

CHRIST CENTERED

Help FOR THOSE IN NEED

BRIDGE STREET
MISSION

APRIL 2021



SAVED TO SERVE

If faith grows through trials, Christina is a giant! Ten years ago, she survived a brain aneurism, but she lived on a heavy diet of daily medications. The wife and mother of two boys was doing all she could to thrive... not just survive.

Then alcohol entered the picture. Christina initially found it helped relieve her ever-growing stress, but after two years of growing abuse and addiction, her liver failed.

While doctors focused on her physical ailments, Christina knew she needed help for her alcohol abuse.

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(715) 409-3506
www.BridgeStreetMission.org



OUR UNIQUE ROLE IN THE WAUSAU COMMUNITY

Bridge Street Mission is more than a soup kitchen or a warming shelter.

Our Mission's ministry reflects all of God's heart. We're thrilled to help meet the urgent needs of hurting people in the Wausau area, pairing them with friends like you and the resources to efficiently meet those needs. At the same time, broken lives and relationships are restored as we proclaim the Gospel and exhort our guests to apply biblical principles in daily life. Clients, volunteers and donors are all exposed to both the compassionate actions of Jesus and the transforming power of God's Word.

Our ministry unifies around the core of the Gospel. Christians can set aside denominational differences and focus on the common ground of salvation through Jesus Christ and the common cause of serving people in need and sharing the Gospel.

Rescue mission ministry demonstrates that the Church is addressing the needs of society. The Christian community through rescue mission ministry is on the forefront of meeting needs and resolving complex issues, rather than being distant, uninformed and perhaps uncaring as is sometime perceived. We offer a solution to larger community problems like inadequate shelter or a need for transitional housing.

We couple people in need with those who want to help. Hurting people have their emergency needs met and find support in their recovery. They find help and wholeness, and want to someday give back. Donors and volunteers need a place to make a difference using their resources, gifts and passions.

Rescue mission ministry ensures we are doing the most good. We avoid duplicating services and competing between ministry efforts. We create a safe environment for people – individuals, families and groups -- to serve. We provide a community of expertise as well as stability of services that people so desperately need.

Please come and learn more about Bridge Street Mission, **the** rescue mission in Wausau. Two easy options are our Friday night Outreach Center events and our Anniversary Grill Outs in July. Visit our website for more information on these and other opportunities.

We also welcome individual and group tours. Call us at **715-409-3506** to schedule a time.

Executive Director

Saved To Serve (cont. from cover)

The support group at Alcoholics Anonymous helped with sobriety. But when COVID hit last spring, AA meetings were shut down.

Christina panicked and was afraid she would go back to drinking without her meetings and network of support. But Christina's growing faith said, **"God always puts me in the right place at the right time."**

In the midst of her physical and emotional battles, Christina's faith was re-kindled. She'd grown up in the church, and church was part of her young family's life. But her own challenges and other family tragedies caused some serious spiritual struggles.

"If I die, do I continue to exist?" "What did I do to deserve these hardships?" These were questions Christina wrestled with. These doubts and life's disappointments opened the doorway to her alcohol addiction.

Now sober, but vulnerable, God put Bridge Street Mission into Christina's life. She heard on the news that the Mission was still able to give out bag lunches despite the COVID restrictions. She also learned that the Mission offered Celebrate Recovery, a program similar to AA but with more emphasis on spiritual healing and growth.

After attending a few sessions, Christina developed "a new desire to learn, grow and walk with Jesus." Christina became a regular at the Mission, and she learned how the programs worked and about the volunteer needs. Serving became part of her healing.

Christina began to volunteer in the Outreach Center kitchen serving meals. **"Idle hands are the devils workshop. Keeping busy helps me in my recovery,"** she explains.

According to Christina, she is the "ultimate thrifter". It was natural for her to get involved at the Mission's Donation Center. Christina soon became the lead volunteer in setting up the Mission's 2nd Chance Thrift.

When our thrift operations ended in 2020, Christina was disappointed, but she took the lead in closing the operation and moving the inventory to people in need or other agencies. This time, disappointment and even more health struggles did not shake her faith. She understands, **"God had me in that role for a reason."**

Christina continues to volunteer at the Mission, where she is developing systems to value, process and distribute donations that are needed for the Outreach and Sober Living Centers.

Your financial gifts, volunteer time or other donations are vital to the growing recovery ministry at Bridge Street Mission. Hurting people like Christina find life-saving and life-giving care here, thanks to friends like you.



What We Need Most...

Big Ticket Items:

- Thermal Remediation System (\$1,000)
- VoIP Phone System (\$800)
- Vending machine (\$4,000)
- Mission Grounds sign (\$1,000)

And Everyday Needs:

- Meat and fresh vegetables
- Canned and frozen foods
- Paper products (plates, bowls, napkins and paper towels)
- Plastic forks, spoons, and knives
- Shampoo, soap and toiletries (deodorant, dental hygiene)
- Twin-size bed linens, pillows and blankets
- Towels and washcloths

Volunteers:

- Instructors for program classes
- Food service volunteers
- Friday receptionist and office help
- Greeters and Minglers at our Outreach Center
- Donation pick up and sorting
- Prepared meals for Celebrate Recovery



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Build a Home to Build Lives!

Bridge Street Mission's 2020 Urban Street Project is finished! Local building contractors, volunteers and donated material all came together -- to build a beautiful new home on Meadow Brook Way in Wausau. The recent sale helps fund Bridge Street Mission and our sober living program.

The Urban Street Project raised \$120,000 for the Mission. Half was used to reduce debt on the Sober Living Center, and the other half is being used for program operations.

We are extremely humbled, grateful, excited and just generally amazed that this much generosity at this quality has been committed toward our ministry.



THE URBAN STREET PROJECT



The Urban Street Project is a unique fundraiser. It aligns perfectly with Wausau's reputation for home manufacturing. It has overwhelming support from the community. We appreciate the generosity of the central Wisconsin community and would like to especially thank the 23 sponsors who donated materials and/or labor. Watch for the next Urban Street Project in 2022!

A Sample of our Studies...

The men in our Sober Living Program are currently studying 1 and 2 Kings, looking at the various kings of Judah and Israel. When the kings follow God's commandments, they enjoy blessing and peace. The kings that seek after other gods are continually at war. And continually being replaced and overthrown. That is true for us as well. If we truly seek to follow God and His rules, we enjoy a blessed life. If we opt to buck God's rules and do it our way—apart from God—we struggle.

Our second daily class is currently going through the book of Proverbs. The first 7 or 8 verses give the purpose for the book, and the emphasis is on wisdom over folly through chapter 9. We have found since the beginning of chapter 10 what we call "popcorn wisdom." -- many independent nuggets of wisdom that we can incorporate into our everyday lives.



Two examples:

"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." Proverbs 13:20

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Proverbs 14:12

It is exciting to see our men, in recovery, process these truths as they reflect on their lives and see such practical application for their personal struggles and journey.