Thank you for lighting their path.

70 years of compassion.
INSIDE YOUR 2019 ANNUAL REPORT*

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Dear Friend,

We live because of Jesus. He is the Word of God in the flesh who lived, taught, healed, died, and rose again. As Psalm 119 says, He is the light for our path. His example is why we welcome hurting men, women, and children to Carriage Town Ministries. Jesus taught that when we offer food, shelter, clothing, and hope to His children who are desperate, He feels it personally (Matthew 25). We greet God’s hurting people at Carriage Town Ministries each day with your help! You are God’s conduit of resources!

When neighbors become homeless, they have experienced some combination of trauma, abuse, addiction, incarceration, aborted education, or chronic illness. These life issues may be the result of mistakes, bad decisions, or just tragic circumstances. The end result is the simultaneous loss of a dependable income and social support. Think about it—if you or I suddenly lost our income and our families and friends, it wouldn’t take long before our housing and everything else would be gone, too. It can happen to any of us.

For 70 years, God’s people in Flint and Genesee County have provided a clean, safe, encouraging, Good News-filled place to land for those suffering from homelessness and extreme poverty. For the past 30 of those years, this mission has been known as Carriage Town Ministries! As 2020 unfolds, we urge you to follow Jesus with us in this great work!

In this Annual Report, you’ll read a little history and a little bit about the pathways that lead to homelessness. You’ll hear about the pathway of hope that has helped many escape chronic homelessness through ministries designed to help men and women secure a dependable income stream and reconstruct a social-spiritual support network, all grounded in the hope provided though Christ for those who trust Him!

Your gifts make a difference in the lives of men, women, and children who are valued by God! Remember, everyone you’ll meet today is a personal project of God Almighty. I believe He smiles when we care for each other!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Dallas Gatlin
Executive Director
In 70 years of ministry to neighbors in need, one thing is crystal clear, homelessness can happen to anyone.

Sometimes children begin life in poverty and never escape the cycle. Others falter along the way and suffer consequences of their actions. Many come to us after years of abuse or life-altering traumatic events. That’s how we met Rhonda and her granddaughter, Nivea, last year.

After both of Rhonda’s parents died within a year, Rhonda was devastated. She had been caring for them for years. With an already heartbroken spirit, Rhonda then lost her 27-year-old son five days before his birthday.

“His last words to me were to watch after his daughter,” Rhonda remembers vividly.

The emotional toll of losing her mom, dad, and son nearly crushed Rhonda. All the while, she was trying to care for sweet 8-year-old Nivea.

While talking to Nivea’s counselor, Rhonda learned that Carriage Town Ministries was a safe, nurturing place where she could gather herself and begin to see a path forward for herself and Nivea a little more clearly.

“Since coming to Carriage Town Ministries, I’m getting life back on track,” Rhonda shares. “I came here in a really dark place and used to have emotional breakdowns. The Family Center here is helping us connect with God and the staff point us in the right direction.”

Today, Rhonda is well-equipped to raise Nivea, and prays each day for her granddaughter’s growth, education, and friendships.

“I owe it all to Carriage Town Ministries,” Rhonda says. “Even though we went through some tragedies, God is here, and He still loves us.”
WHAT CAN LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS?

- Family trauma
- Job loss
- Financial setbacks
- Health challenges
- Abusive relationships
- Housing complications
- Substance abuse
- Lack of a support system

Thank you for giving neighbors a safe place to go when their path is dim.

Your generosity brightens their way forward.
Hope can begin with a meal at Carriage Town Ministries.

Your support helps to serve 400 meals every single day.
As a veteran of the Marine Corps, Nik understands sacrifice. He’s been trained to fight through pain and look to the interests of others above himself. But when the impact of his last tour of duty came with crippling physical pain, medicating quickly spiraled into addiction. It was hard to reach out for help.

Before long, Nik found himself sleeping in his car in the Walmart parking lot.

“I was trying to be a productive member of society while dealing with my own problems but not wanting to talk to anybody about it,” Nik remembers.

Thankfully, Nik turned to the local VA. Years of therapy and hard work to earn a degree in culinary arts helped Nik find peace with the internal battles he faced as a veteran.

He saw a new purpose for the future for himself, but he also wanted to help others on the journey. That’s when he came to Carriage Town Ministries to volunteer.

Right away, we welcomed Nik’s work ethic and empathy for guests. After all, he understood the challenges of homelessness. But we also noticed his gifts in the kitchen and invited Nik to join us on staff.

Sometimes, the path to healing starts with an invitation to receive help and to be fed. As our head chef, Nik and his team give hope to men and women in our community through the gifts of food and compassion. Your generosity is a key ingredient for every ounce of nourishment.
Sometimes the first step to lasting life transformation is knowing you are valued and loved.

For years, Vern endured a verbally and emotionally abusive relationship. Harsh words and criticism made him feel worthless, which broke him down as a man accustomed to working hard for his family.

Vern even felt ashamed at church, as if God couldn’t love him through his faults.

But the Lord kept showing Vern that he didn’t need to earn the approval of a gracious God. Then a pastor recommended coming to Carriage Town Ministries.

Even though Vern came into our program with the same low view of himself, the sincere support he felt in our Personal Success Plan program slowly opened his heart.

“I started realizing why I was so broken down,” Vern shares, “and God used this place to build me back up.”

Participating in our Blueline Donuts vocational training program has been instrumental in Vern’s healing. Here, Vern has applied his work ethic in a positive environment. He is encouraged daily and receives helpful feedback so he can grow. (And it doesn’t hurt that he gets to bring a smile to people’s faces when they enjoy a delicious donut!)

Vern is especially excited about our new bakery opening soon and playing a key role in its success.

When Vern’s path seemed broken, your compassion helped him put those pieces back together. Thank you!

Vern
Stop in and visit Blueline Donuts and enjoy the best donuts in Flint! And experience the great satisfaction of knowing you’re helping people like Vern find hope in opportunity!

You can also visit Foster Coffee Company for a taste of the Foster signature Blueline expresso donut!

In 2019, 75 men and women participated in our life-changing program, equipped with spiritual, personal and vocational skills to succeed.
Since 1950, God has worked through generous churches and individuals to fill our community with renewed hope.

For 70 years, the focus of our ministry has remained Jesus Christ and His calling in Matthew 25 to minister to the hungry, the thirsty, and individuals in need of a place to stay.

Sharing the love of Jesus Christ has come through providing basic care and beginning new goal-oriented career, educational, and personal success programs for neighbors in need.

Our services have expanded to providing 134 beds (the most in the county) each night. Every year, we distribute 142,000 meals and provide 110,000 pieces of clothing free of charge.
**2019 Financial Summary**

Carriage Town Ministries is blessed to receive gifts that flow from the hearts of generous friends, donors, volunteers, and community partners.

**Where Donations Come From**

- **Private Donations**: 43%
- **Trusts & Grants**: 20%
- **In-Kind Donations**: 34%
- **Churches**: 3%

**How Donations Are Used**

- **213,900 meals** for hungry people in need
- **48,910 times we provided safe, clean beds** for weary souls
- **410 men, women and children** in mentoring and educational programs
- **Countless lives** touched by God’s love!

For more information, visit www.carriagetown.org and click the “About” tab. Scroll to “Financials” for links to our IRS Form 990 and our annual audit report.

Our commitment to our donors is the same as our commitment to God — to be impeccable stewards of the resources God provides through His people to do His work.
MISSION

Our mission is to provide help, hope and the Good News to our community through the skills and means of God’s people and the transforming power of Christ’s love.

CORE VALUES

Every individual that walks through the door is a personal project of God Almighty and should be valued, respected, and treated with dignity.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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