

# Your love helps Ashley

know she is not alone...



DON'T MISS...

**2** YOU can show a hurting neighbor they're not alone!

2 YOU can help fight the opioid crisis

"I have a path for my future."

## "I HAVE A PATH FOR MY FUTURE."

A shley was just 9 years old when she lost her mother. She and her brothers went into foster care and were separated. Despondent, traumatized, and alone, **Ashley was desperate for an escape from her pain.** With no other support available to her, she turned to drugs for relief.

"I was consumed by feelings of rejection," she says.

Ashley moved to Pensacola hoping for a fresh start, but the new location only heightened her loneliness. "I didn't know anyone," she says. "I was all by myself."

Then – when she was at rock bottom – someone told Ashley about Waterfront Rescue Mission. **She came for emergency relief: food, shelter, and clothing. Two days later, she joined one of our life-changing programs.**  "It was so important to have someone I didn't know welcome me with open arms and offer to help with anything I needed. I knew that even if the Mission didn't have all the answers, they would help me find the resources I needed."

Now, Ashley is in our work training program. When she arrived, she didn't have an ID, birth certificate, or Social Security card. She is working on getting back all that lost documentation so she can build a better life and reach the goals she has set for herself.

"The Mission is showing me the next steps I need to take to be a productive member of society," she says. "Before coming here, I was lost. Now I have a path for my future."

Thank you for loving neighbors like Ashley "as you've loved yourself." Your



kindness has reminded her that she is not alone and that a better life is possible! "I'm thankful for the Mission, because they gave me hope.

Now I know I'm no longer alone."

"I felt a lot of love and community here."



"Love your neighbor as yourself..." - Matthew 22:39



#### A Message from FREDRICK HENDERSON

### You're sharing **God's love** this summer.

I don't have to tell you that our community is special. You see for yourself local acts of care and compassion. When neighbors feel lonely and forgotten, we step up to show love. It's what makes our community strong.

But people like YOU make the greatest difference... generous friends who go above and beyond to show love to neighbors in need. That's why I know I can count on your support over these crucial summer months – when so many local men, women, and children remain hurting, hungry, and homeless.

This month we're kickstarting **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign** to help meet the unique needs of our guests this summer season – like shelter from the heat, nourishing meals, and clean water. Each month is an opportunity for you to respond with a generous gift that reflects the words of Matthew 22:39... to *"love your neighbor as yourself."* 

Your support will show struggling people in our community like Ashley that they are never alone. Read her story on page 3 of this newsletter – then consider how you can best respond to help more people like her this summer. We'll be so grateful.

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Fredrick Henderson Director of Pensacola Mission



Waterfront's LifeBuilder Recovery Program offers hope to people battling opioid addiction. But with the crisis growing, our current space can't continue to meet the need.

**You can help!** Your gift today will help the Mission acquire a new transitional house to expand our capacity. It will allow us to serve an additional 32 individuals per year in the career development phase of our recovery program, empowering them to re-enter our community on a solid footing.

Escambia County's overdose death rate is 2X Florida's average.



Give now to help fight the opioid crisis along the Gulf Coast at **waterfrontmission.org.** Thank you for believing that recovery is possible!

#### YOU CAN SHOW A HURTING NEIGHBOR THEY'RE NOT ALONE!





Your gift of \$2.58 provides a hot, nourishing meal – and can lead to other life-changing services like housing for an overnight guest,

Christ-centered counsel, and recovery.

Give to our Love Your Neighbor summer campaign... and show local people who are homeless and hurting that you care.

Give now! waterfrontmission.org



NEIGHBOR

WPENSN

YOUR

#### Keep neighbors **SAFE** this summer

Your gift of \$51.00 provides a night of housing for an overnight guest

Many of us can count on cold drinking water, refreshing showers, and air conditioning to make it through this summer's hottest weeks.

**But our neighbors out on the street have no relief.** Without shade or sun protection, even warm days put them at risk of heat stroke and dehydration.

Your gift can make all the difference for someone experiencing homelessness this summer. Just \$51.00 provides a night of safe housing for overnight guests – along with other services like these!



Cool water to drink & nourishing meals



Refreshing showers & safe shelter



Clean clothes & socks (Socks are our most requested item!)



Sunscreen & hygiene items

Because of your support, hurting neighbors have everything they need to recover and rebuild at Waterfront – so they can have healthier, more stable lives!



To see how you can help meet our neighbors' most urgent needs, visit **waterfrontmission.org/** urgent-needs/ or scan here!

### Local women have hope... thanks to you!

Thanks to support from generous friends like you, our women's wing is now open! With your generosity, we are providing overnight shelter for up to 49 single women each night.

These women now have access to restroom and shower facilities, clean clothing and laundry



services, warm beds, meals, and support from chaplains and community partners. Most importantly, the women who stay at Waterfront are safe and secure from the dangers of sleeping on the streets.

Additionally, every woman who walks through our doors is equipped with the tools and short-term support she needs to rebuild her life. Programs are available for those women seeking lasting change, including:

- Veteran's Care Program
- Work Training Program
- Working Homeless Program
- Chronically Homeless Program

We also offer respite beds for homeless women who have been discharged from the hospital, as well as referrals to other community providers to address additional needs.

Thank you again for your support of our new women's wing! For more information about how you are helping transform the lives of hurting women in our community, visit waterfrontmission.org/hopeforher.