

Winona's life was transformed through your generosity.

## SURRENDERING EVERYTHING FOR FREEDOM IN JESUS CHRIST

Here at Pacific Garden Mission—with your help in providing both physical and spiritual sustenance within our walls of hope—countless souls have surrendered their hearts and minds to Christ and have attained true freedom, something that words cannot fully convey. Winona, a college student who became homeless after her financial aid depleted, shares such a story of what truly surrendering means.

**“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.” —Mark 8:35**

### WINONA

“I want to begin with how I got to Pacific Garden Mission. I was a homeless student. Sometimes, the assumption is that the person is on drugs or doing something negative, like prostitution. But, I was a student at Chicago State University, and I ran out of student funds. I didn’t have any family support, and I was in Chicago by myself—so I became homeless.

“When I got here, I didn’t expect to be here for a long time. I was hoping I’d be able to finish school and get a job. My whole life has been laced with



homelessness. As children, even though our mother raised us in church, she always kept an abusive husband or boyfriend around. So, we were always in shelters for battered women, or we were living with people from church to escape the abuse. I wasn’t unaccustomed to being in a weird environment, but it felt like ‘oh no, not this again.’

“I had my resume, and I was looking for jobs, but every single door was closed. In my time of homelessness, my education did not

help me; my family did not help me; my resume and my contacts did not help me. I was angry with God. I was questioning what I had done to deserve where I was. I’d been working on my outside, but God wanted me to work on my inside. I had a really bad attitude with God because I didn’t understand why I was here, homeless at PGM.

“I eventually surrendered and went upstairs to join the women’s Bible program, and God began to work on my inside. Surrendering can sound like a negative word—but when you surrender

to God, that’s where your freedom is because He takes the burden off of you, and you don’t have to carry it anymore. Finishing this program was my way of honoring God, and it also helped me deal with my mother’s death. I wanted to be able to process that.

“I had things happen



**Fellowship and support are important aspects of the ministry of Pacific Garden Mission.**



***“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” —Matthew 11:29-30***

in my life that I hadn't dealt with like I needed to. One of those things was being molested by my uncle at the age of two. I had other family issues, too . . . I pushed all that down and was just trying to live the 'American Dream.' There is nothing wrong with that—but if you're not emotionally and spiritually whole, it can be empty, and it won't benefit you like you think it will.



**Winona and a fellow PGM missionary exchange words of encouragement.**

**“The Mission has become my family, and the very place I was trying to run away from is the place where I found healing, restoration, and friendships . . . real friends that will tell me the truth in love. My confidence is in Jesus. He has given me Godly relationships, and we love and pray for one another. I prayed for Godly friends, and God has given them to me.**

**“Today, I am working as a transient services coordinator in women's guest services here at PGM. I am now able to**

**help the ladies sitting in the same seats I used to sit in, letting them know they are able to make it through this. As they sit in these seats or wait in line to get a towel or a toothbrush, I encourage them to ask God *why* they are here . . . I say, ‘whatever He's telling you to do while you're here, *do it* . . . because you will never regret being obedient to God. It may be hard, and life is hard—but the good news is that God is with you.’ The goal for me this time is to really acknowledge God in all of my ways so that He will direct my path. I am not going on my own strength of what I think, but I am allowing God to truly guide me to see what He wants me to do.”**

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**When Winona ran out of student funds and had no place to go, it was a life-changing blessing that you were there for**

**her, by providing shelter at Pacific Garden Mission. Surrendering to God and building a new family of believers has not only strengthened Winona personally, but it has also allowed God to use her to witness and minister to other women. While the causes of homelessness are many—unemployment, addictions, or lack of affordable housing—whatever the reason, it is with your continued support that PGM has been mending broken spirits through the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ. We rejoice over the life-saving support you help to provide.**



## A MAN IN THE SNOW

During one of the coldest, below zero weather streaks we faced in the city of Chicago last winter, we found a sobering discovery along Canal Street, just a block away from our facility. It was an elderly man, sleeping and buried in the snow. Losing all hope and drive, the man laid in his sleeping bag as the snow fell from above and was plowed onto him layer by layer. While he declined our invitation to come into the Mission, we were able to give him a meal and let him know someone cared about him—possibly planting a seed of hope.



The forgotten, the lost, the weary, many of whom have lost all hope and zest for life, will find themselves in similar positions this winter. But, with your help, they can have a warm and safe shelter. Thousands out in the cold need a seed of hope planted. Many will be receiving life-saving help this winter, and each one will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ here at this old lighthouse.



**GIVE NOW** [pgm.org/donate](http://pgm.org/donate)

A homeless man is warmly greeted and prayed for inside PGM.





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH HOPE

One of the greatest miracles that God can do is change a life. Not only did Jesus come to forgive those who place their faith in Him, but He came to transform our lives. 2 Corinthians 5:17, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** I am reminded of this every day.

I recently read a letter from a young person who is a listener of the *Unshackled!* radio program. The listener said, “Because of *Unshackled!*, I have come to saving faith.” In November of 2020, a Muslim woman came to see me and said that through watching our TV program, she decided to accept Christ. With tears in her eyes, she recounted what God had done in her life and how He used PGM as the vessel for her to experience forgiveness.

A few days ago, while I was in Jewel wearing a PGM hat, a worker in his twenties walked up to me and stated how he loves PGM. He said he got saved in 2018 with the help of his boss, who came to Christ at PGM. When he told me his boss’s name, I rejoiced because that was a man I knew well. His boss’s name is David Mead, and he initially came to the Mission with a drug problem. I saw him grow through our program, graduate, marry, and start his own business. Where would these people be without the ministry you help provide at PGM?

It is now winter, and many are coming just to survive . . . to get out of the elements, hoping for a hot meal or a warm coat. We are here to help all in need—but the most important thing that we do is offer an opportunity to

receive Jesus Christ, who opens their heart for repentance and change. I want to thank you for supporting this amazing work; on behalf of all who come to PGM seeking help and finding it, I say ***thank you.***



The homeless who come to PGM are treated as welcome guests, and receive food, shelter, and the Gospel.

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## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

However long, dark, and cold the season of winter is, we must all remember that in God's creation, spring always follows. We have all experienced physical, emotional, and spiritual winters, and we know that spring always follows. We look forward to a spring season of opportunities in so many ways. Our greatest hope is in Jesus Christ and all He promises as we reach the lost with the Gospel.

Thank you for your support and for helping men and women accomplish so much. See just how many people your giving and prayers have reached—below are the impact numbers from our most recent fiscal year, July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

Our services and programs stabilize crisis situations for homeless individuals. Thanks to your support, Pacific Garden Mission:

**provided 152,228 bed shelter nights**  
(average 451/night)

**served 487,918 meals** (average  
40,660 monthly, 1,480 daily)

**distributed 305,095 clothing items**  
(average 25,425 monthly)

Our New Day Substance Abuse Recovery Program helps individuals live an addiction-free life.

**117 new participants joined the New Day Program, and 40 graduated**

Our transient guests and program residents receive assistance finding

housing and employment with the Mission's collaborative resources.

**126 men and women received assistance finding housing**  
**344 men and women are employed**

Men and women have numerous learning and education opportunities in our computer learning center, helping them prepare for employment and meaningful careers.

**176 men and women enrolled in computer class**

Men and women learn necessary financial skills such as creating a budget, establishing a bank account, and saving money for rent and living expenses.

**37 men and women completed our Career Development course**

The Mission's Medical Clinic provides medical, dental, and mental health services and serves as a bridge and liaison to other health care providers in our community.

**PGM's on-site clinic provided medical care to 2,529 individuals**  
(an average of 211 per month)

You are helping vulnerable individuals and families break the cycle of generational poverty, addiction, and homelessness!

And as we minister with the transforming message of the Gospel of Christ, God continues to draw men and women to His Son through faith.

**AT PGM, we saw 2,405 men and women profess their faith in the saving blood of Jesus Christ. Praise God!**

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.