



# An Answer to My Prayers

Paula felt many emotions on the car ride to Toby's Place. She was afraid of the abuser from her past. She was tired from constantly seeking stability. She was nervous about entering a transitional program.

Her emotions were peaking as she walked through the doors, but she felt immediate relief when she was greeted by a smiling face. "Welcome to Toby's Place," the staff chimed. At this moment, Paula knew she would be ok.

Opened in 2017, Toby's Place serves an often-overlooked population of individuals experiencing homelessness: women and children. Equipped with a kitchen, private bedrooms, classrooms, a health clinic, play areas for children, and more, the facility is designed to meet the holistic needs of women and their children.

Toby's Place offers short-term shelter that provides up to 30 days of meals and shelter. The long-term program includes classes, counseling, and case management services, with job and housing placement as the goal.

Most importantly, Toby's Place offers a community for women who previously felt they had nowhere to turn. Through warm smiles, fresh meals, and spiritual encouragement, staff members want every guest who walks through their doors to feel like they're at home.

"When they welcomed me, I looked up and said, 'ok Lord, you're telling me now that this is where I'm supposed to be.' I just love what the Lord has done for me here," Paula said.

For women and their children who are experiencing a housing crisis, Toby's Place extends a hand to help them back on their feet. Your generosity inspires hope within these women on their spiritual and housing journey!

Donate to Toby's Place for Midlands Gives on May 7th!





## Create a Brighter Future through Legacy Giving!

Planning a will offers peace of mind that your family and assets will be taken care of in the future. By including a donation to Oliver Gospel in your estate, you can ensure the causes you care about will be supported beyond your lifetime and instill a passion for generosity in future generations.

To make it easy for you, we partnered with GiftWise to bring you a free, innovative resource that helps you create a will online in under 20 minutes!

Take this important step by visiting **giftwise.com/olivergospelmission** 

#### Essential Experience: The OG Works Program

A popular program within Oliver Gospel's curriculum is returning to the Mission with a refreshed look.

OG Works will utilize all facets of Oliver Gospel to provide valuable, hands-on job training for residents currently enrolled in long-term programming.

Residents will be provided with various training opportunities alongside the Mission's shelter, administration, and enterprise staff. The experience will be incorporated into curriculum during the final stages of programming before graduation, when a resident begins

applying the skills they learned in class.

Upon graduating, the resident can add the experience to their resume as they pursue their own employment opportunities and begin saving money for housing, all under the guidance and support of Oliver Gospel staff.

By providing career guidance and essential soft skills, the OG Works program will help our guests develop self-sufficiency as they take their next step toward life transformation!



















Classes

**OG Works** 

Graduate

lob

Housing



Just over four years ago, I had the honor of becoming the Executive Director of Oliver Gospel Mission. Throughout these years, I've experienced God's powerful hand actively involved in our staff and in those we've fed, sheltered, listened to, comforted, and loved through many traumatic situations.

Recently, God convinced me that He was leading me toward a new chapter in my life, and that this would require me to step down from my role as Executive Director. I am happy to share that I've transitioned out of my position and am currently serving Oliver Gospel's Board of Directors in a supportive and consulting role as the Mission seeks its next leader.

Until then, I am excited to announce that the Board of Directors has unanimously approved Dr. Marlo Brayboy to become Oliver Gospel's Interim Executive Director. Marlo currently serves as the Mission's Director of Quality and Innovation, overseeing programs at the Men's Center and Toby's Place, and he brings over 15 years of military and academic leadership to the position.

I've cherished the time I've had working with this ministry and collaborating with so many passionate community partners and donors throughout this whole region. It's been an honor to serve you and experience your faithful support.

TRAVIS MCNEAL



Interim Executive Director



### Introducing...

Oliver Gospel is pleased to announce Kristy McLellan as its new Director of Development. Kristy joined the Mission's team in November of 2023 after nearly 23 years of serving various roles, including Senior Philanthropic Giving Manager, at Harvest Hope Food Bank.





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#### To Pray For

- Pray for the sustained success of Oliver Gospel graduates who have recently found jobs or moved into their own housing.
- Pray for guests who have recently enrolled at Oliver Gospel and may be feeling fear or self-doubt.
- Pray for individuals who suffer from physical or mental disabilities while experiencing homelessness.
- Pray for our volunteers who give their time, talent, and treasure to serve Oliver Gospel.

### SAVE THE DATE! 5.7.2024



#### Help Oliver Gospel celebrate our biggest fundraising day of the year!

Organized by the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Midlands Gives is an annual event that brings awareness to and raises money for local nonprofits throughout the Midlands.

Gifts to Oliver Gospel will be MATCHED by Jim Hudson Automotive up to \$50,000! That means your donation will create **TWICE** the impact on our residents.











