mission, 365 days a year, is only possible by the generosity of friends like you and the Las Vegas community.



# A Message from My Heart . . .

Harry Hinderliter, President/CEO



Dear Friend of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission,

I hope Willie's and Arthur's stories encourage you. They're each experiencing new hope and transformed lives because of your support. And they're not alone! Just this past April, more than 15 men and women, just like Willie and Arthur, graduated from our long-term recovery program and are experiencing new life through the power of Jesus Christ — all because of you!

But with summer almost here, we know many new challenges are coming. Summer and the extreme heat in Las Vegas make it an extremely dangerous season for our homeless neighbors. They need water, shelter, and air conditioning. In addition, children in poor families in our community are out of school, creating more financial stress at home. Many of these families come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission seeking canned food, a nutritious meal, or even water.

*"I am so humbled and grateful for everything you do on behalf of our struggling neighbors!"*

### This Summer Will Be Challenging — Please Remember Us!

Thankfully, every summer, because of the generous and faithful support of people like you, the Las Vegas Rescue Mission has been able to meet these challenges. We've never had to cut back our services, even in the most challenging times. I am so humbled and grateful for everything you do on behalf of our struggling neighbors!

But this summer, the needs are even greater, as many other agencies are struggling with their own funding and are forced to cut back services. As those services are cut, people need our help even more, as many of them seek the help they need here! And that will stretch our resources even more. We absolutely must step up to meet the increasing needs these precious people face this summer!

So please continue to remember us this summer through your prayers and generous support. Thank you!

Your servant to the homeless,

Harry Hinderliter, President/CEO

## People struggling with hunger & h

The Apostle Paul wrote, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

As someone who supports the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, you understand that blessing. You truly care for those who are "weak" among us — those who are hurting, addicted, homeless, abandoned, lonely, and devastated by poverty. Your gifts mean hungry people are fed, homeless men and women are sheltered, and those who are friendless find love.

None of this is possible without you!

# Anointed and Confused

**W**illie's early life was confusing. He calls his mother a "dove," though she beat him with electrical cords until he thought he would die. He was a good student, until teachers punished him for talking "ghetto" instead of proper English. He wanted to be a police officer, until he says police tried to arrest and beat him for no reason.

And he recalls the day when the church he grew up in set him aside as an "anointed vessel," though he wanted no part of it. "It scared me," the 58-year-old says. "They set me apart, and everyone shied away from me after that. It hurt."

In high school, to escape the confusion, Willie turned to alcohol, PCP, cocaine, and other destructive drugs.

He spent the rest of his life in and out of prison. Every time he left prison and tried to go straight, it seemed like he lost someone close to him — a brother, a sister, his mother. "It

**"I know I'm only just beginning to build the foundation, and I'm not finished."**

seemed like destruction followed me everywhere," he says. And after every loss, he returned to drugs and the lifestyle that consumed him.

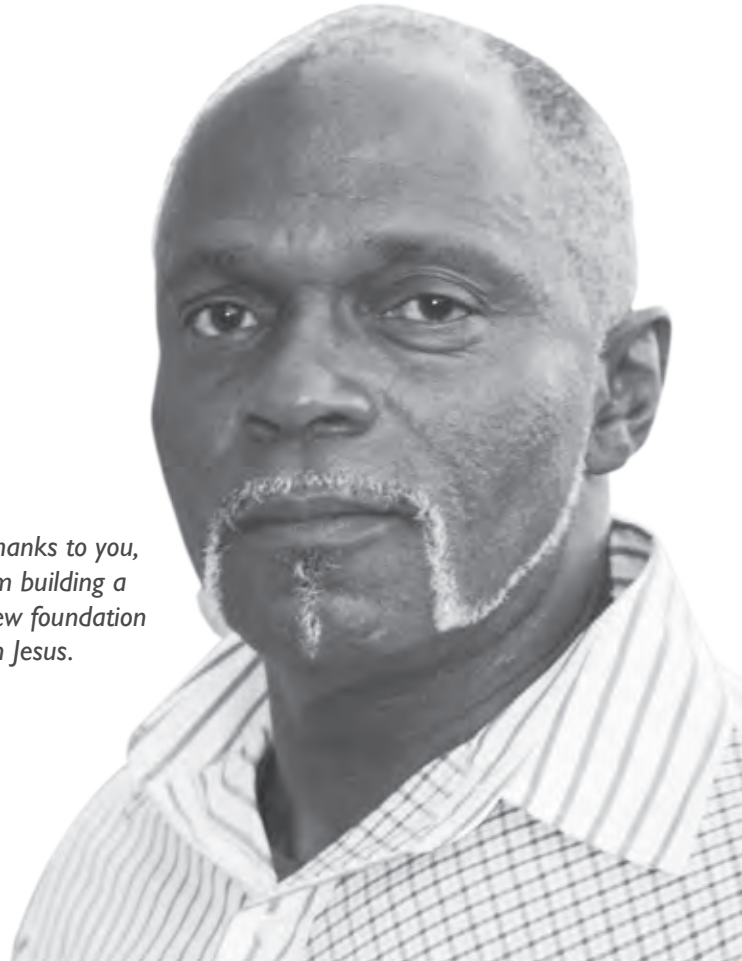
"I was my own worst enemy," he says. Until one day last year, he came out of a drug haze and had a moment of clarity. "I looked back and realized I had tried everything — drugs, alcohol, women. But I was miserable, and morally and spiritually bankrupt."

He says that's when the Lord led him to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. "I stuck to the program from day one.

Everything they asked me to do, that Scripture asked me to do, I did. Now, every day, I give my will to God and ask Him to get me through another day," he explains.

"I never knew so many people cared," he says of the staff and the donors who support the Mission. "They've shown me what Jesus meant when He said to love your neighbor as yourself. That's what ministry is all about. When I was a kid, the church said I was 'anointed.' Maybe this is my time. This is my season."

*Thanks to you,  
I'm building a  
new foundation  
on Jesus.*



**Homelessness need you this summer!**

## Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People

I hope Arthur's and Willie's stories in this newsletter inspired you. They are just two of the lives you have helped transform through your gifts and prayers. But every day, more struggling people like them walk through our doors seeking a helping hand and a second chance — and they need people like you to give them hope for new life today and for eternity in Jesus Christ.

For your convenience, we urge you to use the remit slip in this newsletter to give your gift. You may also give your summertime donation on our secure website at [www.vegasrescue.org](http://www.vegasrescue.org). To arrange for a visit to the Mission, please call us today at **(702) 382-1766**.

Your gifts mean  
hungry people are fed,  
homeless men & women  
are sheltered, & those  
who are friendless

**FIND LOVE.**

# DID YOU KNOW ...



## 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 the number on the truck below or make your request online at [www.vegasrescue.org](http://www.vegasrescue.org) to schedule a donation pickup at your home, business, or church any Monday through Saturday.



*One day in my addiction  
I looked in my mirror  
and a stranger was looking  
back at me*

*One day in my addiction  
I looked in my mirror fearfully  
and a monster was  
looking back at me*

*One day in my addiction  
I looked in my mirror ashamed  
at what I knew  
I would see*

*But today in my recovery  
I looked in the mirror and  
the person I saw smiled at me*

Poem by Mr. M. Steward,  
current resident in  
LVRM's recovery program.



## My Summer Gift

**YES,** Harry, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people.  
Here's my summer 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 summer donation, or you may give your gift online at [www.vegasrescue.org](http://www.vegasrescue.org). Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.