



Oliver Gospel

HOLIDAY 2023

NEWSLETTER

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COOKIES
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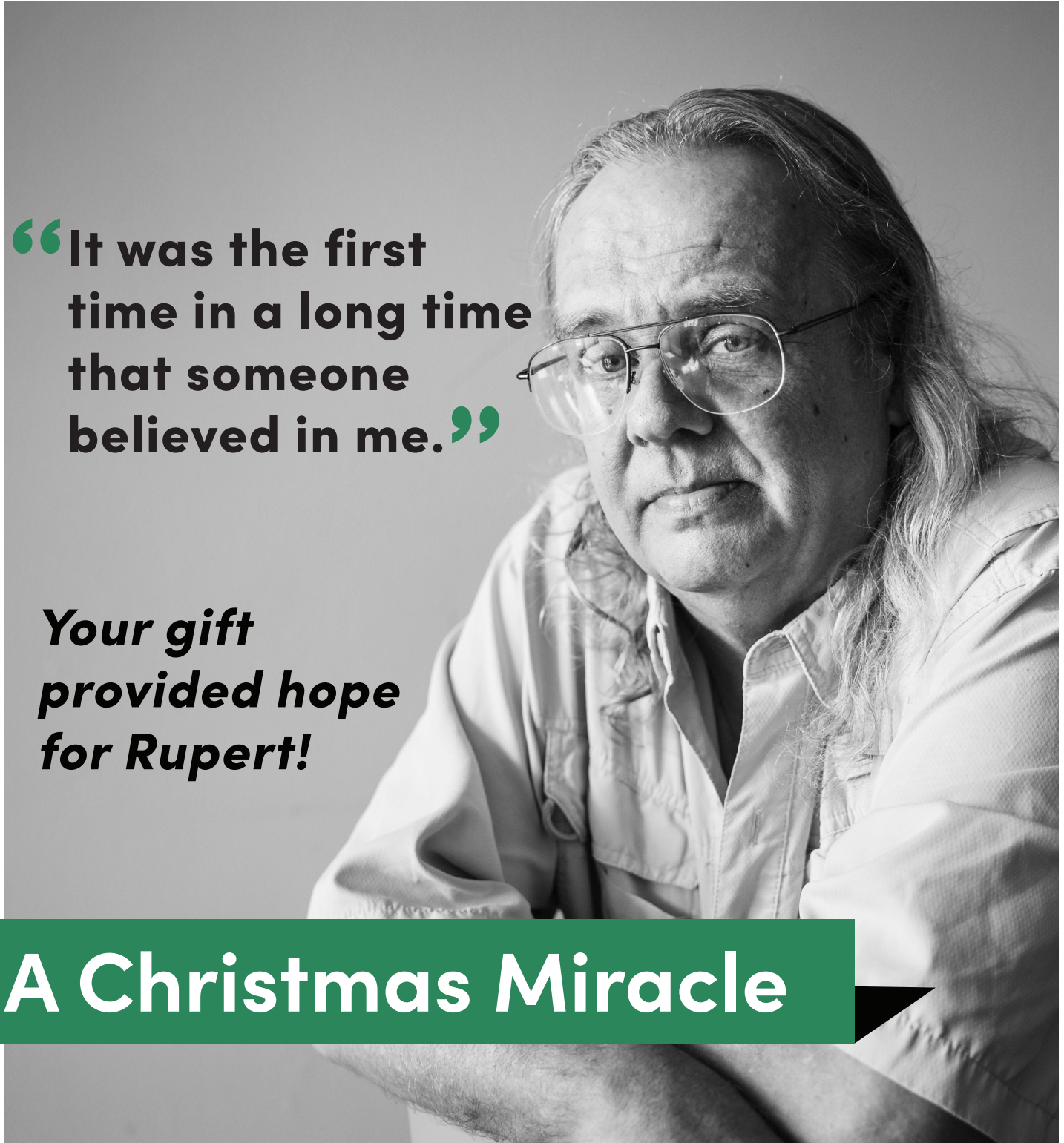
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“It was the first time in a long time that someone believed in me.”

Your gift provided hope for Rupert!

A Christmas Miracle



A Christmas Miracle

“You’re going to get out of this what you put into it, and I decided to go all in.”

From afar, Rupert seemed to be living a normal life. He had a good job and a reliable place to live. But when he got injured on the job, he began to struggle with drugs.

“I hurt my back sandblasting. I went to a doctor, and he put me on pain pills. My back was hurting one morning before work, but I had just run out of prescription pills. I started feeling really sick later that day.”

Rupert refilled his prescription and quickly became dependent on the pills. He eventually began to take harder drugs to numb his pain. He struggled to hold a job, and his habit became more expensive. Soon, he was living on the streets and panhandling for money.

God changed Rupert’s life forever on a cold Christmas Eve. A pedestrian noticed his foot was swollen, so she offered to drive him to the hospital for treatment. It was there that he agreed to get help from Oliver Gospel.

“I knew if I went back out on the street, I probably wouldn’t have lived another six months.”

Rupert was challenged by the structure of the Mission’s programming at first, but his confidence grew with time. He focused on his recovery classes and took pride in his work therapy assignments.

“I was given a job in the laundry room, and that did more to help me than anything else. It was the first time in a long time that someone believed in me.”

Rupert’s time at Oliver Gospel gave him the rest he needed to get back on his feet. Now, he has found full-time employment and is approaching a year of sobriety.

“You’re going to get out of this what you put into it, and I decided to go all in.”

This winter, **YOU** can help show neighbors just like Rupert how much you care for them. Your \$26.04 donation provides 12 meals and 6 nights of shelter for men, women, and children experiencing homelessness in the Midlands.



OLLIE'S CORNER

Make holiday cookies for our neighbors experiencing homelessness!

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator to donate your holiday treats!
(803) 254-6470 ext. 1200 | kara.pippin@olivergospel.org

Ingredients:

- All-purpose flour
- Unsalted butter
- Granulated sugar
- Pure vanilla extract
- Royal icing

Directions:

1. Beat butter and sugar together until creamy consistency, then beat in vanilla
2. Add flour, then mix all together to create the dough
3. Roll out dough into a ¼ inch thick sheet
4. Cut out shapes with festive cutters or knife, then place on baking sheet
5. Bake for 15 minutes (or until cooked through)
6. Decorate cookies with icing



Cold Weather Clothing

Winter weather can be dangerous, especially for men and women sleeping outside in the cold. When the temperature dips below freezing, we fill our dining area with extra beds to assure that as many of our neighbors as possible can have a warm and safe place to sleep that night.

You can help out by donating the winter items below:



Hats



Blankets



Coats



Gloves

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator to schedule your drop-off!

(803) 254-6470 ext. 1200
kara.pippin@olivergospel.org

Can we count on you today?

As 2023 comes to a close, we have truly been blessed to have the support of so many wonderful donors and volunteers.

With the help of friends like you, hundreds of men and women experiencing homelessness in the Midlands have access to life-changing transitional programming. These guests have worked hard on life-skills training, career classes, and spiritual growth.

Now, we're asking you to help us end the year on a high note. Send your best gift in the envelope included with this newsletter to continue serving neighbors in need throughout the cold winter months and into 2024.





A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

TO PRAY FOR:

- Pray that God would continue to provide hope and warmth for our guests and the homeless community through His Word and community resources.
- Pray for new believers in God's word. Pray that they will be inspired throughout this season of celebration and hope.
- Pray for those who don't have families to spend the holidays with. Pray they will feel the love of Christ in some way.

Fall is one of the most beautiful times of the year as the leaves begin transforming into vibrant colors. I love the cool mornings and wearing my long sleeve shirts and light jacket. The seasons are wonderful reminders that with God, everyday holds a fresh and new opportunity to embrace hope.

God uses people like you and me to make "Christmas miracles" happen through real-life situations. Together, we can all participate. Maybe you are a faithful prayer warrior, or a caregiver to a friend or family member. Perhaps you are a volunteer or donor in your community, school, church, or non-profit. Wherever you find yourself this holiday season, God can use you to bring hope to the hurting.

God used people like you and me with Rupert, a man who desperately needed someone to see him and give him hope on a cold wintery night. Because of your faithfulness, Rupert is in Oliver Gospel's program, healing from addiction and growing in faith.

I encourage you this Christmas season to look for how God might use you to bring hope to others. With God, all things are possible!

May God bless you this holiday season,

TRAVIS MCNEAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




Oliver Gospel

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Donate
online
today!



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