

# the MESSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — *Together*

NOVEMBER 2023

This Holiday Season,  
Victoria Thanks God  
for You

Victoria has spent half of her life on the streets,  
but today, she is serving others in need at  
Carriage Town Ministries.

See her story inside 





## A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Friend,

A theme of thankfulness permeates my spirit these days. Profound thankfulness finds its expression in worship. And so, I write you with a heart of worship in the spirit of thanksgiving.

*Thanksgiving* is indeed upon us. I love this holiday. It makes me worship. So, praise God from whom all blessings flow! Let your hearts get quiet and give thanks. As our Good Shepherd, God, wants to provide for us precisely what we need when we need it! (Psalm 23)

Soon, God will provide a new leader for Carriage Town Ministries, so I'll make full use of this opportunity to tell you how thankful I am for your generosity. Your secret giving has animated Jesus's teachings (Matthew 6:3-4) and provided all we have needed.

You have tangibly and effectively fed, clothed, sheltered, and given hope to your neighbors precisely while they were experiencing extreme fear and hopelessness.

The Bible makes it clear that when we quietly help in this way, *Jesus feels it personally*, "When you did it for the least of these ... you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

As I sign off, I say again, I am thankful for you — for giving hope to men, women, and children in Flint. I thank God for allowing me to be part of this, for filling us and sealing us with His Holy Spirit and giving us life. For in Him, we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

Please continue to support the people of Carriage Town and the new leader God will provide. What a privilege we've enjoyed together — being neighbors (Luke 10) to all who sought help here! *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Praising God with a thankful heart,





# FROM SURVIVING THE STREETS TO SERVING NEIGHBORS

## Victoria's story of redemption

Seventeen. That's how old Victoria was when she used drugs and alcohol for the first time. But it wasn't the first time she saw them.

"My dad was in and out of prison. My mom was often drinking and partying," Victoria shares. From the loneliness from absent parents to horrific abuse when she was fourteen, the trauma Victoria carried ran deep. Since drinking and using drugs numbed the pain she felt inside, Victoria admits, "I loved to indulge, so I didn't have to feel what was happening."

**Sadly, the vicious cycle of addiction took Victoria to dark places.**

"I lived in and out of garages, cars, even outside," she shares. "I've been on the streets half my life."

The sting of homelessness shocked Victoria to the point of seeking help. That's

when she turned to Carriage Town Ministries for the first time. But without the ability to stay clean and sober, Victoria would come and go. One time, we had to ask her to leave because of her severe intoxication.

"I understand," Victoria expresses. "I was a bother to the women. But it helped me see I really needed to get help, so I went to a recovery center."

**Enduring alcohol detox was painful, but Victoria came through on the other side clean and sober. She was finally ready to finish what she started at Carriage Town Ministries!**

In addition to graduating from our Personal Success Plan program, Victoria earned a job as a transitional worker at Carriage Town Bakery during her time here. And just recently, Victoria stepped out on faith and pursued a position as a Resident Coach in our women's program — and earned that, too!

Today, Victoria is shining with gratitude and peace! She has her own apartment, a job she loves, and two growing children who have their mommy to love and guide them. More good news: Victoria's mom has overcome addiction, too!

In addition to God and the staff here, Victoria wants to thank donors like you for your role in her redemption story!

**"You may not realize all you're doing, but I do. It's a really good investment. I'm very grateful!"**



# INSPIRE 2023

Thank you for  
praising God  
with us

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who celebrated what God is doing at Carriage Town Ministries at our Inspire banquet in October! Every changed life is a result of God's work through caring prayer warriors, volunteers, and donors like you.

See the changed life stories here:



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



"It's been an honor to know and work with Carriage Town Ministries staff and volunteers. There is no greater mission than doing God's work for the love of people and community."



**Mike & Sue Taubitz**  
**LEAN JOURNEY**



Sharon Fouts

## Winter Warm Up for Neighbors

On November 4, Carriage Town Ministries hosted our annual Winter Warm Up blanket collection for homeless neighbors. In addition to blankets, we distributed warm coats, bed sheets, hats and gloves.

Thanks to everyone who ensures all neighbors in the Flint community stay warm and well-loved during the winter.





# Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

*Gifts received August 1 to September 30, 2023*

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 note.

*Thank You!*

## MEMORIAL

### **Brian Sefernick**

*Mr. Robert Fairbanks*

### **Clyde & Flossie Weaver**

*Susan Cocke*

### **Daniel Clifford**

*Mr. Steve Baillie*

### **Daniel Jackson**

*Bendle Friends*

### **David Keasler**

*Ms. Deborah Culver*

### **Debra Hays**

*Mrs. Joleen Rigan*

### **Donald Eckel**

*Mr. John Ferrell*

*Ms. Sandra S Raffaelli*

*Mr. Douglas Jameson*

### **Father Gary McInnis**

*Mr. Michael Hutchins*

### **Gary Gatlin**

*Mrs Donna Gatlin*

### **Herb Butler**

*Mr. Lawrence Schreffler*

### **Ilene Brown**

*Mr. Samuel C. Brown*

### **Jacob Morse**

*Mr. Eric Morse*

### **Kit Neville**

*Goodrich Golf Club LLC*

### **Margaret Anne Berry**

*Ms. Linda Berry*

*Mr. Mickey E Berry*

### **Marguerite Burt**

*Mr. David Vos*

*Jay & Leisa Crane*

*Lynn Alford*

*Mr. Mike Travis*

### **Mary Beth**

*Mr. Tim Snyder*

### **Robert G. Dutro**

*Mrs. Lynne M Dutro*

### **Ronald J Vandenberg**

*Mr. Garry Vandenberg*

### **Sallie Stinson**

*Ms. Gloria Stinson*

### **Sherry Campbell**

*Ms. Tiffany Johnson*

### **Stan & Dorothy Monk**

*Tracy Everhart*

### **Wendell Rogers**

*Ms. Felicia Skinner-Parker*

### **William D. Roberts**

*John Hawkins*

### **William Ryker**

*Ms. Sheila H. Cronkright-Ryker*

### **Zelda Moore**

*Woodhaven at the Meadows*

## HONOR

### **Dr. Dallas Gatlin**

*Ms. Marsha Fenton*

### **Jim and Lynn**

*Karen Hutchins*

### **Karla Kozumplik**

*Mr. Brian Kozumplik*

## MEMORIAL BRICKS

*Evelynn Kay Abbott*

*Ronald L. Ritzler*

*Glenn McComber*

*Daniel Clifford*

*Billie Lee Bowser*

*Duane F. Miller*

*Wilma J. Caudle*

*James Carl Dahl*

*Adeline Gaus*

*William F. Lahring*

*Darrell Gatlin*

*Gary Gatlin*

*Wendell Rogers*

*Ronald Orr*

*Daniel Jackson*

*Charles E Robert & Kevin D Robert*

*Brachard Lance Langston*

*Sheila M. Holley and Lynn P. Holley*

*Ezra J.D. Strait*



Dedicating a brick in our Denny Nichols Memorial Garden is a special way to make a difference in our community and honor a friend or family member. **Visit [carriagetown.org/memorial-garden](http://carriagetown.org/memorial-garden) to get your brick today!**

# Adopt-A-Family this Christmas

Every year, we are blessed to host our Adopt-a-Family event at Carriage Town Ministries. We are grateful to bring hope to parents and children and help them celebrate a joy-filled Christmas together.

Would you prayerfully consider helping families in need this season by visiting [www.carriagetown.org/adoptafamily](http://www.carriagetown.org/adoptafamily) today? Thank you!



## AN INVITATION TO FAMILY & FRIENDS

AFTER

# 14 YEARS OF DEDICATION

## DALLAS GATLIN IS RETIRING

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 14**

12-3 pm

**CARRIAGE  
TOWN  
MINISTRIES**

605 Garland St. Flint MI 48503

**STROLLING  
APPETIZERS**

for more information  
contact  
[cjohns@carriagetown.org](mailto: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.



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