



The **MIDNIGHT** **JOURNEY**

A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER OF THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

Fall 2023



Torey's Story:

"A Blessing and a Privilege"

**Life doesn't always go
the way we think it will.**

Take Torey, for example. For many years, he had no hope.

You see, when he was just 17 years old growing up in Atlanta, he had his first drink. Drinking led to marijuana, then to harder drugs.

**Soon, Torey was spiraling
out of control.**

**Read the rest of
Torey's story inside**

Just for you...

- The Table of Grace
- "I want to keep going..."
- Banquet of Hope

MidnightMission.org





The Table of Grace

Do you know what makes our Banquet of Hope, our Thanksgiving meals, and all the food and support we provide each day so meaningful?

It isn't just the food. *It's the dignity that comes along with it.* At The Midnight Mission, we see the worth and value of every person who turns to us.

Believe me, that matters. There was a time when I could have gone down the wrong path. I was in a situation that could've led to being homeless. I know what it feels like to feel stuck and hopeless. When you burn all your bridges and you can't call anybody in your family, it's a dark place to be.

It's Thanksgiving and you're not getting invited by anybody anywhere during those lonely, gray California days. It's a very hopeless feeling.

But I also know what it's like to be welcomed. When I first got to The Midnight Mission as an intern in 2011, I was overwhelmed by the level of commitment of the staff – the genuine caring and concern.

Today, I know what it's like to feel hope. And I know what it's like to offer hope to others. That's what we do, every day, thanks in part to your generosity.

We appreciate your generosity and partnership!

Sincerely,

David Prentice
President & CEO

"I want to keep going in the right direction..."

It hadn't always been this way for Torey. He was a smart young man, an athlete, a kid with a big heart. But after his parents divorced, he found himself without stability and structure.

He became a father at a young age, and moved to New York to be near his child. But the alcohol and drugs soon took over. He moved back to Atlanta, but it seemed like everyone he knew had a substance abuse problem. Each time he'd try to take a positive step – like getting a job – the old self-destructive behaviors would come up again.

At the height of his addiction, Torey found himself in prison. He knew this wasn't the life he wanted for himself. He started going to 12-step meetings in an effort to stop using alcohol and drugs and achieve hope and stability in his life. **But for each small step forward, he'd take another step back.**



Again and again, he tried to straighten out his life. Again and again, he turned back to crime, drugs, and alcohol.

When he stepped off a Greyhound bus in Los Angeles and found The Midnight Mission, he knew we might be his last hope.

"I wanted to get away from that terrible guy that I was, and become the functional human being that God could allow me to be."

When he reached our doors, it was late at night. He slept in the courtyard and waited for a case worker in the morning. It was the beginning of his new life.

Torey entered our Recovery Program – which is made possible by friends like you – and began learning how to change his behaviors. **This time, the change in Torey was real.** Today, he can see a brighter future – one in which he shares his story to inspire others.

"The Midnight Mission is a blessing and a privilege," he said. "I want to keep going in the right direction and not turn back."

We believe in Torey. We are confident in his ability to continue on the right path. But he and many others still need our support. Please make a generous gift today, knowing that you will be part of transformational stories like Torey's by giving now!



Banquet of Hope is Coming

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. You'll surely be making plans. Well, we're making plans, too – to prepare thousands of meals at The Midnight Mission.

And this year, we've increased our goal from 300,000 meals to 400,000 meals to help meet the urgent needs of our community. But we can't do it without you!

The menu is set. There will be turkey, potatoes, rolls, pumpkin pies – all the trimmings of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. And just like at your table, there will be a deep feeling of gratitude for the blessings of life.

Your support today would be a tremendous help. Your generous gift to the Banquet of Hope campaign can help ensure that we have enough food to feed every hungry person who walks through our doors, and that no one is turned away.

At just \$1.75 per meal, imagine how many lives you can touch!

Even in tough times, we all have a lot to be thankful for. We're definitely thankful for you. And we're hoping you'll help us make our Banquet of Hope campaign our biggest and best ever.

We'll be counting on you. Please send a gift today or donate online at MidnightMission.org/BanquetofHope. Thank you, and happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!



The Midnight Mission was able to provide meals for many people last Thanksgiving.

**Have You
Made Your
Gift Yet?**

At-a-Glance: Your Incredible Impact

How do you measure your impact?

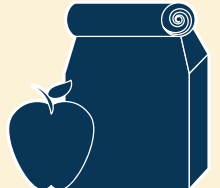
There is so much to celebrate in just seeing one person's life be transformed! But when you look at the numbers and see how your gifts, combined with support from other caring partners, make an even greater impact, then you see the real scale of what we can achieve together.

Over the last year, we have:

Served
977,071
nutritious
meals



Provided
94,550
sack lunches



Distributed
46,020
hygiene kits



Held
7,933
12-step
meetings



And so much more!



Tom and Theresa: Giving Thanks

When Tom and Theresa lost their home, they lived on the streets and relied on The Midnight Mission for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They had nowhere else to turn.

But you didn't just help us feed them. You also helped ensure they had access to life-saving, life-transforming programs and services.

What's more, as Tom and Theresa got to know our staff, they came to think of us as their extended family. In fact, **even now that they've moved off the streets and into an apartment of their own, they still come back to visit – for a meal, a hug, and just to catch up. That's what families are for.** And we are so grateful they count us among theirs.

Besides, the meals help keep their household expenses down – all while the warm, caring family atmosphere nourishes their spirits and affirms their worth and dignity.

Tom and Theresa are very grateful they had someone to lean on when they needed to and it's a comfort to know that they can still lean on us if needed. **And they're grateful to people like you for giving so generously.**

We've kept our doors open for people like Tom and Theresa since 1914 through the kindness of our community. We'll continue to serve, as long as we can count on you.

Thank you for your generosity!

Leave a Legacy of Love

Including The Midnight Mission in your will or revocable trust is a wonderful way to build on your legacy of love and ensure that the life-changing work of The Midnight Mission carries on. Whether your estate is large, small, or somewhere in between, a planned gift will provide dependable support that transforms the lives of hurting neighbors. At the same time, your estate benefits from tax relief.

To learn how easy it is to make a planned gift, please contact our CDO, Chris Doyle, at (213) 553-2327.



Three Easy Ways to Make a Difference

Volunteer at The Midnight Mission.

Volunteering with us gives our guests and program participants much-needed support to build a bridge to self-sufficiency.

Donate food, clothing, or other supplies:

Visit MidnightMission.org/gifts-in-kind/ to learn more.

Make a contribution to the Banquet of Hope campaign today and help fill plates with food, and hearts with joy.

Make your gift at MidnightMission.org