

**Don't miss...** 2 The Joy that Comes from Christ

"The Mission showed me true Christianity."

Congrats, Graduates!



rowing up, Tom idolized his dad who passed away when he was 5. "My father had a reputation as a kind of criminal, but he also had a good heart," he said. "I grew up trying to be the image of my father."

At age 12, Tom began drinking. He was also diagnosed with a learning disability and started abusing the medications he was prescribed. As he got older, his substance abuse led him to jails, rehabs, failed relationships and a lot of emotional pain.

His addiction reached its worst point when his mother passed away. "I lost all stability because she was my go-to person through all my troubles. When she died, I felt like everything good in life died with her," he said.

He found solace in alcohol, but his relationships suffered. When he spent a week alone doing nothing but drinking, his sister told him he needed to get help.

Tom went to detox, where he heard about the Mission. Reluctantly, he joined our addiction recovery program.

His heart began to soften as he helped serve the overnight shelter guests and saw the gratitude they showed. He grew further under the mentorship of our maintenance team and learned about the Lord from the care he experienced.

"The people at the Mission have shown me what true Christianity is – to love someone even when they don't feel deserving of love," he said.

As Tom grew in his relationship with God, he found comfort from the pain of losing his mother.

And though as a child he wanted to imitate his earthly father, he now lives to

reflect the image of his Heavenly Father and share the love he's found.

Thanks to your prayers and support, Tom graduated our program and serves as a Mission intern. He hopes to go back to school for biblical studies and counseling – but most importantly, he wants to use his life to serve others and demonstrate the hope and healing found in Christ.

Tom is excited to celebrate the restored hope he has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful he is. "I had been trying to get sober for 15 years, and I had completely given up," he said. "What's different this time is I've accepted Christ, and I want to help other people do the same."

Read the full story on our website.



A Message from DAVE SCOTT

## The **JOY** that Comes from Christ

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

As we rejoice over the birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting – today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives... as well as in the lives of those we serve.

While we do provide Christmas gifts to the guests in our care, what's most important is that they know about Jesus' sacrifice and the gift of salvation that is freely given to us all.

Thanks to your friendship, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore lives – and wrap local neighbors in God's loving embrace.

Just like Tom, whose story we've shared on page 3, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love

as your blessings abound.



G. David Scott CEO/Executive Director

# **SHARE A**CHRISTMAS MEAL...

You can help make this
Christmas a time of celebration
for our neighbors who are
hungry and homeless. With so
many obstacles to overcome
during this season of hardship,
they need a helping hand and to
experience God's love!





**\$2.82** for 1 hot meal



**\$22.00** for 1 night of safe shelter





### **Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

## Give Before the Year Ends!

\$12,939 GOAL

Many of our neighbors are dealing with inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships that make daily life a struggle. They need a helping hand before they lose their hope completely. Your yearend gift will give them a chance to transform their lives.



Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will <u>help meet our</u> \$12,939 goal so even more people can get *help* now... and find *hope* for the new year!

- Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- Give online at JerseyShoreRescue.org.

# Transforming Lives in Sussex County



Since our 14-bed Sussex County hospitality room opened in the summer of 2021, the Lord has been doing amazing things in the community.

Dozens of hungry and homeless men have come through the doors in search of safe shelter, warm showers and nutritious meals. They have experienced amazing fellowship through group Bible studies and recovery meetings, and God's healing through one-on-one pastoral counseling.

Some of the men have continued their journey in our Life Change Program, which supports them as they rebuild their lives for a more hopeful future through Christ's love.

Learn more about how you can support this facility and the life-changing work taking place at **JerseyShoreRescue.org/ Sussex.** 

Thank you for your gifts and prayers to help men in Sussex County rebuild their lives.



# Great deals for a great cause

The Jersey Shore Rescue Mission Thrift Store offers so many opportunities to help people in our community. Just look at how lives are changed through this one store:

- Guests in our recovery program learn on-the-job training and employment skills while working here.
- Your local neighbors can shop for the items they need at low prices they can afford.
- All proceeds from items sold at the Thrift Store go directly to the Mission to support life-changing programs and services.

**Everyone benefits.** *To donate items*, you can visit 701 Memorial Drive, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday-Saturday, or call (732) 807-3506 to schedule a pick-up right from your home.

And if you'd like *to shop with us*, you can find our Thrift Store at 701 Memorial Drive, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, or learn more at **JerseyShoreRescue.org.** 



#### **CONGRATS, GRADUATES!**

Our heartfelt congratulations goes out to this year's three graduating classes from our Market Street Mission addiction recovery Life Change Program!

We are so proud of all the men who chose to pursue their healing and put in the work to rebuild their lives. And we are especially excited for the men who started the program here in Asbury Park before transferring up to Morristown to finish. God bless you all!

Visit **JerseyShoreRescue.org/DrugRecovery** to learn more about our recovery program and its connection to our Market Street Mission location in Morristown.