



Though her life savings were suddenly exhausted, PGM opened its doors as her safe haven.

VICTORIA'S JOURNEY OF HEALING, MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

An unexpected injury changed the course of Victoria's life. A serious fall left her with lasting physical challenges and brought her Bible college studies to an abrupt stop. As her health declined and her financial resources were exhausted, the life she had carefully built unraveled faster than she could recover. With no place to live and no clear path forward, Victoria came to Pacific Garden Mission seeking help.

What began as a moment of crisis became the doorway to a season of healing, restoration, and spiritual renewal she had been praying for her entire life. When Victoria needed help, PGM was here for her. We thank you, our supporters, for making that possible.

VICTORIA

"My name is Victoria Stoll. I was born in Germany after World War II. When I was three years old, my parents brought me to the United States and settled in Chicago. My parents were Jewish refugees who survived the Holocaust, and although I did not understand it at the time, that trauma influenced our family life.

"My parents loved their children, but they were deeply broken. My father especially struggled, and I grew up in a home marked by verbal and physical abuse. As a child, I did not realize what I was experiencing was not normal. It was simply all I knew. Although the abuse lessened as I grew older, the emotional damage had already taken root. I carried

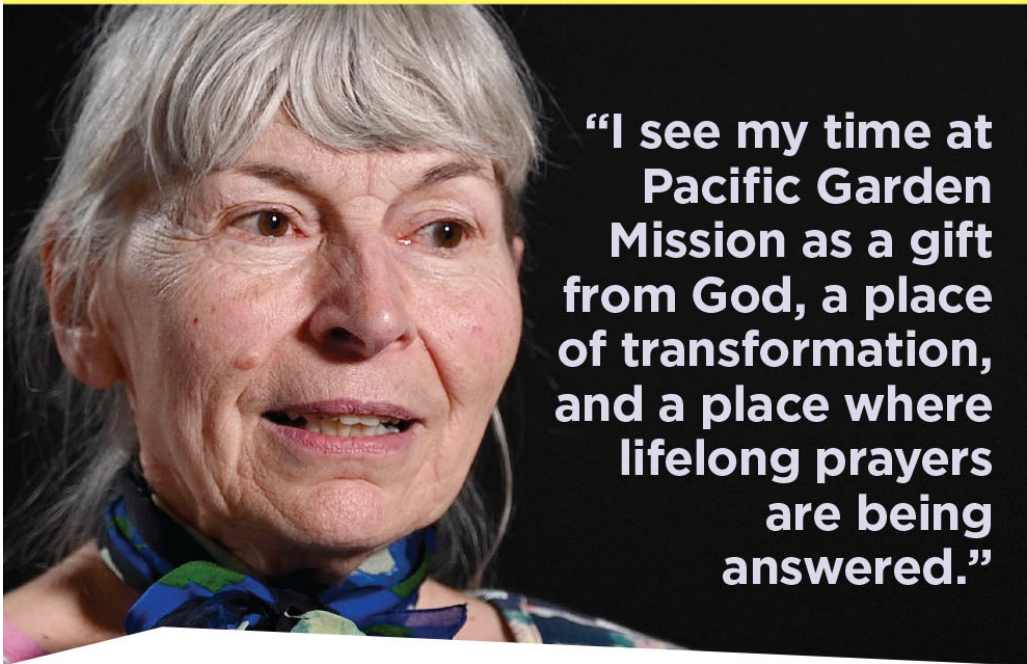
shame, anger, and deep wounds for many years."

Faith and a Love for Learning

"I became a Christian when I was eleven years old at a Billy Graham crusade in Chicago. From that point on, I had a strong desire to give my life to God's Word. As a teenager, I dreamed of attending Moody Bible Institute.

"When it came time for college, I prayed that if God gave me a piano scholarship, I would attend Roosevelt University. If not, I would go to Moody. I received the scholarship and earned a degree in music education at Roosevelt. Later, I completed a master's degree in school leadership at Concordia University.

"I worked as a legal secretary for a time and later became a teacher in Chicago public schools.



“I see my time at Pacific Garden Mission as a gift from God, a place of transformation, and a place where lifelong prayers are being answered.”

Healing and Renewal

“Through the New Life program, God began answering prayers I had prayed since my teenage years. Through biblical counseling, God revealed the shame and guilt that had fueled my anger. As He dealt with those roots, the anger began to disappear.

“Being at Pacific Garden Mission has been a spiritual oasis. God is restoring me spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally. I am deeply grateful for the people here who have encouraged me, including Pastor Phil, the instructors, and my counselor.”

Teaching is something I truly love.

“In 2022, I finally decided to pursue my lifelong dream of attending Moody Bible Institute. I was accepted and began classes majoring in Jewish studies. It was the most demanding academic program I had ever experienced. I was carrying a heavy course load while also participating in chorale. I did not rest enough and became burned out.”

The Life Changing Injury

“Around that time, I suffered a serious accident. On April 1, 2022, the first day of training for a new job, I fell down five cement stairs and struck the back of my head. I sustained a major head injury that affected me physically and

emotionally.

“Soon after, my finances were depleted. I had spent nearly my entire life savings, and after finishing my classes for the year, I ended up in the hospital. I had been living on campus and suddenly had nowhere to go.”

“That is when I came to Pacific Garden Mission. At first, I thought it would be very short term. After a few days, I learned about the New Life Bible Program for women. When I discovered it focused on studying the Bible, memorizing Scripture, and developing a close walk with the Lord, I knew immediately this

was exactly what I wanted. This was what I had been seeking for my entire life.

“I committed to the program, trusting that God had orchestrated my circumstances to bring me here.”

“Trust in him at all times; ye people, Pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.”
— Psalm 62:8 KJV

Today, Victoria has graduated from the New Life Program, but her journey at Pacific Garden Mission continues. She returns daily to attend Bible classes, remain rooted in God’s Word, and to serve here. What was once a place of refuge has become a place of purpose.

Thank you for making stories like Victoria’s possible.



Victoria attends a Bible class in the PGM library.



Since being at PGM Victoria has made close friendships.

HEALING WHERE RECOVERY WAS ONCE IMPOSSIBLE

When medical care requires more than a hospital stay, recovery can quickly become out of reach for those without a place to rest, heal, and be supported. That reality has long shaped the experience of men and women facing homelessness. Today, through **Pacific Garden Mission's Respite Program**, that story is beginning to change.

Roman is one such example. After living with severe hip pain for years, Roman finally received the surgery he had long been denied. For most patients, that would be followed by a

carefully supervised recovery plan. For someone without a home, that next step rarely exists. Through the **Respite Program**, Roman had a place to recover safely, receive follow-up care, and regain strength with dignity. What was once impossible became reality.

Dr. Porte, PGM's on-site physician, has walked alongside Roman throughout this journey. Having served as his primary care provider for years, Dr. Porte witnessed firsthand the limits of treatment when recovery resources are unavailable. Now, he is seeing something different.

Roman's progress has been steady and measurable, but the most telling moment came when Dr. Porte asked how his pain was doing. Roman answered simply, "Better," then reached out to shake his hand, overwhelmed with gratitude. This moment spoke volumes about what compassionate,

Christ-centered care can accomplish.

That same transformation is unfolding for others as well. Guests who once managed serious wounds while living on the streets are now healing fully through consistent care, supervision, and support. Some have completed the Respite Program and are taking meaningful steps toward stability and housing.

Because of your prayers and faithful support, guests are no longer forced to choose between survival and healing. Instead, they are met with compassion, medical care, and the love of Christ at a critical moment in their lives.

Thank you for standing with Pacific Garden Mission as this ministry continues to grow. Through your partnership, healing is now happening!

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate



Please donate using your phone. Just scan this QR code with your phone's camera, and it will direct you to the PGM Donate page. *Thank you!*



Dr. Alexander Porte



Roman during recovery

GODLY STEWARDSHIP: PUMPKINS, LAUGHTER, AND A FUN DAY AT THE PATCH

Peter Leavitt

Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

At PGM, our New Beginnings program is all about turning instability into hope and empowerment for homeless mothers and their children. Last fall, we celebrated that mission with our second annual trip to Konow's Pumpkin Farm in Homer Glen, IL. Four mothers and seven children joined us for a day of joy, connection, and some much-needed normalcy.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything we do. As it says in Romans 15:13, "**Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy**

Ghost." This trip embodied that promise. Beyond practical steps toward stability, we believe fun and family bonding are vital. Hayrides,



corn pits, a bouncy house, petting zoo, and a playground kept smiles wide. Staff and families grew closer, seeing each other in a new light.

We provided transportation, lunch, admission, and a small pumpkin for each child to paint later with our Child Wellness Coordinator. Total cost: just \$200. The impact? Priceless. Mothers shared gratitude for escaping city stress, leaving worries behind to cherish quality time with their kids. On the ride home, everyone—moms included—dozed off, exhausted from the day's simple joys. It was proof of a day well spent.

We're grateful to those who make these moments possible and pray for more opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus.

Visit our website at pgm.org to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS

In December 2024, we ran an article about a former resident, Tony. He was in and out of jail for years, addicted to drugs, and looking for answers. He stumbled into the Mission and heard a message of hope that would change his life. After he received Christ, he joined our discipleship program, where he began to grow and see his life change. He states, "While in the Bible Program, I was still holding onto one thing: my family. Knowing they were out there, I couldn't let go. I loved them." His wife and two daughters eventually came to the Mission, where they were residents in our mothers and children division. His wife, Sabrina, had to adjust. I remember both of their little daughters and the prospect of an uncertain future consumed her mind. After Tony left,

he joined a local church, got a job, and renewed his vows to Sabrina.

And the best part, Sabrina accepted Christ and began to grow. Their oldest daughter went off to Bible College and, upon graduation, started working in our *Unshackled!* department. When I congratulated her on her employment, I said this was a first for me: to see a homeless little girl now hired as a college graduate serving at the place you once lived is a blessing indeed. She stated that coming here was the best thing that could have happened. Praise the Lord!

You make a real difference through your compassion and support—not only in the lives of the individuals we serve, but also in the lives of their families and loved ones, like Sabrina and her children.

By God's grace, the gift of love that allows us to serve someone in desperate need is multiplied through a life transformed by Christ. **Thank you for your love, prayer, and support.**



Gina, their oldest daughter, celebrates her recent Bible college graduation.

OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

Pacific Garden Mission's Open House will take place on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 9 am to 12 noon. The purpose of the open house is to introduce people to the Ministry Division and to what happens when an individual joins the various ministries serving men, women, mothers, and their children. The guests will meet the staff of the Ministry Division and learn more about what we do. There will be tours and a continental breakfast. There will also be free, secure parking.

For any questions or for more information, please email or call Patricia Sibley: sibleyp@pgm.org and (312) 429-6719.



THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER: Your gifts at work

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 **February** your support made a true difference:



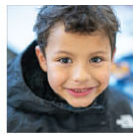
14,343 total nights of sleep were provided to our homeless guests



40 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board



444 average number of homeless people who received aid and Gospel services each day



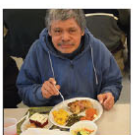
10 mothers with **19** children were sheltered at PGM



52,500 clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



3,137 media outlets around the world broadcasted **UNSHACKLED!**



39,092 plates of food were served (est.)



169 people professed saving faith in Christ and became new believers at PGM

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