



*From despair to new life,  
Darrell found his purpose at  
Pacific Garden Mission*

## YOUR LOVING SUPPORT HELPED TRANSFORM A LOST LIFE

**Behind every changed life at Pacific Garden Mission is a community of supporters who believe no one is beyond hope. Darrell Clay's journey is one example of how faithful stewardship creates space for God to work. When addiction and despair left him with nowhere else to turn, Darrell found help, truth, and the message of Jesus Christ through a ministry made possible by compassionate giving and committed partnership.**

### **DARRELL CLAY**

"I grew up on the South Side of Chicago and in the south suburbs. For much of my life, I believed I was doing fine. Looking back, I now see how broken I

really was. My addiction began when I was very young, rooted in trauma I did not understand at the time. That pain led to addiction, first to sex and later to drugs, eventually to stealing, lying, and living a double life. Even though I believed in God, I never truly believed in Jesus Christ. I thought believing in God alone was enough.

#### **Losing Direction**

"After high school I married and became a father, but when my own father suffered a mental breakdown and left our family, I lost the person I depended on for guidance. Without direction, I turned to the streets, alcohol, and eventually crime. I was arrested for robbery, and by God's mercy, my felony charge was reduced. I promised myself I

would change.

"After my divorce, I spent years trucking and trying to stay stable, but eventually I returned to selling drugs and became involved in cartel activity. Money, power, greed, and lust became my gods. Addiction consumed every part of my life. I lost jobs, relationships, housing, and ultimately myself. It escalated rapidly. I became homeless, lived out of my car, stayed in drug houses, overdosed, was robbed, arrested, and constantly placed myself in danger. At one point, I spent thousands of dollars on drugs in a single weekend. Alone in Kentucky, with no money and no future, I attempted to take my own life. When that failed, I called my mother and told her I needed help. That phone call changed everything.



**“Sitting outside with my bags beneath the words ‘Jesus Saves,’ I knew I had reached the end of myself.”**

**Growing in Faith**

“I chose to stay at Pacific Garden Mission because I knew God was doing a deeper work in me. I committed myself to accountability, discipline, and service. Being surrounded by other men pursuing healing has been life-giving. We listen to one another, support one another, and grow together.

“My family relationships are still healing, but I am at peace knowing I have made things right with God. I continue to grow through Scripture, especially the book of Romans, which has helped me understand salvation and grace in a new way.

“Today, my life is built on faith in Jesus Christ. Just as spring brings new life from the soil, God has brought renewal to my heart. And this is only the beginning.”

**Finding Hope at Pacific Garden Mission**

“I returned to Chicago and spent two years isolated and afraid, unable to break free from addiction. When I was forced to leave the place I was staying, I was driven to Pacific Garden Mission. Sitting outside with my bags beneath the words “Jesus Saves,” I knew I had reached the end of myself. I had driven past that sign countless times and never believed it, but this time was different.

“I entered thinking I was joining a drug program so I could return to my old life. Instead, I was introduced to the Bible in a way I had never experienced. One day, I opened it and could not stop reading. In two months, I read nearly the entire Bible. God began working in my heart. I prayed and asked God to remove my addictions and desires that had

destroyed my life. The change was immediate. My cravings disappeared. I no longer desired drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or unhealthy relationships. For the first time, I experienced real freedom, not through willpower, but through accepting Jesus Christ as my Savior.

“On December 14, 2025, I gave my life fully to Christ. That night, I could not sleep, haunted by the thought of dying without salvation. I realized I could no longer play with my soul. This time, my decision was not about fighting addiction. It was about having a real relationship with God and standing before Him honestly.



**We hope Darrell’s story encourages you, just as it encourages us here at Pacific Garden Mission. God is working every day in the lives of hundreds of men and women who come through our doors, and none of this would be possible without your faithful support. Thank you for being part of this ministry and for helping bring hope and transformation to those who need it most.**

**“For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD.”  
—Jeremiah 30:17a KJV**

Photo above: Darrell leads the opening Scripture reading in the PGM cafeteria, setting the tone for morning Bible class for men in the Bible and addictions recovery program.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski  
President, Pacific Garden Mission

## SAVED AT THE LAST MINUTE

**I am always amazed at the impact that Pacific Garden Mission has had on not only the individuals we serve but also on generations to come. I came across this story\* that was encouraging and is at the heart of who we are.**

### WHY IT IS TOO SOON TO GIVE UP

Ten more minutes and my wife would have never been born. The story that changed everything is hope for any of us who love someone who's making some very bad choices. My wife's grandfather, Bill, had given up on life. Trashing a profitable career for the alcohol and cocaine he could not resist. He was labeled with a prison record, he was penniless, he was hopeless and he was suicidal.

And that night, as he walked South State Street in downtown Chicago, he was minutes away from Lake Michigan where he'd decided to end it all. One thing saved him. A mother who had never given up on him. There, on the street, he heard the song, the one his mother used to sing to him. It was coming from the rescue mission he had just passed. Something made him stop and go inside. And there a caring mission worker shared a Bible verse that has probably changed more lives than any other. The worker started, *"For God so loved the world that He gave . . ."* Suddenly, Bill finished it. *" . . . His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16).

Somewhere in the long-clouded corners of his memory, he could hear his mother teaching him those words.

And that night—minutes away from ending his life—he found life. He never touched or wanted alcohol or drugs from that night on. And he spent the rest of his life bringing the hope he'd found to forgotten people across the country. And now three generations Bill never met are here, and they're living and spreading that same hope because of one man's choice that night.

**That rescue mission was PGM. Please know that you are not only supporting those who are here but those who are yet to come. Thank you for your love, prayer, and support.**

\*A WORD WITH YOU #10203  
*"Why It Is Too Soon to Give Up."*  
Ron Hutchcraft, Hutchcraft Ministries

## FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: BEHIND THE SCENES

### Peter Leavitt

Assistant Treasurer,  
PGM Board of Trustees

Every day at the Mission, lives are being transformed by the power of the Gospel. While much of this work happens face-to-face in the Day Room, classrooms, and dining room, another vital ministry takes place quietly behind the scenes—faithful stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to us through our donors.

PGM's Operations Division works diligently to ensure that God's building remains fully operational, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From lights and water to heat, technology, vehicles, and sanitation, these teams steward every detail so ministry can continue without interruption. Scripture reminds us, *"It is required of stewards that they be found faithful"*

(1 Corinthians 4:2), and that faithfulness is lived out daily across PGM's facility.

Staff from six operations departments proactively perform preventive measures on daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly schedules. Technology teams monitor network access for nearly 100 users. Drivers inspect vehicles before and after each trip. Food Services sanitizes the commercial kitchen before and after every meal—three times a day, seven days a week. Hospitality teams clean the facility throughout the day and faithfully wash linens for hundreds of residents.

These protective measures help build reliable systems, extend the life of equipment, avoid risks, and identify needs before emergencies arise. In doing so, PGM honors

both the generosity of donors and the calling God has placed on this ministry.

Through careful stewardship of funds and facilities, the Operations Division enables PGM staff to focus fully on serving guests, proclaiming Christ, and glorifying God in all things.



**Much of the work that keeps Pacific Garden Mission running happens quietly behind the scenes. From maintenance and repairs to preventive care, faithful stewardship ensures the mission remains ready to serve every day of the year.**

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

# Honoring Mothers Who Carry Hope Forward

This Mother's Day, we pause to recognize the mothers at Pacific Garden Mission who are doing one of the hardest things imaginable: caring for their children while rebuilding their own lives.

Even in the midst of hardship, these women continue to nurture, protect, and guide their children with love and determination. At Pacific Garden Mission, mothers and children find more than shelter. They find a place where healing can begin, where children can experience safety and consistency, and where



mothers are supported as they take meaningful steps toward long-term stability. Through compassionate care, practical resources, and Gospel-centered programs, families are given the opportunity to move forward together.



We are grateful for the privilege of supporting desperate mothers during a critical chapter of their lives. We are equally thankful for you, our supporters, whose generosity makes this work possible. Your partnership helps provide care, encouragement, and hope for mothers and children who need it most.

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

## 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 **March** your support made a true difference:



**16,430** total nights of sleep provided to our homeless guests



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



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



**12** mothers with **20** children were sheltered at PGM



**10,500** clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



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



**40,015** plates of food were served (est.)



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

## GLIMPSES INSIDE PGM



Pastor Green, on the left, has been part of the Mission family since the 1990s. After going through the Bible Program himself, he now serves faithfully as our mission Chaplain. In this photo, he is pictured with Pastor Dennis Sampson, an outside preacher who has been faithfully coming to PGM for years to share the Gospel with our guests.

This is the heart of our mission: men transformed by Christ now helping reach others with the hope they once received.

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