



— WICHITA FALLS —  
**FAITH MISSION**  
EVERY STORY MATTERS

[www.FaithMissionWF.org](http://www.FaithMissionWF.org)

WINTER 2019



## WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?

*A person can't dream  
when he is busy surviving.*

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#### **FAITH MISSION**

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1300 Travis St.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

#### **FAITH REFUGE**

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Wichita Falls, TX 76302

#### **FAITH RESALE**

940-766-0705  
4502 Old Jacksboro Hwy.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76302



## FROM THE CEO

**WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?** Listening to people who stay at Faith Refuge and Faith Mission, one hears things like: “My dream is to have a car.” “I dream about my mom getting a good job.” “My dream is to have a place I can call my own.” “I dream that my relationship with my family is restored.” The truth is, many individuals at Faith Mission and Faith Refuge have given up on dreaming because they are busy surviving. **A person can’t dream when he is busy surviving.**

Giving people a second chance to dream is a role we cherish. We believe it all starts with the knowledge of who they are in Christ and a relationship with Him based on faith. We can all be forgiven of our past and made new.

It also takes hard work, facing very real consequences, addressing painful pasts, taking responsibility and doing whatever it takes to change. We see this kind of hard work going on every day at our shelters.

Let me be clear, the staff at our homeless shelters don’t equate dreaming with positive thinking. We don’t promote the pie-in-the-sky worldview that says, “If you can imagine it, you can accomplish it.” What we do believe is that **God can give us a transformed life through a renewed mind** (Romans 12:2). We see Him do it almost daily at our shelters.

You can help those who have lost hope to dream once again. The simplest thing you can do is pray. Please join us in praying for the men, women, and children who come to Faith Refuge and Faith Mission.

Steve Sparks  
CEO

## FAITH RESALE AND DONATION CENTER

Here’s what Faith Resale and Donation Center accomplishes for our organization and community:

1. The donation center is a vital connection between WFFMI and the community as individuals and households seek places that are trustworthy and Christ based to make in-kind donations that will benefit local programs and services. In 2018, our organization filled over **700 vouchers just at our Faith Resale location**. Individuals may receive vouchers for clothes, shoes, towels, drinking glasses, plates, sheets/blankets, utensils, pots/pans. Extras such as new socks, bras, panties and underwear are given as available.
2. All proceeds, after operational expenses, return to WFFMI.
3. New Beginnings Recovery Program participants from both shelter locations (40-50 per year) receive on-the-job training and work experience.
4. Clothing, housewares and other items are given to the clients of First Step, Inc. and Interfaith Outreach Services through a voucher system.
5. Faith Resale and Donation Center provides a low-cost option for community shoppers to buy a large variety of items.





# STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION



“BOB, MY PROGRAM DIRECTOR, talked a lot about reaching your promised land while I was in the program,” said John. At the beginning of 2018, John had lost all hope. A place to stay and help him get back on his feet is what led John to Faith Mission. What he found is a place where he was no longer just worried about surviving. He started to dream again about his promised land. Hitting rock bottom allowed John to begin the process of building authentic relationships and start dreaming of a happier life. He focused on what his promised land might look like. Reading, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture helped renew John’s mind.

“I didn’t know if I could overcome my addiction. There were many times I almost left the program,” said John.

“I finally realized who I really am in Christ.” Praise be to God that John stuck it out and graduated the New Beginnings Addiction Recovery Program.

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John is one of the first men to move into the transitional housing program that Wichita Falls Faith Mission offers. Other graduates of the programs offered at Faith Mission live in the transitional home. John speaks of how the house is like its own spiritual oasis. He

is encouraged by his housemates gathering together on a regular basis to pray. He also appreciates how they keep pushing each other to move forward in life. Saving money while living in the transitional home allows John to keep striving for his promised land. His dream is to have a car and a place he can call his own. John would also like to work his way up to become a supervisor at his job. A dream he never thought was possible is for his marriage to be restored. Fortunately, God is the one who makes impossible dreams possible. Little by little, John and his wife are taking the steps towards reconciliation. “My hope has been restored, and I’m starting to dream again,” said John.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’”*

(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

## CURRENT STATS



**Because of you,** we are able to help restore lives.  
Statistics provided are for September through November 2018.

# STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE

WHEN ASKED IF she could make any dream come true, Donna stated, “I would love to have a car and get my teeth fixed.” When prodded more, she shared about her dream to attend nursing school. With watery eyes, she hesitantly added, “I’d like to get my 22-month-old daughter back and have a relationship with my seventeen-year-old daughter.”

Raised by her grandmother, Donna was spoiled but also knew the value of hard work and discipline. She tirelessly strived to be a top performer in basketball while she attended high school. Donna’s perseverance and dedication paid off when she received a basketball scholarship to attend college in West Virginia. Away from her family, Donna started partying. She partied so much her Freshman year that she dropped out of college.

Donna did not conquer her addictions but was able to form relationships and live a somewhat normal life. She married at the age of 25; however, she was very unstable in this relationship. God blessed the couple with a daughter, yet Donna’s addiction was more powerful than the love for her child. She would go back and forth to the

marriage, use drugs, and blow through money. Donna takes full responsibility for ruining her marriage and the pain she caused her oldest child.

Eventually Donna and her husband split. She met a man and moved to Texas. A blessing came in the form of a little girl. Soon after the birth of her second child, Donna became pregnant with another little girl. Due to bad choices, her boyfriend went to prison. Donna moved in with a friend but was sent to jail when she failed to show up in court for an outstanding warrant in another state. The people she stayed with took care of her second child, and she returned to live with them after she served her time in jail. After giving birth to her third child, Donna moved to Faith Refuge when the baby was two days old.



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“I became stronger by living at Faith Refuge. I started doing things on my own instead of asking for help from other people,” shared Donna. The family case manager guided Donna to know how to take care of things on her own. They set up a plan that would help Donna succeed.

Donna’s children now motivate her to stay off drugs. When asked about what is the hardest thing about getting back on your feet, she shared, “It’s something you have to do. I don’t necessarily enjoy being on my own, but I feel good about being on my own.”

*One thing we’ve seen from Donna since she moved out of Faith Refuge is a sense of freedom. She smiles more, laughs more, and talks more. She is dreaming of a brighter future where her relationships are restored.*