

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

# Crossroads

A PLACE OF GROWTH. A PLACE OF SAFETY.

Thanksgiving 2021

## “I Thought I Would Be Burying Him”

*How Sky's sister — and your support — helped save his life.*

Sometimes you've just got to show some tough love to those you love the most.

Sky was ruining his life, his health and his relationships with his drinking. His sister, Kelsi, had seen it all as a probation officer and knew a little something about caring for a person without enabling their bad habits.

“I did the hard love thing,” she says. “Not giving him money, not letting him stay at my place . . .”

Sky interrupts: “Never ask her to buy cigarettes, that's for sure!”

The siblings laugh, but then Kelsi turns serious again: “I totally thought I would be burying him.”

Sky doesn't argue with that. His drinking had resulted in five arrests, contributed to the loss of his marriage, and ultimately led to homelessness.

At that point, he decided he had to make some changes. So he came to Crossroads.

“I came here to quit drinking,” Sky says. That was July 16, 2020. He hasn't had a drink since.

Sky's success story goes beyond just sobriety. By December, he was on staff as the manager of the Crossroads probation house in Grand Island. In that role, he helps men who are on probation or parole to get back on their feet and find a job.

Their jobs rarely intersect — Sky is in Grand



**Sky and Kelsi are grateful for your support of the Mission.**

Island, Kelsi works for the probation office in Hastings — but they do sometimes “talk shop.”

But mostly, they're just a brother and sister who care about each other very much.

Sky says if it weren't for Kelsi, he'd have no relationship with his family. Kelsi says if weren't for the Mission, she wouldn't have a brother anymore.

“I believe they saved my brother's life,” she says.

*Thank you for your support, and for playing a role in these life-changing stories.*

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## From the Executive Director

At Crossroads, we believe in second chances. And third ones. And fourth . . .

But how far should that go? In Romans 5, Paul addresses the topic of God's grace. Then he begins Chapter 6 by asking, "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" He immediately answers his own question: "By no means! We . . . have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?"

It's hard to know where to draw the line between extending grace and exercising "tough love," particularly in a ministry that deals with people who often make unhealthy decisions. And that line varies from person to person. But sometimes we have to draw it — as Kelsi did with her brother Sky, as you'll read on the front page of this newsletter.

Please pray with us and for us as we seek the balance between grace and tough love. And, as always, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

*Daniel Buller*

Daniel Buller  
Executive Director

### Thanksgiving Wish List

We need donations of turkeys, boxed stuffing, potatoes, butter, canned green beans, mushroom soup, crispy fried onions, poultry gravy mix, rolls, pies and whipped cream topping. If you can help, please contact us through [crossroadsmission.com/about-us/critical-needs/](http://crossroadsmission.com/about-us/critical-needs/)



*Thank you for helping Melody, who now leads our kitchen!*

## "COVID Saved My Life"

Chronic pain — both physical and emotional — left Melody seeking relief. She found it in a bottle . . . for four decades.

When she lost her job and her home in early 2020, she came to Crossroads for help. She arrived in mid-March, just before the pandemic changed everything. Our guests were quarantined and were not allowed to leave the premises. For Melody, that was a blessing in disguise.

"There are a couple of gas stations nearby," she says. "Without quarantine, I would've gone over there to buy a drink. But as the days kept clicking by, I realized that I like being sober. So you could say COVID saved my life."

And Crossroads too.

"I came here a very broken person," Melody says. Multiple auto accidents had left her with debilitating neck and back pain. And alcohol had wrecked much of the rest of her body.

She initially resisted the faith-based parts of the Mission's ministry, but God's love eventually broke through. "And then I surrendered my life to Him."

As a volunteer, Melody is now a leader in our Hastings kitchen, and she hopes to land a similar paid position with the Mission soon.

"It's been an amazing journey," she says.

*Thank you for making such journeys possible for our hurting neighbors.*

✂ Please detach here and send back with your most generous gift. Thank You! ✂

## I Want to Transform Lives

YES, I want to help people in South Central Nebraska who are experiencing homelessness and hunger this Thanksgiving. Here's my gift of:

☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible.

☐ I'd like to give monthly. My first gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Please make your check payable to Crossroads Mission Avenue.  
**Thank You!**

☐ Please send me your new Gift Planning Guide.

To give online, visit [crossroadsmission.com](http://crossroadsmission.com)

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