

BRIDGE STREET MISSION

BRIDGE STREET MISSION'S OUTREACH CENTER IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST FOOD

Chaplain: Ben Paris
Food Service Manager: Susan Hass
Outreach Center Manager: Alan Alfaro

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

FOOD TOGETHER

You can see on these pages that Bridge Street Mission's Outreach Center is much more than a soup kitchen.

Thanks to the generosity of the community through financial donations, material gifts of food as well as volunteer service, our meals are generous in portion, high quality in taste and are served in an atmosphere that promotes relationships.

Our staff and volunteer "minglers" are able to leverage these relationships to provide spiritual counsel, make referrals to resources throughout the community and, in some cases, even facilitate placements to better situations.

Please let us know if you would like to provide for our friends by giving or serving through the Outreach Center or one of our events.



Craig A Vincent

Craig Vincent
Executive Director

"Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind."

ISAIAH 58:7-8



May Ministry Challenge

Thank you for stepping up to the May Ministry Match challenge! We are pleased to announce that the entire match amount of \$7,000, and then some, was met by your May donations.

Christ-Centered Help for Those in Need

Bridge Street Mission is equipping individuals who struggle with homelessness, addictions, hunger and sustaining a stable life to become healthy contributors to society.

The ministry of Bridge Street Mission is evangelistic, compassionate and transformational. Through the generosity of our community, men and women are fed, treated with dignity, and given hope. Men experiencing homelessness, being released from jail or coming out of rehab are housed, learn to live addiction free and are equipped to re-enter society as healthy contributors.



Meals



Hope



Shelter



Transformation

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ALBIE GETS ON TRACK AT THE MISSION

The Outreach Center has been a place of fellowship, guidance and hope for Albie during his three years of being homeless. When we first met, he was tired and hungry, not just physically but spiritually as well.

Albie shares that, “I had gone so far astray from the Lord, and was so lost in my ways that hope was looking very distant.”

He found the atmosphere, staff and volunteers at Bridge Street Mission to be the “platform I needed to help me keep pushing me forward.”

“The Mission has made the past the past because they have gone through it with me and loved me when it seemed like no one else would.”

Albie has now been working for the past six months. He is inspired to share his renewed faith with others, work hard to get into a better life situation and is optimistic about leaving his homeless situation soon.

People who’ve known Albie awhile say his life change has



Albie (right) with Chaplain Ben

been noticeable in his dress, demeanor and interactions.

Albie is grateful to Bridge Street Mission. “The Mission has made the past, the past, because they have gone through it with me and loved me when it seemed like no one else would.”

OUTREACH STARTED IN GAZEBO

The Heath & Trace Tappe family began to feed and establish relationships with people experiencing homelessness in Wausau by providing summer “Gazebo Grill Outs.”

The existing Outreach Center on Bridge St. was purchased so their new friends had a safe place to be year-round.

The Tappe vision was to have “something better than a soup kitchen where a businessman and a homeless guy could eat together and both be comfortable in the same space.”

The Outreach Center continues today providing a daytime drop in center for men and women experiencing homelessness, highlighted by a sit-down hot, nutritious meal for anyone in the community experiencing hunger.

Every day, dozens of guests are fed, treated with dignity and given hope. By doing “food together,” we want to build relationships, offer practical help,

spiritual encouragement and ultimately point people toward transformation.

With your support and our community partners, our ministry impact grows each year. Thank you for your part in helping hurting men and women in Wausau to find help and hope at Bridge Street Mission.



SUMMER GRILL OUTS CONTINUE

In honor of our founding and to continue building new relationships, the Outreach Center team still does Summer “Grill Outs” at Riverside Park for the homeless community. **These are excellent volunteer service opportunities!**

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Through teams of volunteers, the Outreach Center celebrates significant holidays with our friends by providing a special meal service with festive decorations, special music and a Gospel presentation.

- **Easter Celebration:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 (*pictured*)
- **Thanksgiving Meal:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023
- **Christmas Banquet:** Friday, December 22, 2023



“DENIM & DIAMONDS” WINTER GALA

378 friends of our ministry celebrated with us at this year’s **Winter Gala, “Denim & Diamonds,”** at the Central Wisconsin Expo Center. In addition to a great meal, we played a Mission trivia game on our phones, were inspired by C.W. Allen’s story of the impact of a rescue mission on his father, and celebrated with four of our residents who graduated from the transformational phase of our Sober Living Center program.



Thanks to sponsorships, ticket sales, raffle games and a generous offering, the event raised \$43,000.

Save the date for our next Winter Gala: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center with Dr. Robert Marbut, Jr., former Executive Director of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness.

CULVER’S SHARE NIGHT

Under the watchful eye of the Culver’s team, our staff, volunteers and residents had the honor of serving many of you on Bridge Street Mission Share Night at all three Wausau area Culver’s locations. Our share was \$1,351. Thank you for eating at Culver’s and supporting Bridge Street Mission.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 AT CRANE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

- \$240 registration for teams of 3
- Hole Sponsors: \$200
- Sign up to play or sponsor at bridgestreetmission.org/golf-outing

TITLE SPONSOR:



With your help today, our doors will always be open to neighbors in their time of crisis.
HELP TODAY WITH A GIFT ONLINE: BridgeStreetMission.org



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BridgeStreetMission.org

Bridge Street Mission may use generic names and photos to protect the privacy and safety of our residents. Please also understand that our clients’ journeys to recovery are often filled with both victories and challenges. Excess funds of any specific appeal will be used where most needed in the ministry of Bridge Street Mission.