



*Christ-Centered Help  
for Those in Need*

**YOU HELPED FRANK  
FIND A FAMILY  
AT BRIDGE STREET  
MISSION**



**SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER**

# YOU HELPED FRANK FIND A FAMILY AT BRIDGE STREET MISSION

**Frank spent most of his childhood searching for a sense of family. His single mother, an alcoholic, often left him alone in the house and frightened. “I would run to my friend’s house, hoping they would take me in for the night,” he says.**

At 12, Frank finally met his father. “He took me fishing three times. We had a great time together,” he recalls. “I waited for our next trip, but he never showed up and I haven’t seen him since.”

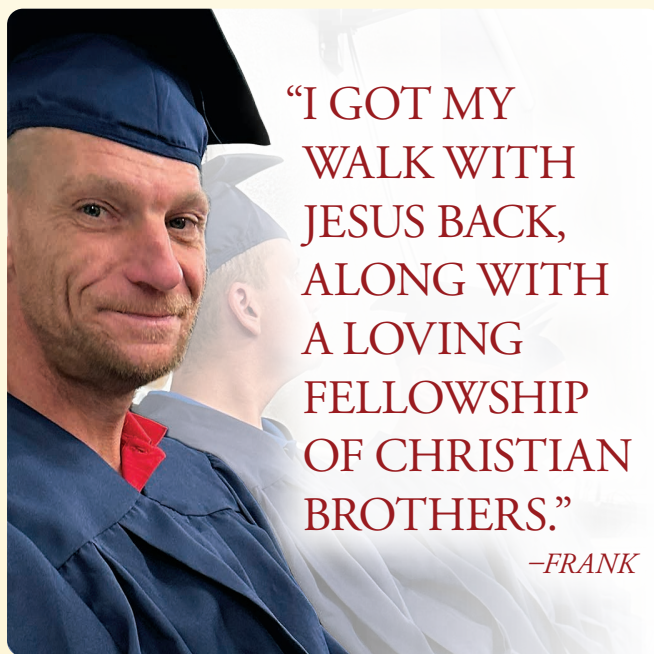
Deeply hurt by the rejection, Frank began drinking and smoking marijuana with his friend’s older brother. Just a year later, at 13, he dropped out of school.

Taken in by a farm family, Frank finally felt that he fit in somewhere. He stopped drinking during what he describes as “the best time of my youth.” But when the farmer retired, Frank, now 21, lost his job and the family he had grown to love.

Frank drifted for several years, joining a carnival and working a series of odd jobs. Then he married, had a son and settled into a stable life, anchored by his faith in Jesus Christ.

“Life was wonderful again, like it was with that farm family,” Frank recalls. Sadly, he suffered yet another setback when the economy crashed in 2008. Frank lost his job, his house, and then his wife and son. “I reached out to my church,” he says, “but they were struggling too, and they closed their doors.”

Homeless and alone, Frank fell back into addiction, drinking and using drugs for four years.



**“I GOT MY WALK WITH JESUS BACK, ALONG WITH A LOVING FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.”**

*—FRANK*

“I became hopeless,” he says. Then he heard about Bridge Street Mission.

“I got my walk with Jesus back,” Frank says, “along with finding a loving fellowship of Christian brothers.” He graduated from the Mission’s residential Christian discipleship program—“the first thing I have ever graduated from”—and looks forward to the re-entry program.

“I have been sober for four years and I have a great job that I love,” Frank tells us. “Now, instead of having no hope, I have great hope for a wonderful future with God.”

Thank you for helping Frank finally find the family he had longed for: as a cherished son of God and brother to many at Bridge Street Mission.

**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](http://BridgeStreetMission.org)**



325 N. 1st Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54401  
(715) 409-3506  
[BridgeStreetMission.org](http://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.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BRIDGE STREET MISSION?

## 2024 URBAN STREET PROJECT

Another Urban Street Project home was sold last September, raising \$255,000 for Bridge Street Mission's Men's Recovery Center.

This community-wide effort adds to the housing stock and provides funds to help affordable housing and funds to help men transition from recovery back into society.



## EASTER CELEBRATION

We are getting ready to host our annual Easter Celebration at the Outreach Center on Monday, April 21, 2025. If you would like to donate food, help prepare and serve meals or just engage in fellowship with our guests, you are welcome! Sign up at [bridgestreetmission.org/volunteer](http://bridgestreetmission.org/volunteer).



MISSION GROUNDS  
Espresso

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
at Mission Grounds Espresso

Reusable 24 oz cups  
for all your favorite  
iced or blended drinks  
with a discount!

## SAVE THE DATE

for our 2025 Golf Outing



Friday, August 22, 2025  
Pine Valley Golf Course

*Watch for more information in the coming weeks!*

# THANK YOU FOR HELPING END HOMELESSNESS, ONE LIFE AT A TIME

**In any given year, hundreds of hurting people come to Bridge Street Mission. Here, they are treated with the dignity they deserve as persons created in God's image. For many, it is the first positive contact they have had in some time. It may be the first time they have encountered the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And very often, it is the first step toward life transformation.**

As we prepared the 2024 Annual Report enclosed with this newsletter, we totaled the number of people who shared meals with us, slept under our roof or found new lives through our men's recovery program. These numbers show the true reach of your generosity.

But even more important than the total number of individuals served are the individuals themselves, each one precious to God. Some just came to our Outreach Center and moved on. Others graduated from our program and became contributing members of our community. In every case, you offered someone like Frank an opportunity to move from crisis to success.

One thing about the work at Bridge Street Mission: it's never done. Even as I write, our On Track campaign is getting us closer to offering



*Frank and other residents signing cards for Christmas Cookie distribution.*

a residential recovery program for women as well as men. And our expanded Outreach Center is opening soon. That's why I ask you to continue providing Christ-centered help to our hurting neighbors in the months ahead. God bless you for helping to end homelessness in Wausau, one life at a time.



*Craig A Vincent*

**Craig Vincent**  
Executive Director

## 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.

We believe that the demonstration of love opens the door to hope and transformation for even the most wounded person.

We meet people in crisis and move them toward success through the power of the Gospel.

We accomplish this through compassion, evangelism, transformation and community.



**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*

**Rev. Larry Moodie**  
*Fellowship Baptist Church (retired)*

**Craig Shuler**  
*DigiCopy*

**Cynthia Abrego**  
*Registered Nurse (retired)*

**Mark Johnson**  
*Renovation Rescue, LLC*

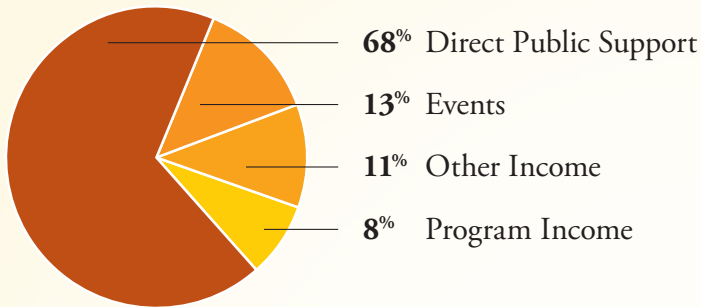
**Brian Vanden Heuvel**  
*Wausau Tile*

**MISSION FOUNDERS**  
Heath and Traci Tappe Family

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

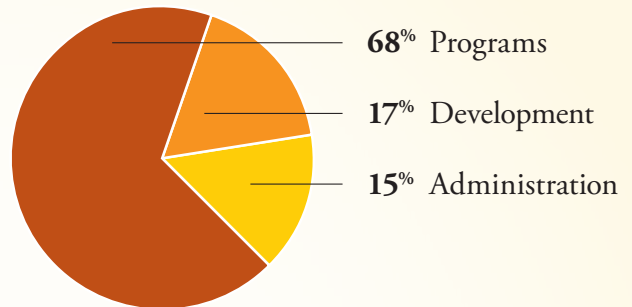
## WHERE FUNDS COME FROM

Ordinary Income: **\$630,851**



## HOW FUNDS ARE USED

Ordinary Expense: **\$879,634**



## OUTREACH CENTER

Daytime drop-in center for men and women experiencing homelessness highlighted by a hot sit-down meal for anyone in the community experiencing hunger.



- 454 separate clients in crisis served
- 34,126 hot, nutritious meals served
- 85 sheltered through Community on Call



- 275 referrals to other agencies
- 90 placements to better situations

## MEN'S RECOVERY CENTER

Residential Christian discipleship program providing the support, accountability and skills men need to live addiction-free and to establish stable, productive lives.

### STABILIZATION



### TRANSFORMATION



### RE-ENTRY



- 60 men sheltered
- 7,595 days of 24/7 shelter



- 7 transformation phase graduates
- 13 successful move-outs

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Bridge Street Mission is a 501(c)3 Christian non-profit charity that depends of God to provide our needs through financial and in-kind donations. Bridge Street Mission is also a volunteer-intensive organization that engages individuals with proven character, commitment and competency to serve or lead groups.



- 1,094 donors, including individuals, businesses, churches and foundations
- \$365,357 value of donated food, clothing and toiletry items (GIK)
- 177 individuals provided 10,436 volunteer hours



- 2,551 customers served at Mission Grounds Espresso
- Top selling item: 20 oz flavored latte



## Looking back — and ahead

The On Track campaign will fund one central campus to better serve our neighbors in crisis. The total project cost is estimated at \$5 million.

Your generous support is moving more of our hurting Wausau neighbors from crisis to success. See what you have helped accomplish, and what still needs to be done.

## OUR THREE-YEAR PLAN

### 2023–2024

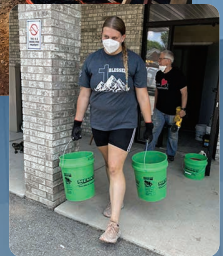
- Acquire the Pied Piper Plaza
- Sell existing facilities
- Relocate Men's Recovery Center to new location

### 2024–2025

- Build out new Outreach Center with commercial kitchen and office space
- Add elevator

### 2025–2026

- Add additional rooms and restrooms for men, bringing capacity to 40
- Build out and open recovery and re-entry wing for up to 20 women



If you would like more information or to make a donation, please visit our website at [ontrack.bridgestreetmission.org](https://ontrack.bridgestreetmission.org). Or simply scan this code and go directly to our On Track page. Thank you!

## “On Track” Capital Campaign

RECEIPTS  
**\$2,626,734**

RECEIPTS/PLEDGES  
**\$3,640,780**

TOTAL PROJECT GOAL  
**\$5,000,000**

PERCENT FUNDED\*  
**73%**

*\*As of December 31, 2024*