

# The HEART of TEXAS

A newsletter of Dallas LIFE



**DALLAS LIFE**  
HOMELESS RECOVERY CENTER

HOLIDAY 2022



The best Christmas  
gift there is...

**Zak**

has a new life,  
thanks to you!



**DON'T MISS...**

**2** The Joy that Comes  
from Christ

**3** "I was tired of being  
homeless."

**4** 3 Easy Ways  
You Can Help

For more information: (214) 421-1380 [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org)

# “I was tired of BEING HOMELESS.”

As a teen, Zak was introduced to drugs by an older friend, and he used them occasionally until COVID hit. As a result of the pandemic, his job ended and he had time to fill. “Then using became an everyday thing,” he says. And it took a dramatic toll on his life.

“When my unemployment ran out and I needed to start working again, I didn’t have the will or the will power,” he shares. “Becoming a functioning member of society was much harder.” His life spiraled downhill, he lost his home and he stayed with whoever would take him in until he wore out his welcome. Finally he found himself on the streets... cold, hungry and alone. “That was the worst part,” he recalls.

Then he stumbled upon Dallas LIFE. “It said *Homeless Recovery Center* on the side, and I was tired of being homeless. I wanted a place to stay to get my life back on track.”

Now in our care, Zak is harnessing God’s strength to overcome his destructive habits. “My spiritual experience and journey are very real to me,” he says. Classes including anger management, budgeting and job readiness are empowering him with skills to regain his independence, and the structure of his daily routine is helping him learn the importance of staying productive and keeping his mind busy.



**“There are different forms of homelessness. If you’re living with a buddy and you don’t have a key to the place, you’re homeless.”**



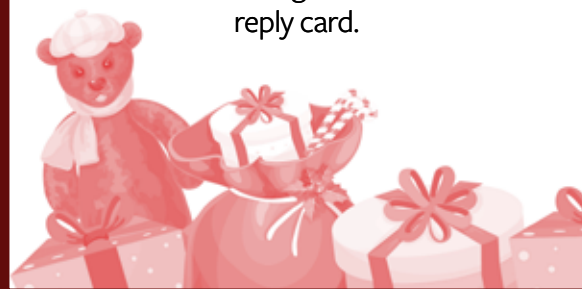
plans to find a stable job, get a car and a place to live, and mend fences with family and others he hurt or disappointed.

**Zak is excited to celebrate the restored hope he has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful he is.** “There’s a lotta people out there like me who need a place to go and people who believe in ‘em and won’t give up on ‘em.” For Zak that place was Dallas LIFE.



## PROVIDE TOYS TO CHILDREN IN NEED

Help families in our care experience the joy of Christmas by having gifts to give to their children. Your financial donations to our Christmas Toy Giveaway will allow parents to shop for Christmas toys right here at Dallas LIFE in our Christmas toy store. Simply make your special gift online at **dallaslife.org** or include an extra gift on the enclosed reply card.







# Help meet our \$10,000 GIVING TUESDAY Goal!

Tuesday, November 29

A Message from  
REV. BOB SWEENEY

## The JOY that Comes from Christ

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

As we rejoice over the birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting – today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives... as well as in the lives of those we serve here at Dallas LIFE.

While we do provide Christmas gifts to the guests in our care, what's most important is that they know about Jesus' sacrifice and the gift of salvation that is freely given to us all.

Thanks to your friendship, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore lives – and wrap local men, women and children in God's loving embrace.

Just like Zak, whose story I've shared on page 3, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love as your blessings abound.



Rev. Bob Sweeney  
Executive Director

## SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEAL...

You can help make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors who are hungry and homeless. With so many obstacles to overcome during this season of hardship, they need a helping hand and to experience God's love!



**\$2.50**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$29.75**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

## Give Before the Year Ends! \$10,000 GOAL

Many of our neighbors are dealing with inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships that make daily life a struggle. They need a helping hand before they lose their hope completely. **Your year-end gift will give them a chance to transform their lives.**



Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will help meet our \$10,000 goal so even more people can get *help* now... and find *hope* for the new year!

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online at **dallaslife.org**.

**You transformed  
hearts & lives this  
year...**



**“I’m a much more competent individual than when I came here. I’m helping people... and not afraid to be who I am.”**



**“Dallas LIFE gives people faith in themselves and in God.”**

*To read more stories of hope that YOU helped make possible, visit us at **[dallaslife.org/newsletter](https://dallaslife.org/newsletter)**. Thank you for caring about those in need, and may God bless you this Christmas!*

## **3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!**

### **SERVE NOURISHING MEALS**



You can feed our hungry neighbors by donating these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season.

turkeys & hams \* boxes of stuffing \* bags of potatoes \* canned fruits and vegetables \* coffee, creamer & sugar



### **PROVIDE THE ESSENTIALS**



You can offer our guests these essential items to keep them safe and comfortable during their time at Dallas LIFE.

bottled water \* coffee \* Christmas wrapping supplies (tape, gift bags and tissue paper)

### **DONATE GIFT CARDS**



Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts – and year-round necessities.

Walmart \* Target \* Amazon \* fast food restaurants

Please deliver food, essential items and gift cards to **1100 Cadiz St in Dallas, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday**. Food is needed by December 19. Gift cards can also be mailed to this address.

***Thank you for making this our best Christmas celebration yet!***