

2023



CARPENTER'S PLACE™

PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™

# DECEMBER

*Inspired by Christ's compassion, Carpenter's Place offers direction with accountability to people with broken lives, helping them find peace with God, themselves and their communities.*

## A STORY TO REMEMBER

Let me tell you about a homeless family who came to town. The newly married couple had no vehicle and had traveled by foot for many miles to clear up a legal matter. They had hoped to stay with family, but when that didn't work out, they had no money for a motel. To make matters worse, the wife was pregnant and had gone into labor, and they had no way to get to the hospital. They found refuge in a barn, and there, without any help, the man helped deliver his wife's baby into the world, even though he knew he wasn't the child's biological father.

Does this story sound familiar? It is a modern-day narrative of Jesus' birth, from Luke Chapter 2. Some of this retelling is my speculation, but I don't think it is far from what they experienced. So often with Christmas cards, we see a beautiful "silent night," but I think it was a night filled with stress, uncertainty and fear. God sent his Son into our world in the middle of a story of homelessness, and in his ministry, Jesus was a man who had no place to lay his head (Matthew 8:20).

We see each of our homeless guests in Christ's story. The King of all creation, humbling Himself to walk our paths, face our challenges, and save us from all that would keep us from God's love. This Christmas, pray for all the homeless in our community, and that we all have eyes to see the glory of God even in the most unlikely places.

Merry Christmas!  
Rev. Jason Hladik  
Director of Guest Services



## SEASON'S GREETINGS



The Family Services Program understands the importance of supporting families during transition. Support can be as simple as providing families with holiday décor to lift their spirits during this Christmas Season.

## WAY TO GO, ORLANDO!

Orlando (left) experienced a very dysfunctional home environment while growing up. In spite of this, he was able to obtain education, training, and job experience to work toward his dream of being a licensed massage therapist. The fall of 2023, however, brought instability into Orlando's life, and he found himself homeless for the first time in his life. Orlando came to CP angry, bitter, and feeling completely lost and helpless. He had only a few belongings and the clothes on his back.

With the help of CP case managers and the employment coordinator (Rob pictured right), Orlando has begun chipping away at barriers and is back on his feet, with his zest for life returning.

Today, Orlando is working as a rehabilitation technician at a wellness clinic in Rockford! Though only part-time (for now), this position will allow him to learn new rehabilitative technologies and continue working towards his career goals. We are so proud of Orlando!



# MEETING THE NEED

## GET TO KNOW...TINA



Tina joined Carpenter's Place in March, 2020, in our Mental Health Housing Program as a General Case Manager. Recently, Tina changed programs and is now the

Coordinator of Success House, a program designed for guests who are already employed or are employable. Tina strives to make the lives of our guests better each and every day. She has been instrumental this year in assisting our dayroom guests with obtaining permanent housing.

## DECEMBER NEEDS

- Women's Deodorant
- Men's Deodorant
- Men's Boxers or Boxer/Briefs (sizes Small thru 3X)
- Men's Jeans: Waist sizes 30 and 32 (various lengths)
- Backpacks
- 8 oz disposable coffee cups
- Powdered Creamer
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Hot Chocolate

If you have any questions regarding our in-kind needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to Patti at [PattiF@carpentersplace.org](mailto:PattiF@carpentersplace.org) or call Patti at 779-210-2970.

## OPEN MEALS

### JANUARY:

**BREAKFAST:** 2, 5, 10, 15, 16, 17, 24, 29, 31

**LUNCH:** 3, 4, 9, 16, 17, 22, 29, 30, 31

### TO SECURE A DATE:

Email Mandy at

[MandyB@carpentersplace.org](mailto:MandyB@carpentersplace.org)

or call Mandy at 779.210.2975.

To make a **DONATION**, visit:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/cpdonate>.

## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Thanks to a group of generous donors, we have received a \$50,000 matching donation. That means that your donation in December will have double the impact. As our partner in care, you will provide a warm, safe place out of the cold, showers, laundry, two meals daily, case management and housing. We simply cannot fulfill our mission without you!

Make an online donation here <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/cpdonate> or mail your donation to 1149 Railroad Ave., Rockford, IL 61104.

Your donation will make a meaningful difference in someone's life.



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### COMING SOON!

From December 7 through December 22, Carpenter's Place brings a little Christmas joy to our guests each day. This starts with a special daily gift, a Christmas party with presents (thanks to some wonderful donors), and finishes with the Sylvester family playing Bingo with our guests, with fun giveaways for all. During this time, we love volunteers coming to share their musical talents with our guests. **If you or someone you know share a musical talent, contact Mandy at [MandyB@carpentersplace.org](mailto:MandyB@carpentersplace.org) or 779-210-2975.**

The Christmas season is such a joyous time around Carpenter's Place as together we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We invite you to join in the celebration!**

### WE GIVE THANKS...

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.**

**– Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)**



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