

# The HEART of TEXAS

A newsletter of Dallas LIFE

DALLAS LIFE



SEVENTY YEARS  
OF HOMELESS RECOVERY

HOLIDAY 2024

THANK YOU FOR  
GIVING NATALIA  
*a life-changing*  
GIFT THIS  
*Christmas!*



**DON'T MISS...**

**3** "Dallas LIFE saved me."

**4** Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

**4** 12 Days of Giving Back

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

## What is Christmas?

As I was writing this letter, I was thinking of what Christmas means... to you, to me and to the people Dallas LIFE serves. Some of us focus on what Christmas actually is – a celebration of the birth of Christ, which introduced hope to the world.

Many people who come to us for help at Dallas LIFE have never experienced what Christmas is truly about. For them, there are no presents, family gatherings or church services. They see Christmas as one more ordinary day... nothing special. They are broken, hurt and hungry, and they know nothing else.

You make all the difference in their lives. You pray for us, send your gifts, and many of you come down to volunteer. That offers not only hope, but also the real meaning of the Christmas season to those you touch. They see hope and help in you, which challenges them to think outside of themselves and listen as we share the Gospel.

This Christmas, pray that each person coming to Dallas LIFE for the first time is open to hearing the truth of the Good News: the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. No gifts, goodies, gatherings or family dinners can even come close to the joy of what that means.

Merry Christmas!



Rev. Bob Sweeney  
Executive Director

# YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT DALLAS LIFE SPECIAL!

**Christmas Morning:** Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, 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!*

## Give Before the Year Ends!

### \$45,000 GOAL

This holiday season, weary neighbors are desperate for a helping hand before they lose hope completely. **YOU can give them food, shelter and life-changing care to transform their lives!**

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



- ✉ Return your special year-end gift in the reply card today.
- 📄 Give online at [dallaslife.org](http://dallaslife.org).

# “Dallas Life *saved me.*”



Natalia’s parents divorced when she was around four years old. She and her five siblings lived with their dad and didn’t see their mom much. It was a traumatic period that affected the course of her life. “As a child of divorced parents, I knew my daddy loved me because he was there. I didn’t know if my mama did,” she says.

“I suffer from anxiety and depression,” Natalia shares. **She used to rely on alcohol to cope.** There were times her mental health struggles were so debilitating that she couldn’t work, which led to her experiences with homelessness.

Determined to make a change, Natalia went to Dallas LIFE and joined our 12-month Overcomers Program, which offers assistance for people with disabilities, including mental health issues.

One of the most important things Natalia learned was that she had the wrong understanding of God. “I knew Jesus loved me, but I always thought God was out to hurt me,

“Now I know God loves me.

❄️ **It has made me feel more settled instead of having crippling panic attacks.** ❄️

which added to my anxiety as a kid,” she shares.

“**Before I came to Dallas LIFE, I had very little hope. Now, I feel settled,**” she says. She is grateful to our center for helping her save money, gain confidence and learn self-acceptance, and for providing a sense of community.

**Now, she wants to give back by helping others.** “I’m always helping somebody and not sitting around idle,” she says.

**This Christmas, Natalia is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God’s unending love.** “I’m thankful to Dallas LIFE for being godly. They saved me. I’m still here because of them.”



# 12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK



The Bible tells us it's more blessed to give than to receive, and what better time to experience the joy of giving than the Christmas season! It's also a wonderful time to teach children the importance of giving, or to partner with a friend or family member to give back.

Read on to explore **12 Days of Giving Back** and get inspired to share the miracle of Christmas this year:

<b>DAY 1</b> Provide Food	<b>DAY 2</b> Donate Clothes	<b>DAY 3</b> Donate Toys
<b>DAY 4</b> Write a Christmas Card	<b>DAY 5</b> Create a Care Package	<b>DAY 6</b> Help Serve Meals
<b>DAY 7</b> Help Sort Donations	<b>DAY 8</b> Help Run an Event at Dallas LIFE	<b>DAY 9</b> Attend Chapel at Dallas LIFE
<b>DAY 10</b> Fundraise at Your Church or School	<b>DAY 11</b> Pray for Families at Dallas LIFE	<b>DAY 12</b> Spread the Word

To learn more about ways you can share the joy of Christmas with our ministry guests, give us a call at **(214) 421-1380** or visit us online at **dallaslife.org!**

*Give a meal.  
Spark a miracle!*



It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when experiencing homelessness or hunger. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term recovery program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal for \$2.50... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



**\$2.50**  
for 1 hot meal



**CAN SPARK  
A MIRACLE**



**That leads  
to new life!**

**Please Send Your  
Christmas Gift Today!**