

the MESSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — **Together**

MARCH 2022



Thank You
for
Shining Your Light
and
Changing Lives

Seven years after staying
in our Family Center,
Cinnamon is
as strong as ever!

"And if you spend yourself in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like noonday."

- Isaiah 58:10





A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You Shine Light in Darkness



Dear Friend,

It's no mistake that Carriage Town Ministries' logo has a lamp post.

For over 70 years, generous friends like you have helped Carriage Town Ministries serve as a light in our community. It's a light that shines for folks living in darkness, for neighbors burdened by hardship, for men and women searching for direction.

Through Jesus alone, the true Light of the world, we continue to welcome guests in need of guidance. With your help, we point guests to God's Word, a lamp to our feet, so neighbors can see God's path for their life.

You'll see in this issue of The Messenger, when Cinnamon's path was dark, your generosity ensured a spark of hope remained. She heard about Carriage Town Ministries,

poured her heart into learning, and for seven years now, she and her precious children have lived with stability and dignity.

Just like Isaiah 58:10 promises, when you satisfy the needs of the oppressed, your light does rise. It also continues to shine through the lives of guests like Cinnamon who is still connected to Carriage Town and giving back to women in need.

We've all needed light over the past two years. When times have felt uncertain, God Himself has been here, giving us vision, helping us see, and lighting our steps. Thanks for partnering with Him as we bring hope and help to our neighbors on the journey.



Cinnamon's Story of Success

7 years after staying in our Family Center

Seven years ago, Cinnamon and her precious babies were unlawfully evicted from their apartment in the dead of winter. Cinnamon will never forget that gut-wrenching feeling that she somehow let her children down.

When there was nowhere to turn, Cinnamon remembered Carriage Town Ministries had a home for women and children.

After a warm welcome, Cinnamon knew she and her children would be safe here. But she also worked tremendously hard to move forward.

Through spiritual guidance and practical support in our Personal Success Plan (PSP) program, Cinnamon secured a new apartment after just two months at Carriage Town Ministries.

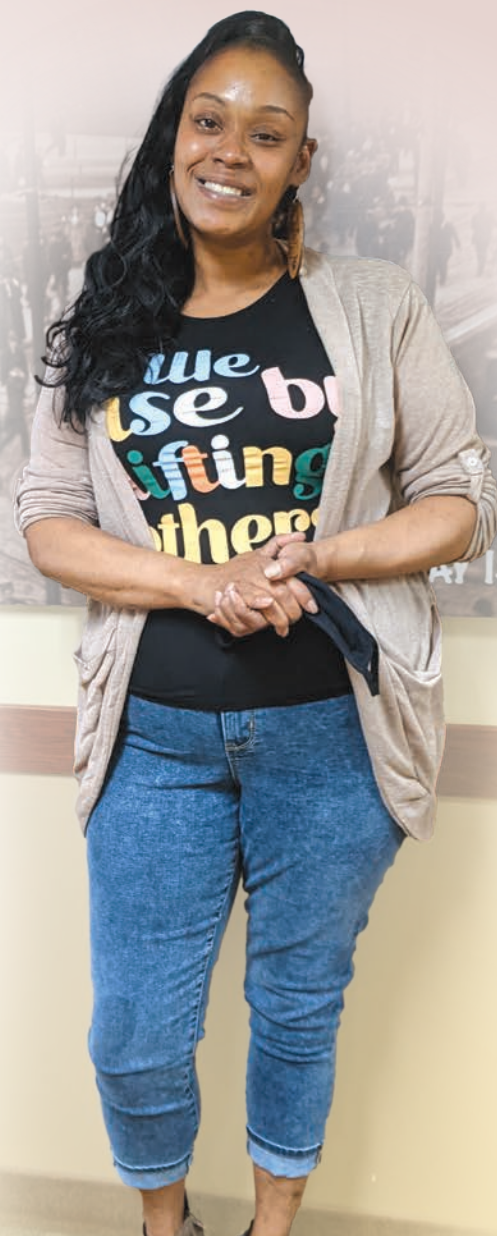
For seven years now, Cinnamon has lived in dignity and security.

Life hasn't been perfect or easy. Cinnamon has experienced personal loss and health challenges with her children. But she's remained faithful and hopeful through it all. She's also remained connected to Carriage Town Ministries!

Cinnamon stays connected to Carriage Town Ministries through our prayer time and Bible studies. She has given back by volunteering to help women get settled into our Family Center, showing unconditional love during a vulnerable moment in their lives.

Cinnamon is truly a testimony to the power of your generosity.

You don't merely provide men, women and children with a temporary place to rest and receive meals. You set them up for a successful future.



“Because of Carriage Town Ministries, I was able to walk away from here with my head held high, feeling good about who I am and what I've accomplished. And I've been able to carry that out for seven years. Thank you!”

– Cinnamon, PSP graduate

How You Make a Difference

Giving People Steps Toward Personal Success!

Through our Personal Success Plan (PSP) program, caring friends like you help to provide guests with immediate help and offer guidance for a personalized long-term plan.

Once a resident's basic needs are met, they begin our goal-oriented program, informed by three key components:

- **Knowing God:** Bible studies, prayer meetings, chapel services, Scripture memorization, personal time with God, engaging with a church home

- **Gaining Knowledge & Skills:** GED courses, parenting classes, budgeting help, career training, resume building, goal-setting
- **Living Productively:** Volunteering, sharing gifts in community, cleaning the neighborhood, transitional employment, mental health counseling, personal healthcare

Compassionate supporters like you are helping men and women in need take essential steps to lasting life change. Thank you for giving guests time and access to confidence-building resources and life-transforming skills.



Meet an Amazing Volunteer



Doug Cryer

Q: How did you get involved at Carriage Town Ministries?

In 2019, our church life group was looking for ways to serve. A couple of us visited and learned about opportunities and got started in the donation center where all the goods come in.

I'm retired and I love to be around people, so Matt, the Donation Center Supervisor, thought I might like to serve in the men's clothing closet.

It was a great fit for me, and I would make sure the pants, shirts, socks, coats and everything was nicely arranged. And then boom, Covid hit.

Q: Were you on hold for a while during the pandemic?

Yes. But I was persistent. I'm retired. I needed to get back doing something. Once it was safe, they said help was fine as long as I followed all the protocols. I said great, let me come in and serve these guys! So I've been back.

Q: What happens during a typical volunteer shift?

The residents get to come down and pick out whatever they want. I've been in sales, so I'll ask them what they're looking for or what they need. I can get a good estimate of size and pick it out.

Q: Besides the clothes, how else do you try to make an impact?

I befriend some of the guys. We talk a little bit and I try to give them some encouragement. I try to talk about normal things and make them feel human like they're people just like anyone else. I want to make them feel loved and cared for. Sometimes, I don't want to pry into why they are here, but I have asked and I might give them a hug. They still need compassion.

Q: What's your motivation to serve and give back?

As a Christian, I feel called to serve. It gives me a good feeling to help these guys and get to know them as an individual rather than just a homeless person. It's rewarding.

To learn more about volunteering, contact Tamela at trigg@carriagetown.org or fill out a volunteer application at carriagetown.org/getinvolved.

Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

Gifts received October 7, 2021 to January 31, 2022

An honor or memorial gift to Carriage Town Ministries is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member. Our deepest sympathies are with friends who have lost loved ones.

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being

remembered or honored to:

Carriage Town Ministries
P.O. Box 318
Flint, MI 48501

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card.

Thank You!

MEMORIAL

Dan Adamson

Mrs. Beverly Perry

Vern D'Angelo

Sandra Swatzell

James K. Barker

Pat Friedriechnsen

Omar Bashir

Tiffany Diallo

Margaret Becker

Bill & Robin Jones

Jean E. Belill

Michael Belill

Herbert Bell

Sharon Atchison

Virginia Berry

Bennett Telephone
Raiford & Judy Brookshire
Dick & Kim Bodette
Ed & Regina Berry
Richard & Barbara Rodabaugh
Van & Karen Eldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Weir
Mr. & Mr. William Keene

"Mom" Bertie

Phyllis Gentry

Bill & Mary

Jessica Cole

Donald Brege

Ann-Marie Brege

James Brian

Cheryl Cullen
Robert Diehl
Gordon & Pam Gingrich
John Hemingway
Doris & Karen Mulkin

Ilene Brown

Samuel Brown

Mary Cady

Daniel Cady

Candace Campbell

Margaret Campbell
Ronnie & Denny Geary

Esperanza Capuchina

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Capuchina

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carey

David Carey

Mary Castles

Karen Conroy

Ray W. Chandler

Ray Chandler (son)

Jerry Cicalo

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Capuchina

Jim & Angie Cicalo

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Capuchina

Robert & Billie Cojeen

Robert & Kathy Cojeen

Colleen

Timothy Weeks

Monica Coolich

Mr. & Mrs. William Erlenbeck

Sarah Cronk

Robert Cronk

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Thomas & Kim Curran

J. Edward Diebold

Mrs. Susan Diebold

Henry & Martha Diener

Matt & Kathy Dasse

Bev Doyle

Tammie Rubel

Freda Farone

Eileen Branoff

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Jumana Barden

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David & Virginia Hawcroft
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George & Connie Thorne
Slisko Family

Alice Humphrey

Juanita Crump

Helen Hutchins

Mark Hutchins

Chuck Ikerd

James D. Skinner

Michael Jackson

Nina Jackson

Elsa Jaster

Siefried Jaster

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Gerald & Diane Hill

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Annette Jones

David Keasler

Deborah Culver

Judith Key

Carol Warle

Leona Kimmel

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hemingway

John Wendell King "Jack"

Jody Hamilton

Stanley King

Lee Hill

Everette "Bud" Lafner Jr.

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Clarence Lemon

Mrs. Joan Lemon

Rosemary Lesczynski

Bruce & Mindy Ball
Elaine Baur
Carole & Fred Brender
Howard Bueche
Jim & Elisa Cantwil
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Paul Edwards
Dennys Grady
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Davis Lewis

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Dayna Legrow

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Mary Mora

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Eric Morse

Nan

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John Niepoetter

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Jeanne Nitz

Jeremy Nutt

Susan & David Hartley

Jerrod J. Nutt

Mary Ann, Noreen, Cheryl & Bill
Susan Eckhoff
Kevin & Laurel Hilliker
Michael & Elaine Houle
Kelly O'Conner
The Wolfers

Mark Perez

Kathleen Perez

Dayle Pifer

Michael & Margaret Pifer

Linda Rapp

Lawrence Wesolowski

Autumn Rivest

Velma Price

Kimberly Robb

Jennifer Dwyre

James Robinson

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Ronald Ruggles

Greg & Nicki Streff

Albert Rutter

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Marilyn Shaw

Harold Sippert

Raymond Fichtenberg

Mike Slogar

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Denise Mocer
Denise Sarver

Sallie Stinson

Gloria Stinson

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Mari Yancho

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Michael Strauss

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Seekers Sunday School class
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Nazarene

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Michael Thomas

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Terry Tobias

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The Van Gilder Family Foundation

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Kenneth Vanwagener

Michael Wills

Janelle Wiess

Andrew Wiess

Audrey Wilson

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Wilson



Leave a Legacy that Reflects Your Values

There are many ways to leave a legacy. As a caring friend of neighbors in need, you might consider how a long-term gift to Carriage Town Ministries will reflect the values that mean the most to you.

Here are some ways to leave a legacy that provides hope for today, tomorrow, and eternity for neighbors suffering from hunger and homelessness in our community.

- **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):** For anyone age 70 ½ or above, if you are blessed with more funds than you need in your IRA, consider sharing your blessings with Carriage Town Ministries. It's a win-win that helps you save on taxes and share God's love in our community. Plus, if you have required minimum distribution (RMD), helping neighbors through a gift from your IRA can help you satisfy all or part of your RMD throughout the year.
- **Will and Estate Plans:** Leaving a gift in your will or estate plan also helps us care for the men and women in the Flint community for years to come. Including Carriage Town Ministries in your will can also offer tax advantages, all while ensuring more people can encounter the love and kindness of Jesus.
- **Beneficiary Designation:** You can designate any percentage of your retirement plan or life insurance policy to support causes close to your heart. Designating 5% to 50% to Carriage Town Ministries allows you to support this life-giving ministry in our community while still leaving generous gifts for loved ones.

We are here to answer any questions you have about Carriage Town Ministries (CTM) and planned giving. We don't provide legal or financial advice, but are eager to work with you and your attorney or financial advisor to help you achieve your planned giving goals!

Contact Cindy Johns at 810.233.8787, ext. 6205
or cjohns@carriagetown.org.

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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.



P.O. Box 318

Flint, MI 48501-0318

(810) 233-8787

www.carriagetown.org

