

# HopeLine

Stories of rescue,  
recovery, and restoration  
– made possible by you



## “IF I CAN CHANGE, THERE’S HOPE FOR ANYONE”

**Joel had worked hard all his life.** But his rootless lifestyle, moving from one oil field to the next in search of a decent-paying job, got him in trouble. Away from his wife, family, and close friends for long stretches, he felt alone and without purpose.

Then Joel and his wife got divorced. He fought the heartache with the weapons he knew best: alcohol and denial.

“Somewhere in the back of my mind, I knew it wasn’t helping,” Joel says. “I can be stubborn. I wasn’t quite ready to surrender my troubles to God, but I knew enough to come to Montana Rescue Mission.”

Once here, Joel flourished almost immediately. He quit drinking. His no-nonsense attitude and sterling work ethic earned him the respect of his peers. Most importantly, he began building a

relationship with the Lord. Joel learned to forgive himself, and now he’s focused on the future!

These days Joel works at our Men’s Shelter where he takes pride in stocking the pantry shelves with donated goods. “I am hoping that I can work here full-time,” he says. “I’d like to show other guys that if I can change, there’s hope for anyone.”

### Joel’s Message to You

Joel asked to share this special note with you and other generous friends of the Mission: **“Please, keep doing what you are doing. You are helping tremendously and in so many ways. I just wish you could come here and see what your giving does for people. I’d be honored to show you.”**



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A Different  
Kind of Blue  
Christmas  
PG. 2



I Feel Blessed  
to Be Here  
PG. 3

## DONATIONS NEEDED!

To make a donation of goods, please call 406-259-3800. Thank you for your support.

### COMMUNITY DINING ROOM

MRM serves approximately 82,000 hot meals per year. We are currently in need of:

- Coffee
- Hamburger
- Turkeys
- Ham
- Salt & Pepper (especially in bulk)
- Plastic Silverware

### WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S SHELTER

- Winter Clothing: Hats, Gloves, Coats, Boots
- Toiletries: Razors, Body Wash, Conditioner, Deodorant
- Laundry Pods
- Paper Products (plates, bowls, plasticware silverware)
- Single ride MET bus passes to assist our guests in getting to work and job interviews

### MEN'S SHELTER

- Winter Clothing: Hats, Gloves, Coats, Boots
- Hand Warmers
- Men's Pajamas/Sweat Pants
- Thermal Underwear
- Med-Large Size Underwear

### BARGAIN CENTER DONATIONS

100% of the net income from both Bargain Centers goes to the Shelters and Meal Programs. We are in need of furniture for resale purposes. **To donate call 775-323-7999.**

For more information and updates, please visit us at [facebook.com/montanarescuemission](https://www.facebook.com/montanarescuemission) or [montanarescuemission.org](http://montanarescuemission.org)

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF BLUE CHRISTMAS



*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." – Luke 2:7*

As Christmastime draws near, I'm reminded of a holiday favorite around our Mission: the nativity story. It's awe-inspiring to realize that the Lamb of God we all know, love, and worship today came from the humblest of beginnings. Born in a manger, but destined to change the world forever.

Incredible good is possible in this world — and it often comes from ordinary places. For the homeless and struggling people of Billings, this Mission is one such place. Your giving makes that good work possible.

Here's an example: While Montana Rescue Mission maintains a strict policy against accepting intoxicated guests overnight, we relax those rules during the harsh winter months. Each year, our Code Blue program welcomes all of our homeless neighbors in from out of the cold — no questions asked. Mission employees comb the streets each night in search of people who could use a warm evening away from the elements. Beyond shelter, we offer them a hot meal, clean clothes, and the resources they need to one day transform their lives.

That's the spirit of the Christmas season at work. And it happens because kind friends like you support our Mission all year long. Thank you, as ever, for your compassion and generosity.



## NEW LIFE BEGINS WITH A HOLIDAY MEAL

When you're down and out, abusing drugs, or living from hand to mouth on the streets, the path to better living seems a long way off. So many of the struggling folks who arrive at our Mission's doors are used to scraping and clawing just to get by.

# “I FEEL BLESSED TO BE HERE”

by Denise



Denise's name and photo have been changed to protect her privacy.

## Denise dreams of roadside

scenery whipping past her driver's side window. A former trucker, her soul longs for exploration.

But through no fault of her own, Denise can't get around much these days. She struggles with a degenerative condition brought on by childhood meningitis. It means Denise can hardly walk.

Now, Denise relies on disability. It's not enough to make ends meet. That's why she came to Montana Rescue Mission, desperate and scared, from Sheridan, Wyoming.

"I've been abused and taken advantage of since I was a little girl," Denise explains. "It's given me severe trust issues."

## At Last, a Turning Point

It took time, but very soon, Denise began to let her guard down in our Women's Shelter. Slowly but surely, Denise learned to trust again.

"I've made such progress spiritually," Denise says. "I'm focusing on leaving my problems in God's hands."

Yet Denise never forgot the people who helped her get here: kind friends like you! She says she and the others at the Women's Shelter never take your generosity for granted.

"This place cannot function without donations," Denise says. "Right down to the littlest thing — coffee, soap, linens — it comes from people in this

community. I'm going to give back to this place when I'm able, because I appreciate it so much."

## Slowly but surely, Denise learned to trust again.

With help from employees at the Mission, Denise has connected with doctors in Billings who are treating her physical disability. She doesn't know if her mobility will improve, but her dreams remain intact.

"I've seen every state in the U.S. except Alaska," Denise says with a twinkle in her eye. "Who knows, maybe one day I'll make my way up there in a truck."

Thanks to your kind support, that slowly begins to change. It starts with a hot holiday meal, served with all the trimmings. From there, our guests receive clean clothes and safe shelter. With the bare essentials of survival taken care of, they can begin to focus on the big-ticket items: spiritual growth . . . self-sufficiency . . . and a new life through Christ.

What might have seemed impossible to someone fresh off the streets becomes a simple fact of life. They're renewed in the spirit of the Lord.

Motivated to serve Him by serving others. It's incredibly inspiring to witness. And it's all made possible thanks to your steadfast generosity.

To give today, please use the enclosed reply slip, or make your donation online at [montanarescuemission.org](http://montanarescuemission.org). You may also call us at **406-259-3800**. Thank you for being a friend to men, women, and children who need your help.



## AWAKENING HOPE

Montana Rescue Mission's top fundraising goal this year is to secure the front door and remodel the lobby of the Women and Children's Shelter. This project has been a top priority since 2016. However, unexpected expenses due to the flooding in our Men's Shelter put the project on hold. In order to better secure the shelter, the project will move the front counter so that entrance is only allowed by being buzzed in through a secure door.

In addition, we plan to provide confidential counseling rooms for guests needing to meet with other agencies or with our chaplain. Currently, those meetings take place in the chapel area, where conversations have the potential of being overheard.

Our concert, *Awakening Hope for the Homeless*, was a big hit this fall and was a great kick off to our fundraising efforts. Since then, we have raised over 50 percent of our \$100,000 goal.

If you would like to tour one of our shelters or learn more about the project, please contact our Public Relations Director, Denise Smith, at 406-259-3800.

## Online Donations Make a Difference

Did you know that online giving is actually safer than giving by check?

Thanks to advancements in security for credit cards and online transactions, your gift through our website is more secure than ever . . . and goes to work even faster! Plus, it saves postage, so it's a win-win all the way around.

Please consider making your next gift online today at [montanarescuemission.org](http://montanarescuemission.org). Thank you!

## MY CHRISTMAS GIFT



**YES, PERRY**, please use my gift to help bring new life to struggling neighbors during the holiday season.

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

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ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Montana Rescue Mission**  
PO Box 3232  
Billings, MT 59103-3232

Please mail this completed form with your Christmas donation, or you may give your gift online at [www.montanarescuemission.org](http://www.montanarescuemission.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.