

Brian Was Adrift for Twelve Lonely Years

YOU HELPED STEER HIM TOWARD A SAFE HARBOR

When Brian's mother passed away in 2013, his world shattered and his life fell apart. For the next 12 years, he drifted between various shelters, temporary living arrangements and the streets of Columbus. Sleeping on a park bench, Brian tells us, is his most painful memory of that time.

"It's no good," Brian says. "You can't sleep. You sit up all night. It's nerve-racking." Daytime was no better, as he was virtually invisible to passers-by. "They just walk right past you," he recalls.

At rock bottom, Brian came to LSS Faith Mission. He finally felt that he mattered, that his life had value.

Brian arrived here last summer, resolving that he would never be forced to sleep outdoors again. After so many years of homelessness, he received

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“ This is the best place to get the help you need. ”

Brian
LSS Faith Mission Client

A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL LUSTIG, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Easter is a holiday of hope, a time to celebrate new life. This year, it's also time to celebrate 60 years of service at LSS Faith Mission. From the start, Faith Mission has been committed to uplifting our vulnerable neighbors with love and compassion. Today, we continue to serve hurting men and women in Columbus, giving them hope and dignity and supporting them as they strive to better their lives.

What has kept Faith Mission going strong for 60 years?

First, people. Faith Mission began with a group of Lutheran pastors and community leaders. They were joined by staff and volunteers dedicated to serving those in need. And they were supported financially by friends like you who care about our homeless and hungry neighbors.

Second, hope. Every person who comes to Faith Mission has the potential for lasting life change. Thanks to you, more than a thousand people find hope for a renewed life with permanent housing every year.

May this Easter season bring you hope and joy!



Rachel Lustig
LSS President
and CEO



Give Hope and Help This Easter Season

More and more of our neighbors in Columbus and throughout Central Ohio are experiencing hunger, hardship and homelessness. However, for all who struggle, you offer hope and help at LSS Faith Mission, LSS CHOICES and LSS Food Pantries.

Please send your most generous donation today to help people in desperate need find a fresh start this Easter season. Thank you!



“ All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along. ”

– Galatians 2:10



NEEDED: CLOTHES AND SELF-CARE ITEMS FOR LSS FAITH MISSION

- Men's new flip flops
- Men's new athletic shorts (all sizes)
- Men's deodorant
- Men's new underwear
- Full-sized toothpaste

Donations can be dropped off at 217 N. Grant Ave. at the McKee Alley door (south side of building) Fridays from 11 - 3 or by appointment.



Questions? Please visit our website at lssnetworkofhope.org/ways-to-give/give-items/



After 12 Years, Brian Finds Rest and Respect at LSS Faith Mission

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compassionate care that prepared him for independent, stable living. Even something as basic as getting a phone and setting up his email and passwords has been a milestone for Brian. *"They really do help you. They sit there and talk to you. If you have any type of situation, you can talk to your case manager about it,"* Brian says.

Because Brian has disabilities that prevent him from working, he is getting assistance applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Case managers are also helping him find affordable housing. He looks forward to having his own place and being able to spend more time with his children and grandchildren. *"It's a waiting game,"* he says. *"You've got to have patience."*

In the meantime, Brian feels fortunate to be in a safe place. He is deeply grateful for the support provided by generous friends like you. Brian has been in several shelters and says, *"Faith Mission is clean. The sleeping situation and the showers are better. Three times a day you get hot meals."* Most importantly, he says, *"They treat you with respect."*

Thanks to you, for the first time in over ten years, Brian can see a brighter future ahead.

"I don't want to go through (being homeless) ever again," he tells us. *"It feels good to have another chance to make things better. I won't make the same mistakes. I've just got to find new things to do, new places, new people to be around."*

Brian continues, "If someone needs a place to go, this is the best place to get the help you need. They help you stand up on your own two feet."

LSS Faith Mission: 60 Years of Care

Since a group of Lutheran pastors and community leaders opened Faith Mission on February 6, 1966, men and women in need have found safe refuge and new hope within our welcoming walls. From the beginning, Faith Mission has been a beautiful expression of practical, tangible love and support between good neighbors like you and individuals earnestly working to rebuild their lives.

While the challenges of homelessness have grown in complexity over the decades, one thing has remained constant: Here, people who've lost everything will always be welcomed with kindness, respect and the resources needed to get back on their feet.

Your generosity plays a vital role in this effort. Together, we're creating a better, more compassionate Central Ohio. One where real, lasting change is possible, even for those who feel hopeless. Thank you for your faithful friendship. Side by side, we'll continue caring for our vulnerable neighbors for another 60 years and beyond.



You're Helping to Keep Jen's Family Fed

These days, you never know who might be going hungry. It could be the clerk at your grocery store, the person behind your doctor's registration desk or someone working at your child's school. Most neighbors who come to LSS Food Pantries have full-time jobs; they just don't pay quite enough to cover the rising costs of living.

Jen knows what that feels like. As a receptionist, she is the primary wage earner in her family, supporting her grown daughter and grandson. She struggles to make ends meet, now made more challenging by her grandson's growing appetite! Jen has been coming to the LSS Food Pantry near her home for two years.

"Everything is expensive. Sometimes the grocery bill is a little more than what I can handle, so I try to get some help," Jen tells us. "I have a budget and I can't go to the grocery store on this week's paycheck. Everything I got today is what we're eating this week, along with a few canned things at home."

Jen appreciates the variety and quality of the items offered at the pantry, including meat, bread and produce. *"A lot of pantries give you things you can't use. Here, you can choose. I'll be able to use*



everything." She also likes the convenience of ordering online and making an appointment to pick up her food. *"When you check in, they pack your box for you and meet you at the end," she says.*

Jen looks forward to a time when she won't need help. But for now, she says, *"I'm blessed and thankful for what I've got. There are ways that God provides."*

Thank you for ensuring your neighbors facing hunger have good, nutritious meals to enjoy!

Become a Faithful Friend Today!

As a Faithful Friend, your monthly gifts will provide a steady stream of life-changing resources to neighbors in need in our community. That includes meals, emergency shelter, groceries, domestic violence services, health services, support for veterans and everything else a person may need to get back


on their feet. When you join this special group of monthly donors, you'll make a lasting impact on thousands of lives.


To sign up, visit lssnetworkofhope.org/give-monthly or scan the QR code.



Your gift offers healing and hope to people in need across Lutheran Social Services. That includes:

 Meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors at LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties.

 Nutritious food for families struggling with hunger at the LSS Food Pantries.

 Safe refuge and healing for domestic violence victims and their children at LSS CHOICES.

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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



STAY CONNECTED

