



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

www.FaithMissionWF.org

SPRING 2024

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?



INSIDE: From the CEO • Stories from Our Ministries • What's Happening

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Wichita Falls, TX 76301

FAITH RESALE & DONATION CENTER
940-766-0705
4502 Old Jacksboro Hwy.
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

FAITH RESALE & DONATION CENTER
940-264-0706
2708 Southwest Pkwy.
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

FAITH REFUGE
940-322-4673
710 E. Hatton Rd.
Wichita Falls, TX 76302



FROM THE CEO

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

GOD IS ALWAYS SPEAKING. The question remains, “Are we listening?” I was sitting out on the porch swing the other day and I noticed the Bradford Pears in my yard were flowering with those beautiful white blossoms. It was breathtaking how a tree that was once lifeless in appearance could put on such a show. And then it occurred to me. God did that. It was as if He were saying, “Can you hear me now?”

I hear men and women at the shelters say, sometimes with amazement, that they had to come to a homeless shelter to meet God. Their tone seems to indicate that this is the last place they expected to find Him.

But the truth is, God always meets us in the same place every time ... where we look for Him. When we listen to His

Spirit, we find that He never stopped pursuing us. We may think we are chasing Him, but in reality, He is chasing us.

Because of you and folks like you, we are able to provide a place where people meet God. A place where His Spirit is free to speak, and His servants (the staff) are eager to share His love.

In this newsletter, you will read about two of those seekers. They came with God-shaped holes in their souls and God met them here and filled them completely.

I hope you hear God speak as you read these stories and you are reminded that God never stops working in the lives of every person He created. And while you’re at it, please pray for the work here at Wichita Falls Faith Mission and for God’s continual support of this vital ministry.

Steve Sparks
CEO

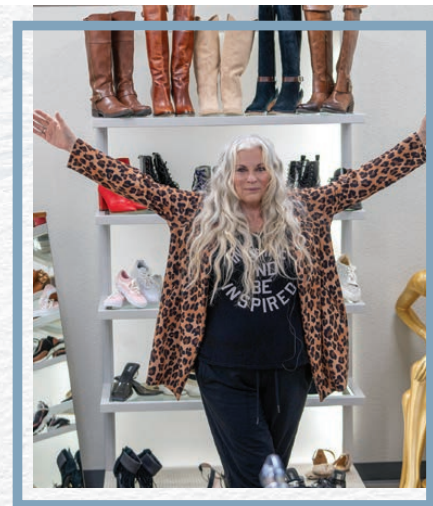
BRENNA’S STORY

BRENNA PARTICIPATED in the New Beginnings Program at Faith Refuge. While there, she volunteered for a pop-up boutique fundraiser. Johnelle Donnell, one of the organizers, saw that Brenna had a special knack for display and merchandising. After graduating from the program, Brenna immediately landed a job in the culinary industry. She was uncomfortable with her coworker’s extracurricular activities because it brought back old memories of old behavior. So, she started looking for something else.

Johnelle, remembering her work at the fundraiser, set up a job interview for her at Faith Resale. She was hired to manage the apparel sorting area. After realizing her potential, she was promoted to the sales floor, where she flourished. Eventually, she was promoted to manage Faith Resale Downtown. And on March 1, 2024, Brenna was moved to the new store at the corner of Southwest Parkway and Kemp as Store Manager.

Brenna is able to interact with the customers in her new position, often praying for them. She recalls a lady who came in the store and announced, “Brenna, I have cancer. You need to pray with me.” Brenna said, “I gathered all the girls from Faith Refuge who were working that day and all the customers who were on the floor together, and we prayed for her. She

brought us cookies for weeks; she is still one of our customers.” Brenna has learned so much about her relationship with God while working at the store. She knows on a deep level that it is all preparing her for something else that God has in store.



Brenna said, “This store is an outpouring of God’s love. If you don’t feel God’s presence when you walk into it, then come and pray with us.” Her desire is to serve and minister to anyone who needs it. “We are here for you. This is a store of love. It’s been made with love. And it’s here to show God’s strength, redemption, and restoration.”

Brenna knows it is not all about making money for Wichita Falls Faith Mission. “He’s just restored all of us. Everyone that’s in here is being restored. Families are being redeemed. I can’t wait to be able to share it with more of the community.”



STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

DREW'S STORY IS A SYMBOL of hope and transformation, showcasing the strength of perseverance and the remarkable ability of the human spirit to evolve. He was burdened with the duties of an adult from an early age. Drew was the eldest of 10 children, which put him into a role that he did not want. This load early in his life laid the basis for a life with opiate addiction, a battle that began with pills and escalated to heroin. Drew's struggle with addiction was a cycle of brief sobriety and relapse. He fell back into darkness each time, seemingly inevitable after any life upheaval.

The turning point in Drew's life came after losing his mother and a consequential brush with the law. Facing the possibility of prison, Drew opted for a 13-month rehabilitation program at Wichita Falls Faith Mission, a decision he initially viewed to avoid incarceration rather than a genuine opportunity for change. Yet, what awaited him was a journey of self-discovery and healing that would redefine his existence.

*"Faith Mission has saved my life. It's changed me,"
Drew reflects with deep gratitude.*

The program did more than help him overcome addiction; it allowed him to uncover his true self and experience genuine happiness, peace, and hope for the first time in 35 years. His initial plan to remain inconspicuous was quickly overturned as he was entrusted with leadership roles, pushing him to engage with the community and confront the reality of his past choices.

Through service and his faith, Drew found the missing piece of his soul he had long searched for in vain. His story is a vivid illustration of redemption and the restoration of hope. "Every day, a new door is getting opened, and I have the opportunity to walk through it," he said.

Now, as Drew stands on the threshold of a new chapter, working at the Faith Mission and living a once unimaginable life, he is surrounded by a community that has become his family and support system. His narrative is not just about overcoming addiction; it's about finding connection, purpose, and a future filled with possibilities. Drew's story is a powerful reminder that no matter how deep the darkness, the light of hope can guide us to a new dawn.

Shop & Donate. Faith Resale and Donation Center.

YOUR PURCHASES & DONATIONS HELP END HOMELESSNESS!

We offer a wide selection of quality merchandise at reasonable prices. Inventory changes daily so shop often!

Clean out your closets and refresh your home by donating clothing, cookware, dishes, furnishings, home decorations, toys, and more. Donations, excluding used mattresses and sleeper sofas, are received during business hours at our convenient drive-through donation center at Faith Resale.



TWO LOCATIONS

4502 Jacksboro Hwy. and 2708 Southwest Pkwy.
both locations next to United Supermarket.
Hours: Monday - Saturday: 10am - 6pm, Sunday: Closed
Call to schedule free pick-up for large items 940-766-0705

STORIES FROM FAITH REFUGE



ANGELA'S STORY symbolizes hope, tracing her path from addiction to a state of recovery and renewal. Raised in a family where substance abuse was an ever-present reality, she was introduced to drugs and alcohol at the age of 11. This early exposure, coupled with a desire to fit in and make her family proud, led her down a path of self-destruction. As her addiction deepened, Angela found herself isolating from those she loved, pushing her family away rather than sharing her pain and struggles.

Angela's sister remained her constant inspiration, symbolizing the life and love she yearned to reclaim. "I love her with all my heart," Angela recalls. This love sparked Angela's determination to overcome her addiction, cherish sober moments, and make lasting memories.

Faith Refuge came to Angela from an unexpected source—her cousin. She was reading a Facebook post about a woman who graduated from New Beginnings, the Addiction Recovery Program, and

forwarded the post to Angela. "One day, while traveling to Fort Worth with some friends, I repeatedly typed "Faith Refuge" into my phone, opening and closing the search. In that moment of repetition, it felt like a higher power was nudging me, a whisper from God himself, urging me to face a truth I had been avoiding."

And so, Angela did just that. She reached out with a sense of divine guidance, ready to explore who she was meant to be with God's help. This simple act marked the beginning of a personal transformation and a sense of purpose that only God could give.

Angela's story transcends her

battle with addiction, serving as an inspiring testament to the power of faith, the importance of community, and the unbreakable bond of family. She looks forward to a future filled with promise, restored relationships, and the opportunity to create new, sober memories with her loved ones.

Her story offers a powerful message to others facing similar battles: "Hold on because there's enough people around that's going to have enough faith for you."

Angela's journey from despair to hope highlights the possibility of change, the importance of seeking help, and the transformative power of God's love.

DO YOU NEED TO MAKE A DISTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA?

BY DONATING TO WICHITA FALLS FAITH MISSION through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) you can support a cause you care about while possibly reducing your taxable income.

For more information on making a gift to Wichita Falls Faith Mission from your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, please contact your financial advisor.



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