

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

DECEMBER 2021

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Weary World Rejoices

As Christmas approaches, Ariel and her children are safe within the campus of Samaritan Inn. She is weary from the recent separation from her husband, then a virus related job loss. Family and income are in jeopardy. Responsibility weighs heavy. Her seven and nine-year-old children wonder what Christmas will be like this year away from home. As the decorations go up and carols are sung, the anticipation grows. "A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices," is a line from "O Holy Night."

"A Savior has been born to you" Luke 2:11

Therein lies our hope, even the reason Samaritan Inn exists. We have a Savior that has brought peace on earth between God and mankind, and between each other. We rejoice in the Lord's love and provision for us.

We are accepted, not abandoned.

Gifts were brought for the Christ Child, that He would be provided for, until Joseph, Mary, and Jesus could safely live in Palestine. Please help those in need here, until they can safely return to our community. Lynn Antis, Executive Director

Merry Christmas

Year-End Rescue

As 2021 draws to a close, we reflect on the rescue of so many homeless men, women, and children. It has been a year of healing, restoring, saving those lost in a very confusing and changing world. The virus has increased fear and challenged faith. As the pandemic drags on, the effect is known among the homeless and our operation. Employment, housing, and social services have been complicated. Recruiting staff has been difficult. This year's major project has been constructing new dining room restrooms to our downtown facility. As we opened up walls and ceilings in the old building, it became obvious that complete demolition of the existing restrooms and adjacent portions of the building were necessary. Remodeling work extended to the adjoining hallway, pantry, dishwashing room, covering over the walk-in freezer and cooler, siding, roofing, and fire escape stairs. Doing this project during the extended pandemic, increased the cost of labor and materials, and caused many delays in delivery and work. By the time this newsletter is received, this project is expected to be complete.

Happy New Year

Please consider a tax deductible, year-end rescue gift to sustain this lifesaving ministry. We do not receive government funding, so private donations support evangelistic outreach. Contributions received during this Christmas and year-end season greatly affect next year. remains to be done in directly impacting lives and making facility improvements. You make a great difference in caring for the hungry, homeless, single mothers, fatherless. Together, we are light in a dark world and faithful rescuers.



A Safety Net

Maria has been a single mother of two daughters even before the youngest one was born. In an attempt to make up for the loss of their father and be the family provider, she overspent on credit cards. It worked for instant gratification, but in time, it caught up with them and caused their housing problem. Maria and the younger of her now teenagers went to Samaritan Inn while the older one went to a relative's home.

Maria graduated from high school, then from a trade school. She received a Medical Assistant Certificate and worked in that field. She married young and regretfully. In describing the abuse in her marriage, she related it to her father's alcoholism. She said, "That's something I don't want to do, but maybe it affected me in the way I chose my partner with drugs. There was familiarity; it was dumb. He was abusive verbally, physically, mentally, controlling." Before her second daughter was born, he was in prison for life.

Her sense of responsibility and work ethic led her to college to better provide for her family of three. She found comfort and hope in school, overstaying long enough to receive three Associate Degrees. Then she took a job in customer service. After financially struggling for several years, she increased her income by changing to medical office work.

cause of financial trouble prevented affordable housing

Still, the credit card bills were adding up and became unpayable. She needed a lower rent apartment. Her low household income qualified for the subsidized HUD Section 8 program. However, her credit score was too low for landlords to approve her. The very bills that caused the financial trouble now prevented her from affordable housing. After wearing out the welcome at a friend's house, then paying too much for a motel, she settled into the safety net of our Samaritan Inn. Maria turned to "Rent Well," a program that is a 15-hour class over six weeks, "covering key information for being a responsible and stable tenant." She learned about budgeting, so the same spending mistakes are not repeated. Upon completion, she received a certificate that guarantees the landlord rent will be paid through a one year lease. Now, she is reapplying for a HUD housing voucher that had expired.

Samaritan Inn is their temporary family provider. Mother and child are safe and secure here, while they work through their financial troubles. Both are employed, working swing shifts at different companies. Their schedules are accommodated into our set routine for their benefit. The daughter's name and photo are withheld, honoring their desire for anonymity. Her high school grades have improved with the stability

they now have. Maria has been an avid churchgoer all of her life, and said that chapel times here reinforce her belief and are encouraging. They have been rescued from the paradox of bad credit keeping them from affordable housing into a safety net preventing them from being homeless.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director

Christmas Menu

Turkeys Hams
Stuffing Potatoes
Yams Rolls
Gravy Mix Cool Whip
Pies Fruit Cocktail
Cranberry Sauce
Mixed Vegetables

Homemade pies and cookies can not have milk products in them. Pumpkin pies, cream pies, cream cheese have to be made in a commercially licensed kitchen.

Christmas Gifts

New Hats New Socks New Gloves Deodorant **Body Wash** Shampoo-Small Disposable Razors Shaving Cream **Toothbrushes** Toothpaste-Small Hairbrushes Combs **Candy Canes Cough Drops** Hand Sanitizer Gel Shoe Gift Certificates-Kids Childrens Pajamas Paw Patrol – Frozen PJ Masks – Dinosaurs Peppa Pig – Cocomelon Fisher Price Little People **Art Supplies For Teenagers** Legos 8 Years & Up **Fruit Snack Packs**

Please Do Not Wrap Packages.

