

# quarterly NEWS LETTER



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Our CEO's  
5-Year Strategy

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David's Journey Through  
Homelessness And Cancer

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Our Waterfront Champion




# A Season of Change. A Future of Hope.

How our Mission is  
growing to serve  
more individuals  
and families than  
ever before

# OUR 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**4,129** PEOPLE HELPED  
(AN 11% INCREASE FROM 2024)

**210,590**  
MEALS SERVED  
(+20.7%)

**84,588**   
NIGHTS OF SHELTER  
PROVIDED (+17.6%)

**110** PEOPLE EMPLOYED | **1,370** CLASSES HELD 

 **81** PEOPLE HOUSED

**360** VETERANS SERVED 

## MISSION MOMENTS & EVENTS



### LifeBuilder Recovery Program Graduation

Thursday, March 26

Keep our graduates in your prayers as they move forward in their journey of sobriety!

As we enter the Easter season, I'm reminded that resurrection is not just a moment in history—it's a living promise. At the Waterfront Mission, we see that promise every day as men and women move from despair to dignity and from brokenness to new life. Easter proclaims that what once seemed lost can be restored, and that truth fuels everything we do in Jesus' name.

Over the past year, Waterfront has continued to grow, serving more neighbors, meeting greater needs, and walking with individuals through homelessness, addiction, and life-dominating challenges. With that growth comes responsibility. Our leadership team recently prayerfully developed a new five-year strategic plan (2026–2030) centered on a simple vision: go deep, then wide. We are committed to deepening the quality

of care we provide—strengthening recovery, increasing mental health services, and creating safer, more supportive spaces for men and women. From that foundation, we will widen our reach through partnerships and new opportunities to serve more neighbors in need.

This plan is grounded in prayer and stewardship. Every initiative is evaluated through a mission filter: Does this align with our calling to provide rescue and recovery services in Jesus' name? Is it a true need? Can we sustain it faithfully?

As we celebrate Easter, we trust the God who brings life from death and hope from despair. The same resurrection power guides our vision ahead calling us to deepen our care, widen our reach, and remain faithful to the mission entrusted to the Waterfront Mission. Thank you for walking alongside



### A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

us through your prayers and generosity. Together, we look ahead with hope as the Lord continues to restore lives and transform our community for His glory.

With gratitude,

*Clayton A. Romano*  
Clayton A. Romano,  
President & CEO of Waterfront Mission

# FROM WANDERING TO HEALING

## THE DIAGNOSIS THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING



STRENGTH,  
PURPOSE  
AND HOPE  
AHEAD

David never stayed in one place very long. For years he traveled across the country, picking up jobs, working long enough to get back on his feet, and then heading off again—sometimes on his bike, sometimes on a Greyhound bus. It was a life of constant movement, but not stability.

Then, a little over a year ago, David walked through the doors of Waterfront Mission with nowhere left to go. He had lost his apartment and was facing the reality of homelessness. What he needed most was consistency—a place to land and someone willing to walk alongside him. Our team enrolled David in the Chronically Homeless Program, giving him extended, safe shelter and the support he needed while he worked toward rebuilding his life.

But soon his journey took an unexpected turn.

While staying at the Mission, David received a devastating diagnosis: stage-four colon cancer. Without a job or insurance, the diagnosis could have been overwhelming. Instead, he found himself surrounded by

people who refused to let him face it alone. Waterfront staff helped him navigate medical care, and for the first time in a long while, David had stability during a season that demanded it most. He underwent surgery and began chemotherapy.

Throughout the treatments, David often reflected on how different his experience could have been. Despite the seriousness of his diagnosis, David said he felt more loved, supported, and hopeful than he had in years. What he discovered at the Mission wasn't just shelter—it was family.

“ Having a bed, having a roof [over my head] to go through chemo... if I was outside doing this, it would be rough—real rough.

Months passed, treatments continued, and hope slowly replaced fear.

### Today, David is in remission.

Recently he moved into his own apartment and found work at a local restaurant. His health is improving, his spirits are strong, and his life has a new direction.

When asked what advice he would give others facing hardship, David keeps it simple: “Just ride it out. Every day you wake up, give it to Him. Philippians 3:8.”

**David's story is a powerful reminder that healing takes more than medicine—it takes community, compassion, and faith.**

### Philippians 3:8

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

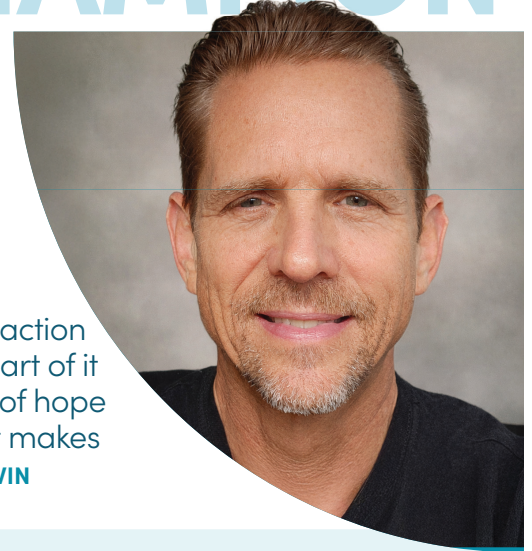
# WATERFRONT CHAMPION

Kevin relocated to Mobile in 2020 with a desire to reconnect to hands-on service after involvement in homeless outreach in Houston.

He began volunteering in the mailroom, assisting with client check-in, and serving in the kitchen. These roles allowed him to build relationships and witness firsthand how structure, accountability, and genuine care transform lives. Inspired by the impact he saw daily, he transitioned from volunteer to employee, committing himself even more fully to serving those seeking a fresh start.

We are incredibly grateful for Kevin and the impact he has already made as a volunteer, and we're excited to see the continued difference he will make as part of our team.

“ Seeing the program in action made me want to be part of it again. There's a shared sense of hope and encouragement here that makes the work truly meaningful. - KEVIN



## A SMALL TOKEN. A SAFE NIGHT. A STEP TOWARD HOPE.

Sometimes people want to help but aren't sure how. The **Waterfront Token** gives our community a simple way to help someone in need with compassion and dignity.

When you purchase a token for \$10, you're not just giving—you're helping open the door to life-changing services. Instead of cash that could

be misused, the token can be exchanged for a safe night of shelter at either Waterfront Mission location.



### HOW IT WORKS



The Waterfront Token is truly a small token that opens the door to hope.

Learn more at [waterfrontmission.org/token](http://waterfrontmission.org/token)

## SHOP OUR THRIFT STORES VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME



**WATERFRONT  
THRIFT**

[waterfrontthrift.org/volunteer](http://waterfrontthrift.org/volunteer)

### MISSION STATEMENT

To Demonstrate God's Goodness by Providing Rescue and Recovery Services in Jesus' Name.

### STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on   

### MAKE A GIFT

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