



**Brock Has A Story
Worth Telling ...
and You Helped Write It**

BROCK'S STORY IS JUST BEGINNING

“I got a story to tell when it comes to drugs,” Brock says.

Brock's story starts back in the sixth grade, when he smoked marijuana for the first time. As he made his way through junior high and high school, his drug use escalated.

Brock watched his classmates go on to college, hold down jobs and make their way in the world. He was living with his grandparents, getting high and running up against the law. Eventually, Brock's grandparents had enough and turned him out.

Homeless, Brock was “bumping around from place to place. It wasn't good. It was unhealthy. You got to keep moving, from this heater to that parking ramp.” The only respite he had was the time he spent in jail.

**“I'M FOCUSED
ON GOD AND
STAYING SOBER.”**
—BROCK



“When I was 24, I was on probation for a year, but I just kept getting high,” Brock recalls. “I couldn't stop. I was enjoying it, but I didn't want to do it.” Brock acknowledged breaking the terms of his probation, knowing jail was the only way he would stop using drugs.

Even that was not enough to turn Brock's life around. It took your support for Bridge Street Mission to change the narrative of Brock's story.

Two years ago, Brock arrived at the Mission, severely underweight after living on the street for nearly a year. “I was just tired,” he says. “I didn't really want to get high anymore. I just wanted a place to go. I was sick of being on the streets.”

As a resident in our Sober Living Program, Brock says, “I had to learn to surrender and realize that God was trying to make me go through this trial to get sober.” He learned that the difficulties in his life were the consequences of sin and addiction. “I needed to get right with God.”

That's exactly what Brock did, and his story took a dramatic turn for the better.

“God finally showed up in my life,” Brock tells us. “I'm a year and six months clean! It was just a matter of taking the initial step, and once I started, I just did a 180. I'm focused on God and staying sober.”

Today, Brock has started working again and is saving money to get a place of his own.

Recalling another story, that of the prodigal son, Brock says, “I lost myself for a long way there for a while. Now God has completely restored me and it's been great.”

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](https://www.BridgeStreetMission.org)



115 W. Bridge St.
Wausau, WI 54401
(715) 409-3506
[BridgeStreetMission.org](https://www.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.

2024 WINTER GALA, COMMUNITY FORUM SHED LIGHT ON HOMELESSNESS

We had an excellent turnout at Bridge Street Mission's 2024 Winter Gala on February 20. More than 400 friends of the Mission attended, raising \$42,000 to support our ministry and programs.

Attendees celebrated the changed lives of our residents and learned about the root causes of homelessness and strategies to address it from our keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Marbut, Jr.

We also distributed our *2023 Annual Report* at the Gala. If you did not attend and would like a copy, please contact us or scan the code below with your smartphone to view a PDF version.



2023 Annual Report

Dr. Marbut also held a community forum with 37 community leaders and non-profit organizations. Here are a few of the key takeaways from Dr. Marbut's presentation:

1. There is a growing number of unaccompanied females in the unhoused community.
2. We have a surprising number of people in housing crisis for the size of our city.
3. The national trend is that the homeless number will double in five years.
4. Street-level homelessness (defined as living on street or in and out of shelter) is overwhelmingly the result of attempting to self-medicate untreated mental health.

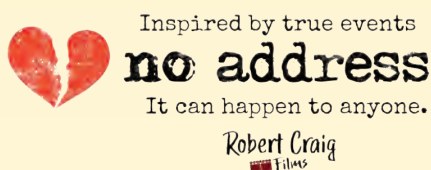
5. Different segments of the homeless population need different solutions, not a one-size-fits-all program.
6. We need to focus on improving our offerings of transitional housing programs. Faith-based ministries, like rescue missions, have some of the most successful models throughout the country.
7. We want to embrace an engagement culture that focuses on getting people out of homelessness as opposed to an enablement culture that keeps people in homelessness.



Dr. Marbut and Craig at our Winter Gala.

For more than three decades, Dr. Marbut has helped hundreds of communities and agencies to dramatically reduce homelessness. He has worked in three different US Presidential Administrations and has developed The Seven Guiding Principles of Homeless Transformation. These Principles focus on root causes and recovery, not symptoms or short-term gimmicks, to create holistically transformative environments that reduce homelessness.

Dr. Marbut is also the Executive Producer of *No Address: The Movie*, which is coming to theaters this September. We have signed up to host a red carpet event to celebrate. Watch for updates and make plans to see this important film!



TRANSFORMED FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Many of our neighbors experiencing homelessness live in the shadows, unseen or simply ignored by those around them. It can be a dark, unforgiving existence.

But Bridge Street Mission is a place of light and hope for these hurting people. The events and life transformations in recent months bear witness to that.

In February, we had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Robert Marbut, Jr. to Wausau. In addition to being our Winter Gala Speaker, he addressed a Community Forum for 35 local government officials, non-profit providers and funders. He shared with us that street level homelessness throughout the country is overwhelmingly the result of attempting to self-medicate and that the drugs being used today are exponentially more powerful.

We saw that in the life of Brock. When he first came to us, his drug usage had robbed him of even the ability to write one sentence! Because of this disability, he needed extra help and tutoring to complete his relapse prevention workbook.

But Brock has experienced a transformation. Not only has he completed his workbook and graduated from our program, he finished writing it himself. Recently, he was able to research, prepare and present an excellent Bible study for the other residents. God has truly transformed him “by the renewing of his mind” (Romans 12:2).

In this newsletter, you will read about Brock’s transformation story as well as more of the best practices for addressing chronic homelessness from Dr. Marbut, Jr.

And as we reach out to more people in need in the months ahead, we thank you for bringing the light of Christ into their lives.



Craig A Vincent

Craig Vincent
Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE for our 2024 Golf Outing

Friday, August 23, 2024 • Pine Valley Golf Course
Watch for more information in the coming weeks!

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel Rueber
Chairman
Thrivent Financial

Max Rea
Vice Chairman
RE/MAX Excel

Tim Harrington
Secretary
Greenheck Fan Corp.

Chris Menard
Treasurer
Wausau Homes

Heath Tappe
Mission Founder
Denyon Homes

Rev. Larry Moodie
Fellowship Baptist Church (retired)

Craig Shuler
DigiCopy

Cynthia Abrego
Registered Nurse (retired)