

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Crossroads

A PLACE OF GROWTH. A PLACE OF SAFETY.

Christmas 2019

YOU ARE A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

By Jerry Bumgardner,
Executive Director

Joy is in the air here at Crossroads Mission Avenue. Some of it comes from the festiveness of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the very reason this ministry exists. But the joy also comes from a real sense that God is on the move in South Central Nebraska to reach those who are homeless, hurting and lonely.

God recently opened doors to expand our reach into Kearney and Grand Island, and He continues to bless us with many gifts. Among those gifts is you and your passion for helping our most vulnerable neighbors. Then there's God's gift of our loving, committed staff. All I can say is that you can feel good knowing you're partnering in ministry with such quality, dedicated people.

Among the staff is someone I'd like to introduce to you to, someone who's been an extra special



"God is on the move in South Central Nebraska to reach those who are homeless, hurting and lonely." - Jerry Bumgardner, Executive Director

gift to me: Daniel Buller. As our current Associate Executive Director, Daniel is as committed as they come. He shares my deep hunger to reach the lost with the good news of God's love, grace and restorative power. And when I enter into retirement about 18 months from now, Daniel's capable hands will take the reins as Crossroads' new Executive Director.

I know in my heart God has placed Daniel here for this exact purpose. And I ask you to begin

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702 W 14TH STREET
HASTINGS, NE 68901
TEL: 402-462-6460

KEARNEY CAMPUS
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KEARNEY, NE 68847
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Skyler is currently pursuing social work as a career to help at-risk youth.

You've Helped Skyler Believe in Himself

My name is Skyler and I was kicked out of my house when I was 16.

For a few years, I lived with friends. My friend's dad asked me if I wanted to do some meth. That's when I started using hard drugs. By the time I was 20, I was living on the street, staying high to try and escape my misery.

"Most people don't care like these people care."

I was walking down the road with my guitar one day, when Jerry Bumgardner stopped and asked me if I could play guitar. I said yes, and he told me I needed to come to Crossroads. I had been to several other shelters, but I never stayed long because they were dangerous. But Jerry was genuine. You can tell when somebody really cares,

and he did. I could tell from the way he talked and the emotion he put into his handshake.

At first it was scary, but I could tell the staff here wanted good things for me. This place is honestly unique. Most shelters aren't like this one. Most people don't care like these people care. If I didn't have them believing in me when I couldn't believe in myself, I would be back out there, high, probably dead. Instead, I've been clean for three months, and I don't have any real urges to go out and use.

Right now, I'm working for Crossroads doing maintenance, and going to night school to complete my GED. I want to pursue social work and work with at-risk youth.

To the good people who are helping financially to keep Crossroads' doors open, thank you. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have this opportunity. This place is becoming my heart, my soul. It's everything to me, and I'm so grateful.

"I'm A Viable Person"

How you helped Deborah rediscover her sense of purpose

Deborah had always felt accomplished. After all, she'd raised two fine children in Hastings. And as a fully degreed accountant, she'd enjoyed a successful career for over 30 years. But everything changed in an instant when Deborah suffered a stroke and subsequently lost her job and her home.

Having also lost her voice from the stroke, Deborah was placed in a nursing home, where she underwent intensive voice therapy for several months. When she finally completed her treatment, she came to Crossroads because she could no longer afford a place of her own.

Through the support of friends like you, Deborah was welcomed with safe shelter and nutritious meals. But just as important to her is the emotional support and community she's found. "Here, I have a sense of purpose," she says. "I am a viable person."

Looking to pour her energy into something,



Deborah feels like she's getting her life back, thanks to friends like you.

Deborah was thrilled for the opportunity to help out in our thrift store. And our staff helped her plug into a government program that pays her for the hours she works.

With her thrift store job and her social security income, Deborah was recently able to move into her own apartment a few blocks away. She continues to work at the Mission Avenue Thrift store, which she loves and takes great pride in. And she is eternally grateful for the love and support she's received, amid her unique circumstances.

"That's what Crossroads is all about," Deborah says. "All walks of life ... different walks of life ... and we've all got a story."

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You Are a Gift This Christmas

praying now that God will continue to prepare him for the days, weeks and months ahead.

Any good that comes from Crossroads comes not from our hands but from God's. Only He can change hearts and restore lives. But I'm confident He has put the right servants in place to carry the torch and carry out His will.

Please spend a few minutes with your newsletter and read about some of the lives being impacted through your generous support. (Skyler's testimony is sure to touch your heart!) And thank you for your continued partnership this Christmas season.

Your generosity is an "avenue" to changed lives and fresh starts at Crossroads Mission Avenue.

Please send your Christmas gift today!

In His service,



Jerry Bumgardner
Outgoing Executive Director



Jerry Bumgardner
Outgoing Executive Director



Daniel Buller
Incoming Executive Director



**Ministry in Motion
volunteers work in
the Mission kitchen.**

Cooking Up Blessings

God works in mysterious ways. Doug can attest to that. When he suddenly lost his job, he had no way of knowing a door was being opened to a successful new business and a chance to impact others.

“My wife and I had talked about starting a catering business,” Doug says. “Well, a friend of mine worked at Crossroads. He approached me and said, ‘Hey, we need a cook and we have a commercial kitchen. Would you be interested in being our cook while you’re trying to get your business built?’ I was able to use their kitchen for my catering, and then cook for them — two meals a day.”

Doug is deeply grateful for the opportunity he

received to get back on his feet. But he especially treasures the chance he had to bless the guests at Crossroads.

“It was a really neat time,” he says. “We really enjoyed the residents and getting to know them and minister to them. Crossroads is a very worthwhile program.”

After a couple of years cooking at Crossroads, Doug’s catering business grew so much he had to move on and open his own kitchen. But he still comes back to volunteer on occasion with a group he created called Ministry in Motion.

“Crossroads is a ministry that we strongly believe in,” Doug says. “It’s a great thing for our city.”

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Address: _____

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☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible.

☐ I’d like to give monthly.

My first gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

To give online, visit crossroadsmission.com

Thank you! Please make your check payable to Crossroads Mission Avenue.