

2023 IMPACT REPORT



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

Jennifer's Story

Jennifer grew up in Wichita Falls and credits Faith Refuge with changing her outlook on life. "It is a place that helps people recover from tough times, especially those struggling with addiction."

When Jennifer was young, she had to grow up fast. Being from a single-parent home, she was the oldest of four children, which led her to care for her younger siblings. Because of this, she felt she missed out on a normal childhood, leading to bad choices.

By the time she was 15, Jennifer was already a mom. She talks about how hard those times were, saying that for 29 of her last 40 years, she battled her addiction, and as a result, that led to her getting into trouble with the law.

Jennifer was one of the first women to move into Faith Refuge when it was opened in 2012. She has since used the services in the women's and children's dorm. But when Jennifer entered the New Beginnings program at Faith Refuge, her life started improving. "This place helped turn my life around," she says, "it saved my life." At the Refuge, she learned to think about others, not just herself. She found a new way of seeing things and started caring more about others.

Since becoming a resident at Faith Refuge, her faith has become more important to her. She focused more on her spiritual life, saying, "I am more intentional about my faith. I am seeking help more." She is trying harder to understand her faith and use it to help her recover.

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Jennifer's story is about how she has overcome many obstacles in her life with the help of the Faith Refuge. It shows that even when life is tough, some places and people can help you get better and make a fresh start. Jennifer's journey is an example of never giving up, no matter how hard things get.

"I am leaving here with my sobriety and God. I can truly say that at this point, this is the best thing that has ever happened in my life."



Matt's Journey

Matt's journey is a compelling narrative of faith, resilience, and transformation. Raised in a family that, despite financial struggles, was rich in love and faith, Matt learned the importance of spirituality early in life. His father fondly recalls how Matt, unlike other children, would proudly carry his little Bible, signifying his deep-rooted faith.

However, life soon presented Matt with formidable challenges.

Struggling with addiction to Xanax and alcohol, he faced severe health repercussions and had to seek rehabilitation. The turning point in his life came with the tragic suicide of his sister. Reflecting on the haunting last conversation with her, Matt said, "She called me randomly and said, 'Hi Brother.' then she told me she loved me and would see me later. That memory really messed with my mind." This event plunged him into a dark abyss of grief and despair.

In his search for peace, Matt retreated to the mountains, finding temporary solace in solitude and sobriety with God. But reality beckoned, and financial constraints forced him to return, only to face rejection from his family because of his sudden departure. He recalls, "My wife was like, well, you're not coming here!"

Homelessness led Matt to the streets of Gainesville, where he succumbed to methamphetamine, a new low in his life. In this darkness, Matt found hope in the New Beginnings Addiction Recovery Program at Faith Mission. The sight of someone mopping the floor when he woke up that first morning symbolized the start of his transformative journey. The program's rigors were a path to recovery, guided by the truths he learned from God's Word.

Through these experiences, Matt's faith deepened. He understood that his life's course was not in his hands, but in God's. "God is ultimately in control," he reflected, "Just being able to see God work in my life and my family and knowing I have a direct line of communication with the One who takes care of all that stuff gives me peace."

Matt's story, replete with trials and tribulations, is a testament to the transformative power of his faith in God and his willingness to change. Matt has been restored to his family and he and his daughter are volunteering at the homeless shelter in his hometown.



YOUR IMPACT IN 2023



Total meals served

145,852

99,919 Faith Mission

45,933 Faith Refuge



Total Nights of shelter

43,828

22,433 For Men at Faith Mission

18,026 For Women at Faith Refuge

3,369 For Children at Faith Refuge



Volunteer hours

11,511

5,323 Faith Mission

6,188 Faith Refuge



Individuals in Addiction
Recovery Program

91

Life Changing Programs

Through its two shelters, Faith Mission for Men and Faith Refuge for Women and Children, the Wichita Falls Faith Mission, Inc. helps individuals and families who are struggling with homelessness and addiction. Both shelters are open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and all our programs and services are free of charge.

EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES

Emergency Shelter Services are provided to individuals daily. Beds, food, clothing, showers, clinic, and chapel services are available.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Case Managers are available by appointment to help each client develop an individual service plan that is customized just for them. This may include help in securing I.D., medical services, legal aid, employment, transportation, and housing.

ADDICTION RECOVERY/JOB READINESS PROGRAM - "NEW BEGINNINGS"

A thirteen-month, residential program that helps men and women overcome addiction, homelessness, and joblessness.

LEVEL 1 - ORIENTATION

A 30-day orientation to the New Beginnings Program.

LEVEL 2 - ADDICTION RECOVERY

A six-month program that provides addiction recovery classes, Bible studies, anger management coaching, life coaching, counseling, and work therapy.

LEVEL 3 - JOB READINESS

A six-month program that prepares the men and women for the workforce. This program helps hard-to-employ men develop a positive work history and gain marketable skills. It allows women to prepare for the workforce, including computer skills, Biblical Precepts for daily living, anger management, parenting, money management, and GED prep and testing.

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

In Transitional Supportive Housing, the qualifying program graduate will reside in a house with other program graduates to transition from shelter living to independent living.



Because of You...

Homelessness and addiction disrupt the lives of countless men, women and children. Because of you, Wichita Falls Faith Mission stands ready with vital programs and services to lead them toward self-sufficiency.

As you read these stories of life-change, you can be sure that your support made it all possible.

On behalf of those we serve, "Thank You" for making it all possible.

Every Story Matters,

Steve Sparks

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*Names may have been changed to protect privacy

