



www.Hiway80Mission.org

# Good News

Hiway 80 Rescue Mission • Men's Shelter • Women & Family Shelter • Tyler Outreach

Vol. 14 No. 6 • Holiday 2014

## **"The Mission turned my life around!"**

**M**ichael seemed to have it all – a good job as an auto designer, a 17-year marriage, and four children – but he struggled with alcohol abuse. “It really hit when I went through my divorce,” he says. **“I didn’t care about anything anymore. I just drank and drank.”**

When Michael was laid off from his job, he went to work as a carpenter, but then his boss passed away and he wound up homeless. “I was living underneath the railroad tracks for about three months just doing odd jobs,” he says.

A police officer Michael had befriended told him about Hiway 80 Rescue Mission. He walked all night to reach us and began staying at our Emergency Shelter, leaving twice when he found full time jobs. “I’d work about eight months and then the business would go under,” he says. “The third time I came back I thought, I’m going to give this program a try.”

Though he’d grown up Christian, Michael felt far from the Lord when he entered the Mission’s New Creation Recovery Program. **“They teach you each end of the Bible, and everything in between,”**

he says. “I learned a lot about Christ and I can approach God and the Holy Spirit in my own way, in my own time.”

With more than two years of sobriety behind him, Michael is a supervisor at a restoration and remodeling business, has his own place, and speaks with his children every week. He credits the Mission with turning his life around. **“It took the bad attitude out of me, and it put me back in a place where I care about things,”** he says. “And having Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost and God behind me, I can’t lose.”

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## A Message From Eric Burger



### Thank you for giving the perfect gift

There is one Christmas gift that is always the right size.

It never wears out and never goes out of style. It is a gift that becomes more precious the more it is shared.

That gift is God's love – a gift that's offered every day here at Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

Along with food, clothing and shelter, you make it possible for those in need to know that God cares for them and has a plan for their lives, just as it says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

**I want to thank you for your gifts – your time, your prayers and your donations – that make it possible for people in need to receive this perfect gift.**

Warmest wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Road to a New Life Starts  
Here

Rev. Eric Burger  
Executive Director

# Fill a Love Tote

## Share the Christmas Spirit...

This Christmas season, you can share the joy and spirit of the season with homeless neighbors!

In partnership with KVNE 89.5 and KGLY 91.3, Hiway 80 Rescue Mission is preparing Love Totes – cloth backpacks filled with necessities like soap and deodorant – to homeless neighbors.

Love Totes will be distributed during our Christmas Luncheons in Longview and Tyler, and for many of these men and women, this will be the only Christmas gift they will receive.

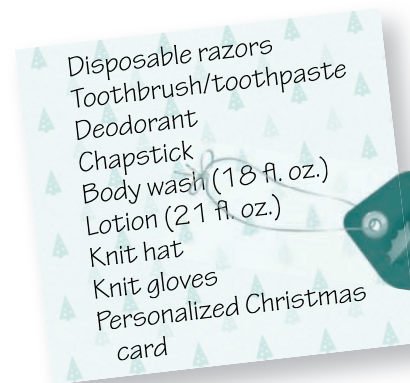
**This is a great project for your family, church group or co-workers.** Just shop and drop off your donated

items at the Mission. We'll fill Love Totes that carry this inspiring message from John 3:16: "This is how we know what love is, Jesus Christ laid down His life for us."

Volunteers will also be needed to fill Love Totes and give them out at our Christmas Luncheons. Call Paige Brewer at (903) 759-8101 for more information.



Disposable razors  
Toothbrush/Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Chapstick  
Knit hat  
Gloves  
Lotion (21 fl. oz.)  
Body wash (18 fl. oz.)  
Personalized Christmas card



Women's  
Totes

*If possible, please fill one or more totes by providing all items on the list. The estimated cost is \$20-\$25.*

Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 3117 W. Marshall Avenue.  
For information about other drop off locations, call (903) 759-8101.

## He's sitting alone at a big table...



His face is tired and careworn. His eyes are downcast. It's Thanksgiving, and he's alone.

Now, **watch his face as you approach the table.** You wish him a "Happy Thanksgiving" and put a heaping plate of turkey with piles of mashed potatoes and dressing smothered in gravy down in front of him.

"We're so glad you could join us today," you say. "It's great to have you here for Thanksgiving." He looks up, and smiles...perhaps for the first time

in weeks. Then, so quietly you can hardly hear, he says, "Thank you."

As a member of our Mission family, you bring smiles to the faces of hundreds of people. You make those who are homeless feel welcome. You fill those who are hungry with more than food.

**Each time a meal is served, each time a homeless person sleeps in a warm bed, each time prayers are said in chapel, it's because you're part of a family that cares for those who are lost, hurt and alone. We bless you and thank you for all you do!**

# Carolyn gave up on God. But He didn't give up on her!

A true Christmas miracle...

Carolyn left home at 17 – for a very good reason!

From the time she can remember, her father abused her physically, verbally and mentally. Her parents divorced when Carolyn was five, and she thought the abuse had come to an end. But although her new stepfather had “lots of money” and she thought life was going to be wonderful, he abused her sexually.

At 17, Carolyn not only fled from home, but turned away from God. “In my mind, if He was so grand, where was He when I was being abused?”

At that point, **what had been a horrible life became even worse.** “I did just about every kind of drug there was,” Carolyn remembers sadly. “I hated everyone and everything.”

Even when Carolyn married “a good, decent husband,” things still seemed to go wrong. “His brother committed suicide, both of my parents died of cancer and our son went off the deep end as a teenager.” Too many stresses and strains caused the marriage to end, and Carolyn plunged into drugs again.

Looking back today, she says that to all appearances, her life was pretty good. “I owned two homes and several vehicles, I got a college education and worked as an x-ray technician. **But I was never at peace, or really happy.**”

Through her divorce and a series of bad relationships, Carolyn used drugs to “stay numb.” She tried rehab, counseling, NA and AA, but nothing helped. And in the end, she lost everything.

**Carolyn was homeless and going through a second divorce when she found Hiway 80...on Christmas day!**

“I’d been to several homeless shelters over the years, but none like this one,” she says. The difference? Hiway 80 is faith-based! “I used to cuss people out if they tried to talk to me about God,” Carolyn says. “But here, they have structure and they teach the Word. I love it and I love what they’ve done for me!”

“I never really knew what love was until I learned about Jesus Christ and got saved. Hiway 80 taught me about peace. **I’m learning more and more every day about God and how He works and what He can do in my life!**”

“Tidings of comfort and joy!”



**Holiday meals:** 15,000  
**Shelter from the cold:**  
5,290 nights

Another Christmas song says, “...there’s no place like home for the holidays.” For the next six weeks, the Mission will be home and family to hundreds of men, women and children. Your holiday gift will provide the food and shelter that can make eyes sparkle and hearts feel light!

**Eat.  
Shop.  
Give.** #GIVINGTUESDAY



There’s a day for giving thanks and a day for getting bargains.

Giving Tuesday, December 2, is the day for giving back!

In the midst of our busiest season of the year, we’re scrambling to provide more than 15,000 meals and nearly 5,290 nights of shelter.

Your Giving Tuesday gift will go a long way toward providing the food and care our community’s hungry, homeless people need most.

Thank you for being part of our Mission family!

## Hiway 80 Rescue Mission

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[www.Hiway80Mission.org](http://www.Hiway80Mission.org)

### Hiway 80 Rescue Mission Women & Family Shelter

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

The Good News is a publication  
of Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.

# Thanksgiving & Christmas

## Shopping List

Help make the holidays brighter by conducting a food drive to help fill the Mission pantry for the holidays! Donations can be dropped off at the Mission at 3117 W. Marshall Avenue.

Turkeys  
Hams  
Yams  
Stuffing  
Potatoes  
Canned sweet potatoes  
Canned fruits/vegetables (#10 size)  
Dinner rolls  
Butter  
Brown sugar  
Pies  
Cool Whip  
Christmas cookies  
Coffee creamer

## IRS Rules for Year-End Gifts

Many of our friends make gifts to the Mission before the year ends. In fact, some wait until the last



minute on Dec. 31, but then worry if their gifts will be received in time.

So here's what the IRS says:  
"Contributions are deductible in the

year made." So donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2014 count for 2014. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2015. Also, checks count for 2014 as long as they are mailed in 2014.

So, make your year-end gift just before the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31. Or, avoid the rush and donate now using the enclosed envelope, or by making a safe, secure gift online at [www.Hiway80Mission.org](http://www.Hiway80Mission.org).



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connected



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