

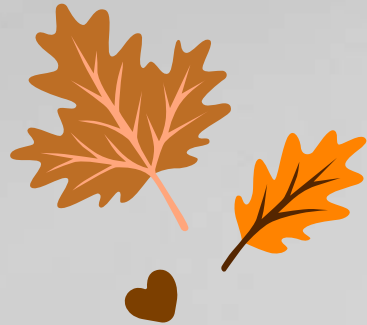
The HEART of TEXAS

A newsletter of Dallas LIFE


DALLAS LIFE
HOMELESS RECOVERY CENTER
FALL 2023

A Heart of Thanksgiving

Earnest wants to share
how your support
♥ changed his life!



DON'T MISS...

2 Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun!

3 "I became a different man."

4 How Will You Get Involved This Fall?

For more information: (214) 421-1380 dallaslife.org



A Message from REV. BOB SWEENEY

Don't you just love the fall time of year? Having lived up north for so many years, I remember the crunch of leaves and the

slick streets that ushered in crisp air and evening walks. As a kid I used to think that cars with white smoke coming from their exhaust pipes meant their engine was on fire. The vast colors of leaves would pave the way for holidays with family gathered for special times of sharing and enjoying great food together.

Now I think of holidays differently. Each day I see hungry and hurting people coming to Dallas LIFE in hopes of a warm meal and a better life. What used to be childhood thoughts and sounds related to only my world now involves theirs and the struggles each of them try to overcome.

I love being a tool God uses to reach

out and touch these dear ones with food, lodging, and most of all, a new life in Jesus Christ. After all, isn't our relationship with God the best thing we have to share with people?

That is how I think of each of you. I think of you as vessels used by God to uplift those who have fallen or hope being granted to those who are downtrodden. Your love and willingness spreads into their lives with your generosity to this ministry. Prayer and financial support given by you helps us lift them up in the truest sense with the love that never ends in vain.

As you share some of what you have, our guests picture a special future for themselves and their children. That's what really lasts. That's what makes a real difference.

Please know this season that all of us thank God for all of you. We could not do this without you. Oh, there would still be

the crunching of leaves and slick streets. There would still be evening walks and holiday preparations. But there would not be transformed lives put back together because of what Christ did over 2,000 years ago. That message gets shared with sacrifice on both His part as well as yours as you read our stories and respond with your generous support.

I pray for each of you to enjoy your family and loved ones during these lovely months of closeness and caring. That's how you have made our guests feel and I know each one would thank you if they could. Who knows, maybe they are thanking God for you right now as they walk through our front door.

Rev. Bob Sweeney
Executive Director

YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...



"I want a home for myself and my family. I want to give my daughter a beautiful life. It's also important to me to give back to others."

"I want to be happy and share God's love with others. I believe it was God's plan for me to be the man I am now – the man Dallas LIFE helped me become."



At Dallas LIFE, hopes and dreams are born – because thanks to the support of friends like you, men and women in our recovery program can believe that a brighter future is possible.

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives and fulfill dreams, visit dallaslife.org.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!

Join Our **2023 Thanksgiving CAMPAIGN**

94,500 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 \$2.50, 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**

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 dallaslife.org.

Meet Earnest – who is thankful for your support!



“I became a **different** man”



Earnest never thought he'd be sleeping behind a trash can, with no one to talk to and no help to be found. He grew up in a Christian family. He had a relationship and a good job. To fall that far was humiliating.

“I was mad at myself. I was supposed to be living like a Christian man, but **I felt like I'd failed myself and failed God.**”

Earnest's mother passed away when he was just 9 years old, and her absence weighed heavily on his emotions. Over the years, addiction was never a problem for Earnest. **Other challenges led to his downward spiral to homelessness:** health trouble and the breakdown of his relationship.

“My back gave out. I had surgery, but I wasn't able to work

anymore. After that, my girlfriend left, and I struggled to care for myself.”

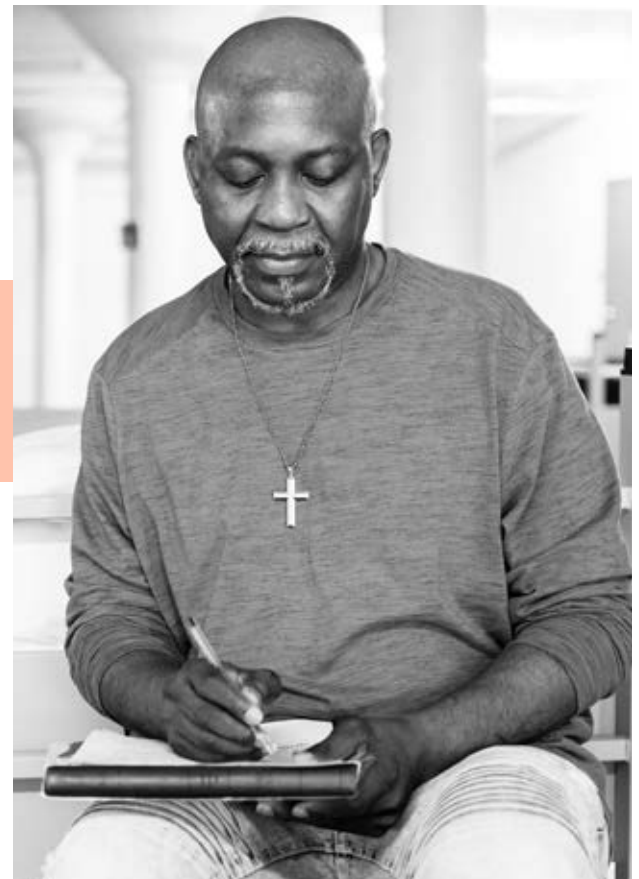
From his lowest point of sleeping behind a trash can with a racoon, Earnest arrived at Dallas LIFE. He was humiliated and closed himself off from everyone. Yet, through nutritious meals, safe shelter, Christ-centered counseling and guidance, Earnest's pride melted away. **He learned about healthy relationships and how to better manage his finances.** He also started reading the Bible and praying every day, and he decided to get baptized.

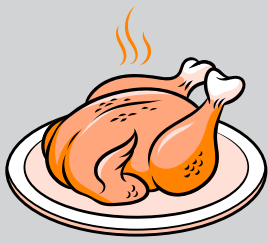
“I didn't know where my next meal was coming from, so I ended up scavenging on the streets.”

“After that I became a different man,” he says. “When I came to Dallas LIFE, I was a lost soul, but now I'm changed. The ministry is teaching me how to conduct myself in the real world and what I have to do to succeed.

Earnest is filled with thanksgiving for God's redeeming love in his life – and your incredible generosity and support!

“My confidence is higher now. I see the light of Christ in my life, and I know I'm here for a reason. I've learned a lot, and I'm letting God direct my path.”





Our 8th Annual Turkey Fry is right around the corner!

Once again this year we will fry turkeys and prepare Thanksgiving food for our guests and neighbors. This event will take place in Dallas LIFE's parking lot on November 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are still needed!

Turkeys and food boxes will also be handed out to the community on November 21.



HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?



Book a Dallas LIFE 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 that are helping people overcome homelessness.

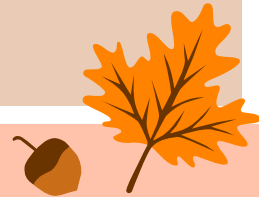
Contact Gracie today to arrange a visit: gracie@dallaslife.org or (214) 421-1380, ext. 1011.



Donate essential items!

Help stock our kitchen with the food items and our clothing closet with the 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 dallaslife.org/needslist



Volunteers needed... like YOU!

Ever thought of how you can do more for individuals, single-parent families, seniors and veterans here at Dallas LIFE? 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: **Pamela Culbertson** at **(214) 421-1380, ext. 1030**

Email: pculbertson@dallaslife.org



Sign up now!

SHARE HOPE TODAY!

Please send back the enclosed reply form, along with your gift, to provide meals and life-changing care to families, seniors and veterans who have nowhere else to turn. Your generosity will show them that someone cares and help them discover the hope of new life in Christ. Thank you!

Yes, Bob! I'll help feed & care for our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving season:

- \$25 to feed & care for 10 people
- \$50 to feed & care for 20 people
- \$75 to feed & care for 30 people
- \$100 to feed & care for 40 people
- \$_____ to feed & care for as many as possible

Make my gift monthly! (see back of form)

← Helps the most!

Sample A: Sample
1234 Main Street
P.O. Box 12345
Anytown, ST 12345

CHECK ENCLOSED BILL MY CREDIT CARD

VISA M/C D/C A/C

CREDIT CARD # _____
EXP. DATE _____ CWS/SEC # _____
PHONE # _____
EMAIL (REQUIRED) _____

Donate online now! dallaslife.org

Dallas LIFE
PO Box 130116
Dallas, TX 75313-0116