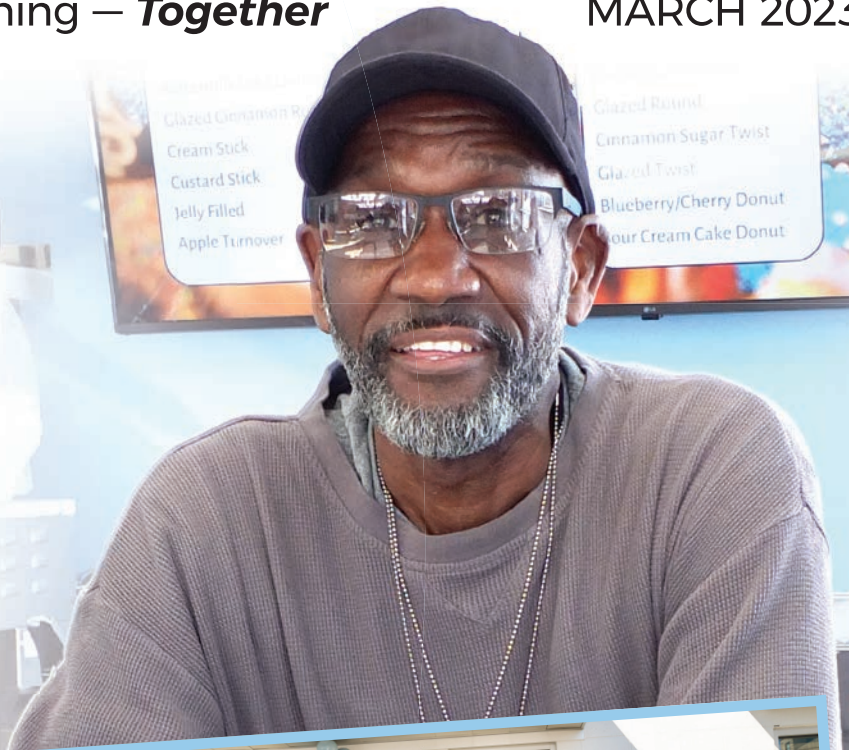


# the MESSSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — **Together**

MARCH 2023

Changing Lives,  
One Baked  
Good  
at a Time



Join us in thanking God for the opening  
of Carriage Town Bakery's retail storefront!





## A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# The Joy and Hard Work of Ministry

Dear Friend,

If you've followed Jesus any length of time, you know He'll use anything to help people turn to Him ... even donuts.

Our Blueline Donuts career training ministry launched from a desire to help individuals in our Personal Success Plan program secure a dependable income stream. If individuals had a gap in their work history or time in jail on their record, we could bridge the gap between barriers to employment and sustainable work. It's truly given us a platform to develop transitional workers into MVP employees beyond our doors.

Over the years, we've seen residents learn the important skills of showing up on time, asking if there's any more work to do, and proving trustworthy with small and large tasks. We've seen employees learn how to budget money and save for rent. We've also seen the confidence of Blueline employees soar as they discover a passion and turn it into a profitable job.

In addition, Blueline served as a bridge between the homeless population in

our community and our police and first responders. It's a safe space where a good donut and cup of coffee bring people together.

God has continued to bless the endeavor – from providing a resident who used to own a donut shop to moving the hearts of individuals to fund most of the labor and construction of our new retail storefront, Carriage Town Bakery.

Our hope today is to keep growing by adding products, expanding our customer base and lengthening our store hours. While we hope to make enough revenue to cover the cost of employee salaries, ingredients needed for baked goods and even utilities on the building, Carriage Town Bakery will always be a ministry.

When you stop in and buy the best donuts in our community, you're also supporting the great work of helping people extricate themselves from instability and regain joy and dignity in their lives. After all, who doesn't love a donut?

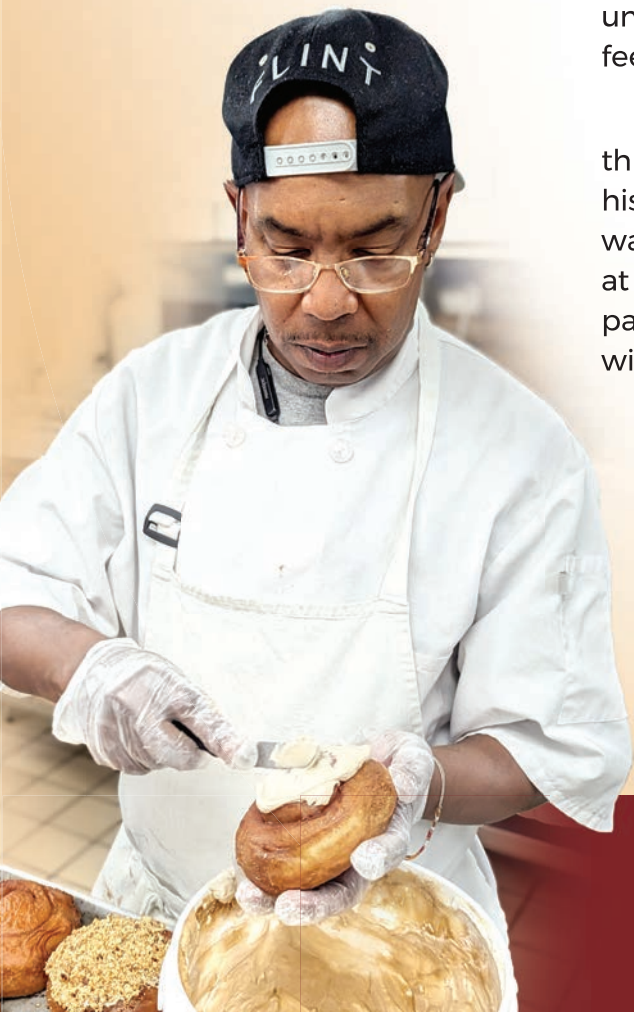


# From brokenness to whole in Christ

On the surface, a broken thumb brought Sean to Carriage Town Ministries.

While working in a factory, he aggravated his hand trying to keep up with the assembly line. After surgery, he couldn't keep up at all and lost his job.

But if you look a little deeper, Sean came to Carriage Town Ministries because of a broken childhood.



As a little boy, Sean grew up in a home marred by addiction. He vividly remembers the day he had to send his sister to their aunt's house and his brother to their grandparents, because home was no longer a safe place to be.

**"I basically raised myself," Sean shares.**

"We all split up, which was a big tragedy in my life, because I felt unloved, uncared for, and I would just feel empty."

Sean did the best he could throughout the years, but his lack of a support system was evident when his injury at work left him without a paycheck and, eventually, without a home.

Thanks to compassionate supporters like you, Carriage Town Ministries has served as a refuge for Sean.

He was skeptical of what we could offer, but after his first two weeks surrounded by kindness, rest and spiritual support, Sean knew this is where God needed him to be.

"I found God coming to Carriage Town Ministries," Sean expresses. "With them helping me, my life has turned around dramatically. I think more clearly. I make decisions and think about the consequences, which leads me to make right choices."

Sean works in our kitchen, a role he loves. In addition to filling and frosting the donuts, he's learning to mix and fry them. Baking reminds Sean of happier times from his childhood with his grandmother. "She taught me how to cook," he recalls.

Sean's long-term goal is to work in a hospital serving others. The good news is that no matter where God leads him next, he knows he isn't alone. Despite his broken past, Sean is whole in Christ.

We love seeing residents like Sean grow in confidence as they establish work experience and learn job skills at Carriage Town Bakery.



**604 Garland, Flint, MI**

**Tuesday through Friday  
7:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

**(810) 233-8787**

**CarriageTownBakery.org**

Our Carriage Town Bakery storefront is officially open with 25 varieties of donuts and great coffee! **Scan the QR code above to watch the grand opening video.**

Special thanks to Flint, Michigan's Mayor Sheldon Neeley (pictured below) for celebrating our grand opening and highlighting the importance of working together to lift up neighbors in need!



Currently, five transitional employees serve at Carriage Town Bakery, developing marketable job skills for future long-term employment.



# Three Ways to Help Change Lives

## Bequests

Including Carriage Town Ministries through a gift in your will is a powerful way to provide long-term support and stability for our mission. This type of contribution costs nothing today and ensures that we can continue providing help, hope and the Good News to our community – for generations to come.

If you do not have an up-to-date will in place, you can create your legal will for free and establish a lasting legacy with Carriage Town Ministries using a trusted resource from our partners at FreeWill. FreeWill's online platform is secure, simple to use, and most people finish their plans in 20 minutes or less.

## Gifts through your IRA

If you are over 70.5, giving from your IRA helps you reduce your taxable income – and for those over 72 who must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), an IRA gift is a simple way to fulfill it while supporting Carriage Town Ministries. Our new secure IRA donation tool makes it simple to give to Carriage Town Ministries directly from your IRA and receive tax benefits. It only takes a few minutes to use and will auto-complete your paperwork for you.

## Stock Gifts

Many of our donors are switching to stock donations to save on two types of taxes as they make an immediate impact on those in need in our community. Our secure, online tool makes transferring stocks simple. It can help you identify the correct transfer form, help you fill out the necessary fields, and provide clear instructions for submitting the form to your brokerage.

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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  
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