

The BREAD

RESTORING DIGNITY & HOPE

Fall 2023

A Heart of Thanksgiving

Roman wants to share how your support changed his life! ❤️



 Bread of Life
The Mission in Pioneer Square

For more information: (206) 682-3579 BreadofLifeMission.org

Don't miss... **2** Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun!

3 "God gave me a second chance."

4 An Enduring Gift

Writing a New Chapter



A Message from KIM COOK

Over the past several weeks as I've settled into my new role as President of Bread of Life Mission, I've had the pleasure of spending time with Willie Parish Jr.

How blessed the Mission has been to have such an incredible leader at its helm for so many years! Willie grew this ministry into one of Seattle's leading providers of food, shelter, addiction recovery programs and other support services for people who are homeless and hurting. I'm both humbled and honored to follow in his footsteps as President – and **I'm excited to get to know YOU and the other generous donors who have helped make the Mission what it is today.**

I'm equally excited to make my own, unique mark at Bread of Life Mission... and I see so much potential here. There is great need in Seattle, and I can't wait to see how God continues to use us to reach those who are hurting and lost.

My experience with rescue missions started about 12 years ago, when God asked me, "If you're going to love me, will you love the people I love?" After some reflection, I realized He was talking about people without hope. That led me to start volunteering in my local soup kitchen, which is where **I developed a love for people struggling with homelessness, addiction and mental illness.**

For the past 9 years, I've been serving as President and CEO of Open Door Mission in Glens Falls, NY. Now, I'm excited for God to write a new chapter for me here at Bread of Life Mission as I continue to follow the calling He's placed on my heart.

First, I'll be spending some time with my staff and our residents to really understand what we're doing now and how we can make our services and programs even better. I'm excited to learn as much as I can, and – as you are a faithful friend of the Mission – I appreciate your patience and understanding as I go through that process.

Before I sign off, I'd like to tell you a little about my family. My husband John and I have three adult children who live in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and New Brunswick, Canada (which is where I'm from). My favorite thing is to spend time with them and their spouses. I also love to garden, so I'm excited about having a longer growing season here in Seattle! Other loves of mine are traveling and books. I read a lot, so you'll rarely be able to get out of a conversation with me without a tip on a book.

Finally, I thank you. Your support of the Mission has helped build an incredible ministry of love and hospitality that is changing lives every day. I'm so excited to play even a small role in helping this work continue and grow.

Thankful for you,

Kim Cook
President & CEO

Join Our

2023

Thanksgiving
CAMPAIGN

19,906
Meals Needed this
Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families for the holidays.

For just \$2.33, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting people with loving care that leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming
shelter



Warm clothing,
coats & shoes



Classes & job
training



God's life-
changing love



*Meet Roman – who is
thankful for your support!*

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at **BreadofLifeMission.org.**

“Through the Mission, God gave me a second chance.”



Roman’s childhood was spent without family – without a dad, without a mom. The memories are so painful, he can’t speak about them. As he grew up, he tried to look forward, aiming his life on a positive trajectory, but the bad habits he adopted to cope took their toll. Some of his old trauma began to repeat itself as he formed his own young family.

“When my daughter was born, I was the happiest man on the planet,” he recalls. During that time, he was working two jobs... and also using meth. His frightened wife finally mustered the courage to present Roman with two choices: either alcohol and drugs... or their family.

His addiction was in full force, and his group of friends at the time only made things worse. “I can’t blame anybody but myself,” he admits. “I just wasn’t strong enough to say no.” Before long, Roman was out on the street, sleeping under a bridge.

By the Lord’s grace, Roman met a pastor who told him about the Mission. “Do you want to change?” was a question that hit him like a ton of bricks. “It was either now or never,” he remembers.

At the Mission, Roman began to feel like things were coming together for him. Here, he not only experienced a much-needed change of environment, but he also received the support of other individuals going through similar challenges.

Through our Christ-centered classes, Roman has learned to set healthy boundaries and pray in a more personal way. “I always knew God was there, but I didn’t understand how to connect with Him.”

In serving in our kitchen, Roman contributes his talents toward the good cause of feeding up to 80 people three times per week, which has also built valuable skills for his future. This work brings him joy, and solidifies the new friendships he’s made around the Mission.

In striving to become a good example for his daughter, Roman now takes every opportunity to make positive choices.

Roman is filled with thanksgiving for God’s redeeming love in his life – and your incredible generosity and support! “My new life is filled with purpose, and I’m so happy about that!”



“I’m more conscious about life – I’ve learned how to listen.”



An Enduring Gift

We'd like to express our gratitude to all who have established legacy gifts that benefit the Mission or who have named the Mission in their wills. Your enduring support serves as a lifeline for homeless and needy individuals throughout our region.

If you're still considering ways to make a lasting impact and continue your legacy of care, please reach out to our President, Kim Cook, for some ideas and guidance at **(206) 682-3579** or at **kim@breadoflifemission.org**. There's no obligation.

NEW

HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?



Book a Mission speaker for your next event!

Hear how God has been at work in our community this year, and how your generosity is supporting life-changing services and programs.

Contact Kim Cook today to arrange a visit: kim@breadoflifemission.org.



Donate essential items!

Help stock our kitchen with the food items and our clothing closet with the protective clothing needed to care for our hungry, weary neighbors. OR... host a donation drive by inviting others to join you in collecting much needed items for struggling community members.

To see our most urgently needed items, visit [BreadofLifeMission.org/needslist](https://breadoflifemission.org/needslist)



Get involved yourself!

Join us for a chapel service, attend our program residents' graduation, enjoy a guided tour – we'd love to show you the life-saving work made possible by your generosity!

To learn more, visit [BreadofLifeMission.org](https://breadoflifemission.org)



Volunteers needed... like YOU!

Ever thought of how you can do more for individuals here at the Mission? Come serve as a volunteer! There's plenty to do, and no experience or skill sets required... just open hands and a willing heart. We'd love to have you!

Contact us today to see how you can help...

Call: **Julie Quinsay at**

(206) 682-3579, ext.6

Email: julieq@breadoflifemission.org

Sign up now!

