



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
 EVERY STORY MATTERS

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SUMMER 2025

Healing by Serving



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

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Healing by Serving

FINDING MEANING AND PURPOSE IN LIFE can sometimes be difficult. Especially for those who are homeless and at the end of their road. Add to that, addiction, emotional crisis, poor health, and a host of other life problems, and you have a recipe for hopelessness.

At our two shelters, we have found that the cure for the hopeless is often found in serving others. When they take the focus off themselves and put it on caring for someone else, they find significance. They learn something good about themselves through humility and service.

We provide opportunities at the shelters for them to help other clients and our staff are daily examples of putting others first. We show them in God's Word how Jesus

FROM
THE CEO



modeled servanthood.

The stories you will read in this newsletter highlight the miraculous transformation that can happen when we take our eyes off ourselves and look around.

Thank you for reading them and thank for supporting Wichita Falls Faith Mission through your prayers and giving.

Thank you for caring,

Steve Sparks
CEO

THIS IS WHERE I'M MEANT TO BE

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JUDY'S JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE

JUDY SERVED MEALS at Faith Mission thirty years ago as a young church volunteer. Today, she's back—faithfully serving in the kitchen at Faith Refuge, sharing more than just meals.



“When I moved back to Wichita Falls and learned about Faith Refuge, I knew it was time to serve again,” Judy shared. “The kitchen just feels like my place to be.”

Judy prepares trays, serves food, and cleans up each week, often staying less than an hour. But the time she gives makes a lasting impact. “It's easy

to love these ladies. They're so thankful. It's just a positive experience,” she said.

For Judy, volunteering is more than a task—it's a calling. She leads a Bible study on Mondays and returns midweek to serve lunch. “I believe true fulfillment comes from serving

others,” she said. “When we serve in the way God calls us to, it brings a deep and lasting satisfaction.”

Judy sees real transformation in the women she serves. “Many of them become more willing to work together and learn how to control their thoughts and words,” she said. “Being away from the world gives them the space to focus on God's Word.”

Scripture is central to her ministry. She referenced Philippians 4:7: “*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

She believes peace is the most essential thing Faith Refuge provides. “Spiritual needs are the most important. You can handle the rest if you have a strong relationship with Jesus.”

The greatest reward? Watching lives change—and being changed herself. “Before I was a Christian, I wasn't a people person,” Judy said. “This experience has taught me how to love others and receive love in return.”

To those considering volunteering, she says, “Just do it. You'll be blessed.”



STORIES FROM FAITH MISSION

RUNNING TO THE RIGHT PLACE

DONAVAN NEVER IMAGINED FINDING PEACE in a dish pit or purpose in a thrift store. But today, as a student in the New Beginnings Addiction Recovery Program at Wichita Falls Faith Mission, he sees those moments as part of his healing.

“I came to Faith Mission because I was tired of myself,” Donavan said. “I never really completed anything in my life. I knew something was missing, but I didn’t know what.” A lawyer gave him Faith Mission’s information. He stayed two weeks, then left. But pain brought him back—and this time, he stayed.

What changed? For Donavan, it wasn’t just the program—it was the people. “There is no doubt in my mind—I ran to the right place,” he said. “The encouragement through God that we get here... it’s in everything we do.”

Donavan grew up in a home with clashing beliefs—Catholic tradition from his mother’s side, and Eastern philosophies from his father. But Faith Mission introduced him to a Christ-centered approach to life. “I can do this

through God” became his anchor. He learned self-discipline, emotional balance, and the power of humility—first in the kitchen, then in the store.

“The kitchen will humble you,” he said. “It shows you how to love people without expecting anything in return. And it starts to make you feel whole again.”

The biggest transformation, though, came in his heart. He found a way to forgive his father and recommit to his daughter. “I want to be the dad who shows up,” he said. “It’s not about sitting in the past. It’s about moving forward.”

Donavan’s dream is to work in IT by day and create music by night that tells his story and points others toward healing. “You can mess up a lot in life and think it’s the end. But it’s not. You always have a choice to turn around.”

He added, “I couldn’t have done this without God.”

As Donavan put it simply: “God’s with you no matter where you’re at, so there’s nothing to fear.”

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

FAITH MISSION IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE the opening of our second Transition House! This facility will provide four additional beds for men who have completed our 13-month addiction recovery program with a stable, sober living environment for up to one year.

With our current transition facility for men at full capacity, this expansion couldn’t come at a better time. The new house represents shelter and continued support on the journey to lasting recovery.

This milestone would not have been possible without our generous donors and dedicated volunteers. Your compassionate support transforms lives every day. Thank you for helping us spread hope further into our community!





RENAE'S STORY: FROM ADDICTION AND ABUSE TO FAITH AND FREEDOM

WHEN RENAE ENTERED THE LONG-TERM RECOVERY PROGRAM at Faith Refuge, she was afraid. "I didn't think I'd make it," she said honestly. "But I'm glad I stuck it out and made it through."

Renae's journey had been marked by deep pain. She grew up in a church-going home but also in a household filled with conflict and abuse. After her mother passed away from a stress-related heart attack, Renae's life spiraled into a cycle of broken relationships and emotional trauma.

She married twice—both relationships brought heartache and broken trust. Her second marriage ended after many difficult years, leaving emotional and physical wounds that took time to heal.

Following a car accident and a jail sentence, Renae turned to meth as a way to cope. "At first, I just thought I'd try it," she said. But the drug quickly took over. A brief rehab stay wasn't enough to break the cycle.

After her release from jail, a lawyer recommended Faith Refuge. Renae agreed, not knowing what to expect, but desperate for change. The first month was difficult, but

things began to shift. She found stability, routine, and spiritual grounding. Through classes, daily Bible study, and support from staff and peers, Renae started healing from the inside out.

She rediscovered her relationship with God. John 3:16 became a verse she clung to: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Renae became a leader at Faith Refuge—first in the kitchen, then at Faith Resale Store. She learned about boundaries, responsibility, and how to rebuild her life with purpose. Now, 13 months later, she's preparing to graduate. She has a job lined up, plans to marry her fiancé, and is reconnecting with her daughters. "This program changed my life completely," she said.

To others just starting their journey, Renae offers this simple advice: "Pray, read your Bible, and stay busy. Don't give up."

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.

