

quarterly NEWS LETTER



INSIDE

Our CEO's
5-Year Strategy

DISCOVER

Chris' Journey Through
Loss, Illness, And Faith

MEET

Our Waterfront
Champions




**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 the Waterfront Mission

HE FOUND A FRIEND IN THE BATTLE FOR HIS LIFE



For more than 20 years, Chris built a successful career as an automotive technician. Dependable and hardworking, he took pride in the life he had built. But when a serious injury left him unable to work, everything changed. His sense of purpose faded, and he began battling depression and an eating disorder.

Not long after, Chris moved from Vero Beach to Pensacola to care for his mother, who was living with Parkinson's disease. He devoted himself to her care, but when she passed away a few years later, his grief deepened. Still unable to return to work and struggling with his health, Chris knew something had to change. He was searching for healing—and a way to reconnect with his faith.

In 2020, Chris found Waterfront Mission. He became involved in programs and spent time in transitional housing, slowly rebuilding his life. His faith started taking route again and he began attending Olive Baptist Church. Along the way, he formed close relationships with Waterfront's chaplains—people he trusted to walk alongside him. One of those chaplains, Fredrick, later baptized Chris, marking a powerful milestone in his journey.

Then COVID-19 changed everything.

As programs temporarily shut down, Chris moved back into transitional housing, working to save money and prepare for independent living. During this time, he contracted COVID-19, and his health took a serious turn. He battled repeated cases of pneumonia and found himself stuck in a difficult cycle of recovery and relapse.

“I'm most thankful that Waterfront helped me find my faith again and some semblance of health.”

When Chris returned to the Mission a few years later, he met Chaplain Nikki, who prayed over him on one of his first nights back. That prayer came at a critical moment. Shortly afterward, Chris was hospitalized again—first with pneumonia, then in the ICU with renal failure. Just a month later, he battled COVID once more and later developed COPD, further complicating his

already fragile health. Yet through it all, Chris never stopped pushing forward.

Despite ongoing challenges, Chris showed up. He worked wherever help was needed—at the front desk, in the respite dorm, and behind the scenes—often volunteering beyond what was required. **Through the Mission's Work Training Program, he found stability, purpose, and a place where he belonged.**

With determination and discipline, Chris saved diligently. At the end of January, he reached a milestone he once thought was out of reach: moving into a place of his own.

“I'm most thankful that Waterfront helped me find my faith again and some semblance of health,” Chris shared. “It's still a rough go, but they've given me hope—something to fight for.”

Looking back, Chris points to a sign above the Mission's front desk that now feels deeply personal: If you don't have a friend in the world, you'll find one here.

Chris found a friend at Waterfront.

And through that friendship, he found healing.

WATERFRONT CHAMPIONS

Since September 2023, friends Marian and Johnnie have faithfully served together at our Pensacola Mission, and their impact continues to grow.

“ I enjoy meeting new people and helping anyone I can. - **MARIAN**

Nearly every week (often multiple times a week), you'll find them serving lunch to our guests with these welcoming smiles. **As of the beginning of February, they had clocked in a combined 729 hours of service!**

We are so grateful for their consistency, compassion, and servant spirit. Thank you, Marian and Johnnie, for helping make the Mission feel like a caring place to so many!

“ God set an example with His disciples—He said, “I didn't come here to be served, I came here to serve,” so that's what I do. - **JOHNNIE**



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

SHOP OUR THRIFT STORES VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME



**WATERFRONT
THRIFT**

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

waterfrontmission.org
348 West Herman Street
Pensacola, FL 32505
(850) 436-7868

