

UPDATE ON KERSTINE

In 2017, we shared an incredible testimony from a young lady named Kerstine. Kerstine grew up in homelessness with two alcoholic parents, was using meth and had her first felony arrest all before the age of fourteen. Her teenage years consisted of being in and out of the court system, experiencing sexual abuse, and prostituting to fund her addictions. Lost and broken, Kerstine’s situation got even worse. Unfortunately, Kerstine used meth during the pregnancy of her second child, which resulted in Child Protective Services not letting her be with him once he was born. This was a rock bottom moment.

Desperate for help, Kerstine reached out to April Seat, the volunteer and community outreach coordinator at Union Gospel Mission at the time. Through coordinated efforts with April and the local church community, a generous family took Kerstine and her baby into their home. Once this loving family picked her up from the hospital, Kerstine and her baby went with them to River of Life church that Sunday. She was prayed over during the service and it was there that she encountered God in a powerful way. This led to her giving her life to the Lord! From there, she continued to receive support to get her back on her feet and on her way to recovery.

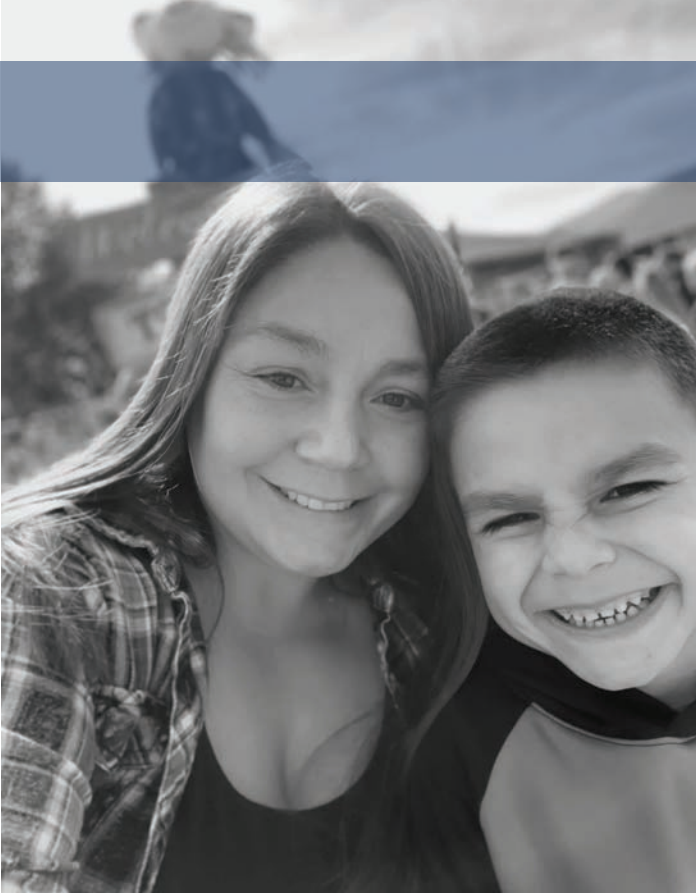
Since this transformation, Kerstine’s journey has not been easy. Sadly, her mother was still homeless and battling addiction up until her passing on the streets in 2021. Kerstine’s siblings have struggled with addiction and one of them is still homeless today. These realities have been incredibly hard for her, but she has had hope in God and a loving community surrounding her through it.

For the past year, Kerstine has been joyfully working at Hope Rescue Mission’s Temporary Safe Outdoor Space! “I feel comfortable working here. I feel at home, because I know what it’s like for them. I have been able to share my story with the people here,” Kerstine said.

Not only has she been able to be a light among those who are experiencing what she walked through, she also has been a pillar of stability for her siblings. Her brother, who also has battled through so much in his life, has been living with her and doing really well. This stability in Kerstine’s home is something she and her siblings never had growing up.

Thankfully, her eight year old son’s life looks a lot different than her childhood. When asked how her son’s life is different, Kerstine immediately smiled. “Lot’s of love and there’s always food for him. He’s got a real cool room in our house too,” she happily shared.

When looking back at her life, Kerstine said, “I’m amazed I’m still living.” Through April Seat, Hope Rescue Mission and the local church community, not only is she living, she is a walking testimony of the hope and restoration faith in Jesus brings.



HOPE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

NEW BEGINNINGS

I began my time on the Hope Rescue Mission (HRM) Board of Directors in January of 2019 in the midst of some very challenging situations I decided that if I was going to stay, I was going to take the reins and, in June 2019, I jumped in head-first as President of the Board. By March 2020 we had an overhauled board membership and a new Executive Director.

Without question, the hiring of Jim Hicks as Executive Director is the most consequential event at HRM in many years. Within HRM Jim has created a culture of Spirit-led team, collaboration, healing, and accountability. Externally, Jim has engaged fellow non-profits, city and county officials, and a great many area churches. The result - Hope Rescue Mission has grown exponentially and remains focused on its mission statement: By the grace of Jesus Christ, Hope Rescue Mission – through partnership and collaboration – serves, rescues, and transforms those in need. My time on the HRM Board has come up against term limits and I hand the Board leadership responsibilities over to Alex Burkhalter. He is quintessentially the perfect person to continue the upward trajectory and to guide Hope Rescue Mission to even greater glory for God by serving those in the greatest of need in our area. In closing, it is so important to recognize and understand that what Hope Rescue Mission does could not be accomplished without the prayers and financial support of our community – individuals, families, churches, businesses, and government entities. To all, I say “Thank You”.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We here at Hope Rescue Mission are so excited to move into 2025! The Lord’s faithfulness and your partnership is allowing great accomplishments for His Kingdom. Read on in this newsletter to see His path and faithful guidance.

Jim Hicks

Jim Hicks
Executive Director



Welcome to our new Director of Development JAKE MUDREZOW!

Jake, his wife of 11 years, Sami, and their four young children have recently moved from Northern Virginia to start work at Hope Rescue Mission. It has only been a few weeks in Montana, but Jake and his family already feel at home!



While spending nearly seven years in Washington, DC as a police officer, Jake’s passion for helping those who are hurting and suffering increased. Over time, Jake felt called to leave law enforcement and go into ministry, where he has been for the last three years. Being in a position to help and point people to the hope and restoration of Jesus Christ was extremely rewarding, and he is thrilled to continue that through Hope Rescue Mission.

Within the first few hours of being at Hope Rescue Mission, Jake was overwhelmed by what God is doing at Hope through each team. While doing site tours, he witnessed a beautiful celebration at our Temporary Safe Outdoor Space (TSOS), as a program participant walked in with an apartment key. Hope restored and another life transformed!

Jake is excited to be a part of advancing the Kingdom of God in Missoula as HRM continues to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the homeless in our community.



Steve Parker served Hope Rescue Mission diligently for six years as board president and is leaving big shoes to fill. As your future board president I commit to HRM staff, volunteers, supporters and those we serve to do my best to continually lead, support and pray for HRM as we enter our 26th year. With addiction hitting close to home, God’s given me a deep compassion for those who are struggling and confidence no one is beyond his love for them.

I’ve seen God do amazing things during my four years on the board and I know He has great things for HRM in 2025. We have important work to do and an incredibly skilled and passionate team who will continue to help people, restore hope and transform lives. Faith Forward!

Alex Burkhalte - New Board President



www.hopemontana.org | 406-542-5240



Join us to help start new beginnings in our community.

- ☐ \$50 will help transform a life of those in need.
- ☐ \$100 helps HRM identify the first steps to a path forward for four people.
- ☐ \$250 helps HRM walk with someone down a path leading out of homelessness.
- ☐ \$1,000 sponsors one person in a transformative HRM program for one month.
- ☐ I prefer to give a one time donation of \$_____ for _____



Scan To Give

☐ I pledge \$_____/month

☐ I prefer to pay by ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Account Number _____ Name as it appears on the card _____

Exp. Date _____ CSV Code _____ Email Address (required) _____

You can also donate online at www.hopemontana.org

Union Gospel Mission of Missoula dba HOPE RESCUE MISSION is a 501c3 organization. Your charitable contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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NEW ADDITIONS TO TSOS:

* An outpatient treatment provider was added to our TSOS program in July 2024 and can conduct substance abuse mental health evaluations within 24 hours. They connect clients to licensed addiction counselors to work through issues and achieve a stable state and productive life. Getting clients on the right medications and addressing root causes through counseling.

LAC will be doing groups 3 nights a week at TSOS Recovery meetings, Life Skills, and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)

Local banks come in monthly to teach clients basic budgeting and financial literacy classes.

Non-Data observations/wins:

- Residents are receiving consistent case management and peer support counseling.
- Residents are building trust because of the incredible staff onsite.
- We have observed a level of excitement from the residents at the prospect of moving forward!
- The residents finally feel SEEN after having been "invisible" for decades.

We have a new outreach program at HRM! **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)** is a federal program that provides outreach and engagement to people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of doing so. These services are offered to people who have enrolled voluntarily in the program and have been diagnosed with severe mental illness.

Leading this incredible team is Robert, who once found himself struggling with drug and alcohol abuse at a very young age. After multiple stays in jail and a life that was going the wrong direction, Robert encountered Jesus at rock bottom, and his life was forever changed. Now he has the honor of loving clients, practically helping them with their struggles through the PATH program, and bringing the hope of Jesus Christ.

HOUSING

- **Served 92** so far in 2024
- **34 individuals** have transitioned into housing/diverted out of homelessness (for example, into programs for rehabilitation)
- **2 individuals** with housing approval-housing transition expected within 1-2 weeks
- **1 individual** connecting with Emergency Housing through the YWCA
- **4 individuals** with vouchers and scheduled meetings with Missoula Housing Authority
- **4 individuals** on the Section 8 housing list, into the top 10 on the list

IDS

- **19 individuals** have now received their photo IDs
- **7 individuals** actively working with staff and obtaining needed birth certificates/SS cards for photo IDs

EMPLOYMENT

- **15 individuals** have now been employed since beginning residency at the TSOS
- **1 individual** has also applied and been accepted into VOC Rehab to begin schooling

CASE MANAGEMENT

- **25 individuals** actively working with case management are now able to see their case manager consistently (at least 1x/week) for the first time
- **8 individuals** getting connected with case management/peer support (if not eligible for case management) onsite

In 2024, we **provided service to 834 families**. This does not include those who come and use the center to have a safe place to be, warm up/cool down, have a cup of coffee and a snack.

We also provided the following for 2024:

- **\$20,195.41** in diversion monies for rental assistance or relocation
- **\$3,059** in hotel vouchers
- **\$4,840** in gas vouchers
- **\$1,080** in laundry cards
- **\$6,271.94** in other services such as propane, ID replacements, birth certificates, rental applications, others outside the box items



Our RESCUED operation is expanding rapidly! For those of you who are not aware, over the last couple years, Hope Rescue Mission has run a textile recycling operation. We take excess donations from our boutique and other locally owned thrift stores and compress them into 1,000 pound "bales", which are then purchased by wholesalers. But our team was hoping to give a second chance to even more items coming from these locally owned thrift stores, so they thought of RESCUED.

Every Tuesday from 10AM to 5PM, we turn the baling warehouse at **1835 North Avenue West** into a retail space, where the public can come **buy clothing for \$1 per pound**. Through this operation, more people in our community are being reached, and more funds are being raised for our programs! The community response has been so great on Tuesdays, that we are opening to the public a second day starting in 2025, with the goal to be open three days by the summer of 2025. While RESCUED has grown immensely in just a few short months, our purpose remains the same: Helping people, restoring hope, and transforming lives!



Thank you for your generosity and support of our Women's Center after this summer's wind storm! Despite multiple trees falling and causing significant damage to one of our buildings, your donations and prayer helped us recover quickly.



We are excited to share that our Women's Center has met specific standards of quality and ethical practice through the state, and now carries a level three accreditation with RRAM (Recovery Residence Alliance of Montana). With this accreditation, our Women's Center now has increased credibility and trust, along with access to more funding opportunities, resources, training, and more.