

Darryl found the answers that brought meaning and purpose to his life at Pacific Garden Mission.

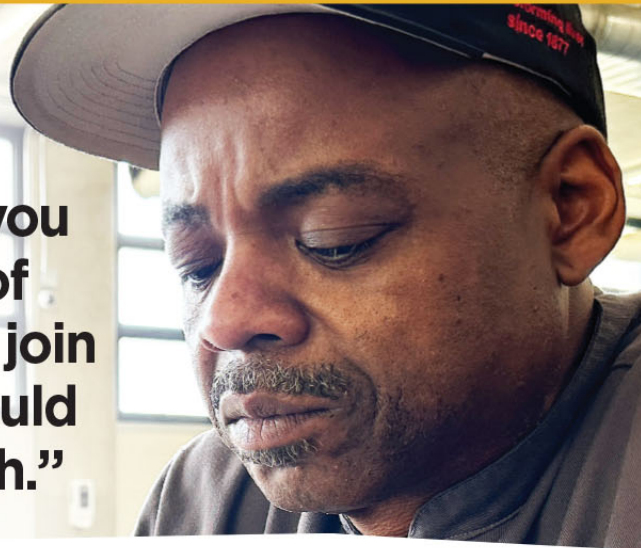
## “WITH YOUR HELP, WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.”

As we look forward to the new year and the lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ will transform, we are thankful to share Darryl Henderson's testimony. Growing up under challenging circumstances, he was led astray as a young man, causing him to be homeless and addicted to drugs, but that wasn't the end of his story. He came to PGM for a shower and clothes, but he found a new life in Christ. Our ministry can only exist through your support, allowing lives like Darryl's to be transformed into a fully functioning follower of Christ. Thank You.

### DARRYL

“I pretty much had a normal childhood as a kid. I stayed in an area they call ‘K Town’ because many streets start with K, and it was bad over there. As a kid, you don't know because that's all you know, but in hindsight, it was bad. There were a lot of murders. We couldn't play at the park because there were a lot of child abductions; a lot of shootings, gangs, it was rough. The gangs were horrible, and being a kid, you'd be pulled into it because if you wanted any kind of life, you'd have to join a gang, or you would be bullied to death.”

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“On the West Side, there were drugs and alcohol everywhere, which is mostly what everybody did. Getting high and partying was my thing. I dropped out of high school to work. When I was 18, I got a job at a factory, and it wasn’t long before I found a party crowd much older than me. There, I got introduced to cocaine and heroin, and heroin became my drug of choice.

“At first, it was just a weekend thing, and then it took over my life. I found myself a 26-year-old heroin addict. I would wake up in the morning, and that was all I thought

about. That’s all I wanted to do. I lost my job and was staying at home with my mother. I started selling drugs for local drug dealers to support my habit. I got arrested a lot.

“One night, I was lying in bed at three in the morning, thinking that I needed to get away from the environment with all my friends and what we were doing, so I left. I just got up and went to downtown Chicago. I spent three days there with another homeless guy and knew I didn’t want to spend the rest of my life panhandling and sleeping on the streets, so I asked the guy if he knew of any place I could

go to get a shower and some clothes. He told me we could go to a site down the street called Pacific Garden Mission.

“I went down there, and they had a policy where they had you see a



Darryl enjoys his time with fellow PGM food service staff and volunteers.



counselor before they give a shower or clothes. So, I saw a counselor who opened up the Word of God to me and showed me all the things God did for me, how He could forgive me and help me with my life. My mother had always been a Christian and would tell me these things, but I never really listened. By the time that was over, I was in tears. The counselor told me about the Bible program and how I wouldn't have to worry about food, clothes, or anything when I was there.

"To me, you often have to reach rock bottom before you realize you need something else. The more I started to learn about the Word of God, the more I learned how to follow Him. I found out who the Lord was and how it works, that it is not through what you do but accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior and then following Him. That is the God that I am living for now. If it had been based on something I did, I probably wouldn't have ever been saved at all. God cried out to me, and I heard His cry. He got me to the right people and ministered to me, and that is where I am now.

"Working here at the Mission, when I see people coming in, it is like God has given me a heart to want to help these people because I was homeless, too. I see the guys sitting in the

**"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" — 1 John 3:17 KJV**

dayroom, and my heart just goes out to them. I work in food services now, and I love it, and since I am getting older, I look forward to retirement. If you ask God to save you, He will, and then all you have to do is follow Him."

**On staff in our kitchen at PGM, Darryl serves as a good role model and reminder to our transient guests who still may be struggling with addiction and hopelessness. There is hope, and actual, lasting change is indeed possible for them, just as it was for Darryl. Darryl also serves as a good reminder that even if someone doesn't get it right the first time, it doesn't mean God can't help them. Through love, patience, and your**



**Darryl inspects food for the days meals for our guests and staff.**



support, the Gospel is changing lives here at PGM, and we thank you for being an essential part of this ministry. We wish you a happy new year.

As a strong believer, Darryl joyfully shares the love of Christ with his grandchildren.



## LOOKING BACK AS WE LOOK FORWARD

Archived imagery of the early 20th century ministry of Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago

Much has changed over the past 146 years since our ministry began, while some things have stayed the same. The sin that brings many to their knees in brokenness has remained unchanged, and the life-changing power of the Gospel, which pulls people out of their brokenness and into new life with Christ, has also. Your support continues to provide safe shelter from the cold this winter season and welcomes desperate guests with the warmth of God's love.



Top photo: The second home of Pacific Garden Mission.  
Bottom photo: Outdoor street ministry in the Levee District of Chicago.

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

Visit our website at [pgm.org](https://pgm.org) to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski  
President, Pacific Garden Mission

## YOU BLESS THOSE WHO HAVE SO LITTLE

We recently completed renovations on our women's new day dorm, kitchen, and women's shower area. I wanted you to hear some of the comments:

**"Words can't describe how grateful I am to have the opportunity to experience such lavishness. It's a great honor to be present at the time of reconstruction and change of the facility as my endurance builds for Christ. Thank you so much for the consideration and your efforts."**

Shawn writes, **"To the donors who give their time and money for PGM, it is truly appreciated."**

Regina writes, **"First, all honor and praise to the Father who gave His only begotten Son who died on the cross for our sins; I just want to thank Him for the changes in my life. For a**

**roof over my head, a beautiful dorm setting, especially the 5-star bathroom. I love the color and will take care of it."**

Anthony writes, **"I came to PGM on 10-7-21. I was in the hospital and had no place to go. Since I have been here, the floor in the day room has been painted. The kitchen looks amazing. This place saved my life."**

While our ministry is to proclaim the Gospel to all who enter, it is a blessing to have a clean and updated facility that will give people in their moments of despair some comfort and security as they navigate their next move after ending up on the streets. **On behalf of the hundreds who walk through these doors daily, I want to thank you for your love, prayers, and support.**

## THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

**Pacific Garden Mission's budget is completely donor-funded.** We receive no government funding. We are eternally grateful for the individuals, businesses, churches, and foundations that make it possible for PGM to serve thousands of homeless men, women, and children each year. When you support us financially, you're not only giving to the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people who need your help the most. In November your support made a true difference:

On average, **543** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **30,083** plates of food were served  
**23,000** items of clothing were distributed

**3,147** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

**34** men and women were enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

**9** mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

**52** people professed faith in Christ and became new believers at PGM

**With your encouragement and support, we minister hope to the homeless, addicted, and brokenhearted.**



# GODLY STEWARDSHIP

## 2023 Facility Improvements: Enhancing Our Guest Experience

Peter Leavitt,  
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

Looking back on 2023, we are pleased to have completed several key improvements to PGM's facility. These improvements will provide our guests with a more clean, comfortable and secure experience.

### 1. Dining Hall Refresh

We've given our dining hall a fresh makeover to create an inviting space for our guests to enjoy their three free warm daily meals. Polished concrete flooring and an attractive wall paint design now adorn this space.

### 2. Bathroom and Shower Upgrades

Flooring, wall tile, shower, and bathroom fixtures have been modernized to create a cleaner and more attractive

shower experience for our guests in the Women's Program. We understand the importance of personal hygiene for our guests, and these significant improvements reflect this priority.

### 3. Enhanced Security with Metal Detectors

To ensure a more secure environment, we've added a metal detector at our West 14th Place entrance. Guests can now enter our facility through this entrance, giving them confidence that their safety is paramount to the Mission.

### 4. Modern Washing Machines

Our women's laundry facilities have been equipped with three new, high quality washing machines. This upgrade will not only make doing laundry more convenient for our guests but will also help to conserve water and energy.

The total cost for all these needed improvements in 2023 was \$230,000. Each project was paid in full at the time of completion due to the generous

financial support of our donors. Maintaining the quality of our facility ensures that we continue to have a healthy environment for our guests on their journey toward salvation and a new life with Jesus Christ. **We thank you for being our partner in this ministry.**



Before and After: The Women's Program shower facilities were renovated in 2023.

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Learn more about our Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.