

The HEART of TEXAS

A newsletter of Dallas LIFE



DALLAS LIFE
HOMELESS RECOVERY CENTER
HOLIDAY 2023

Thanks to you...
ORLANDO
HAS HOPE THIS
Christmas!



DON'T MISS...

2 The Ornaments
of my Life

3 "God put Dallas LIFE
on my heart."

4 You make Christmas
special!

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

A Message from
REV. BOB SWEENEY

The Ornaments
of my Life



As this beautiful time of year approaches we find ourselves shopping, scheduling parties and preparing to decorate the tree. We bring down the old dusty boxes filled with thoughts of holidays past, knowing that once we open them the flood of memories will overwhelm us. We will remember where we got each ornament, the season of life we were facing and the people who touched us the most. I find that to be true here at Dallas LIFE as well. I remember faces, seasons and most of all TRANSFORMATION IN CHRIST.

I think of those who have come through our doors broken and fearful that this Christmas will be a let-down compared to others. They fear that shelter living will prevent them from receiving anything or that no joy or laughter resounds here. Then as the days unfold they see how wrong they were. They are welcomed to join in on the decorating, singing and even baking goodies. I have seen their eyes awaken and their hearts get refreshed knowing they will actually enjoy a Christmas here, gifts will be provided and the peace of living drug and alcohol free has transformed their thinking.

So when you gather with friends and loved ones this year, please remember the difference you can make. You give and we in turn give to those who need it the most. You pray and then we in turn bless those in need of God's presence and hope. You partner with us and we in turn teach those coming to us for help to partner with the only wise God who deserves all praise and glory forever and forever. That child born in a manger many years ago is REAL. Thanks for helping us share that message.



Merry Christmas,

Rev. Bob Sweeney
Executive Director

Share Hope
AND A
Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for individuals, families, people with disabilities, seniors and veterans in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$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!
\$45,000 GOAL

This holiday season, weary neighbors are desperate for a helping hand before they lose hope completely. **Your year-end gift gives them a chance to transform their lives.**

Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will help meet our \$45,000 goal, offering even more people help now... and hope for the new year!



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



..... “

God put **DALLAS LIFE** on my heart.

..... ”

Orlando grew up surrounded by gambling and drugs. It was his stepfather’s way of life – and it eventually became Orlando’s way of life too.

At the age of 12, Orlando was experimenting with drugs and alcohol. By the time he was in his 20s, he had developed an addiction that he would do almost anything to maintain.

“I hurt my family the most. As a child, my family spoiled me. I got everything I wanted – and I carried that into my adult life,” he says. “I stole money from my mom, aunts and uncles, and eventually I burned every bridge in my family. That’s the first time I experienced homelessness.”

Yet, Orlando had some good years too. He entered a recovery program and overcame his addiction. He even started his own business and got married. But after a while, his old lifestyle caught back up with him, and Orlando relapsed.

At his lowest point, Orlando slept outside on a concrete slab, asking God to either help him or let him die. He was 64 years old.

“That’s when God put Dallas LIFE on my heart. If I didn’t stop, I was going to die,” he says.

“I admitted I was powerless over my addiction and surrendered my life to God.”

At Dallas LIFE, Orlando dedicated himself to our recovery program, counseling and Bible studies. He also reignited his lifelong love of cooking. Now, Orlando wakes up at 3:30 a.m. every morning to meditate before heading down to the kitchen to prepare breakfast for our other guests.

“I love having the opportunity to help take care of people like me, coming in off the streets. I feel in my heart that God wants me to tell my story to others – to let some of these guys know that they have a choice to make: to be homeless, or to let Dallas LIFE help transform their lives.”

Orlando has hope this Christmas – and he wants to thank YOU for supporting his journey toward a new life. “I’ve got peace. God has forgiven me. There’s love in my heart. I have hope for my future.”

Colder Days = Increased Needs

Even in Texas, falling temperatures can put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 32° in Dallas – and added factors like rain and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges as the weather sets in.

Help us bring them in from the cold at Dallas LIFE:

- **Safe shelter.** We provide a warm bed and a roof over their heads.
- **Hot food.** Each plate of food offers comfort to cold, weary neighbors.
- **Winter clothes.** Warm winter coats, clothing and shoes go faster than we can stock them.

To see our most urgently needed items, visit dallaslife.org/needlist

YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT DALLAS LIFE SPECIAL!

Christmas Morning: Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, the children of our guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they’ve enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God’s love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!

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!

Bob, use my gift to share help and hope this Christmas:
 \$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
 Plus, my special Year-End gift of \$_____

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

CHECK ENCLOSED BILL MY CREDIT CARD
 VISA M.C. DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

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

Donate online now! dallaslife.org
 Dallas LIFE
 PO Box 130116
 Dallas, TX 75313-0116