

Nothing brings a more chaotic disorientation than a season of mental health crisis. You can break a bone, even if it needs to be pinned back together, and your journey is a 12 week timeline. When one enters a trifecta-dark-tunnel of addiction, mental health, and affordable housing, it is hell.

Jesus brought light to this dark tunnel for humanity. In this newsletter you will read such a story. This story, and many others, are the "why" of HRM. Scripture does not say "blessed are those who work with the poor", it says "blessed are the poor". The blessing comes as we enter the dark tunnel with our neighbors by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

Read on, and see where God's blessing rests.



Jim Hicks
Jim Hicks
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HEALTH through Hell

TESTIMONY OF JAMES

The relentless Montana winds had long been a metaphor for James's life—bitter, unforgiving, and constantly buffeting him. He'd known nothing but hardship since childhood, growing up under the shadow of his father's physical abuse. "He destroyed my life," James would say, the words heavy with decades of pain. "I blamed him for everything...and I am tired of it affecting my life. I have to move on." School offered no reprieve, only more torment from bullies. His young adulthood became a blur of prison stints and drug use, a futile attempt to escape the ghosts that haunted him. Separated from his family, he felt adrift, "just kind of over it." Even now, the why remained a mystery with his father: "Still to this day, I don't understand him. Why he was that way."

Today, James carries a different kind of burden: relentless physical pain. A neck fusion surgery looms next month, followed by a hip replacement early next year. Yet, despite the constant agony, a remarkable transformation is unfolding. James now lives at **Hope Rescue Mission's Temporary Safe Outdoor Space**, a place he found after our **PATH team** connected with him. Here, he has found something he never had: **stability**. "This place is wonderful," he says, a genuine smile breaking through. "I've got my own little spot. I have the freedom to leave my things and not worry about it. I don't have to live out of a grocery cart. That's not what I want...That's not me anymore."

The team at Hope Rescue Mission has been instrumental, helping him navigate every obstacle. But the biggest shift has been internal. "Now, I have a conversation with Jesus multiple times a day. It has helped a lot." He acknowledges his journey of faith is ongoing, "I may not be as close as I should be, but I know that He is in my life and watching out for me. I know it, so many times in my life I shouldn't be alive."

Driven by a deeply **hospitable heart**, James is now in school four days a week for hospitality and restaurant management. His dream is to work at a resort, eventually becoming a manager. He's a testament to resilience, a living example of what's possible with the right support and an unyielding will to change. "If you really want help and need a place to be while you take care of your business," he advises others, "You're not just going to lay up in there for 9 months. They aren't going to let you do that here." His message to those still struggling is clear and powerful: "If you want to get up and go somewhere and be someone, other than who you were before you got here, there's your chance. This is it. Get a job. Save money. Handle your medical stuff. I turn people on to this place all the time. It comes down to, 'how willing are you?'" James's journey from having **gone through hell in life** to finding health is a beacon, proving that even after decades of darkness, a new dawn is always possible through Jesus Christ.



Montana's Charity GRAVEL RIDE

Riding so others find Recovery.

13 | SEPT
2025

Nine Mile Community Center
25620 9 Mile Rd | Huson, MT

GRAVEL RIDE REGISTRATION

Registration includes
participant t-shirt, swag bag,
trail snacks, and lunch!

2
COURSE
LENGTHS

POST RIDE
MEAL
10AM - 4PM

FAMILY &
KIDS GAMES
10AM - 2PM

*Helping the homeless
find HOME.*

For more information
visit www.hopesufferfest.com



REGISTER HERE



Get ready to ride for a cause! Hope Rescue Mission presents its 4th Annual Hope Sufferfest on Saturday, September 13th. This 100% gravel charity bike ride is a fantastic way for the whole family to support the homeless in our community. Early bird pricing is still available, so sign up now and join us for a day of pedaling with purpose!

Be on the lookout for our annual report:

Get ready! Hope Rescue Mission's annual report for 2024 is on its way, and you won't want to miss it. We're thrilled to share all the exciting things that happened last year and the incredible impact your support made. Keep an eye out for it soon!

Join us to help transform
lives 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 _____

☐ 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)



Scan To Give

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.