



MOVING PEOPLE FROM **CRISIS**
TOWARD **SUCCESS**
THROUGH THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

CASE FOR SUPPORT

**2026 WAUSAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR**



WHO WE ARE

Mission Statement

Bridge Street Mission meets people in crisis and moves them toward success through the power of the Gospel.

Vision Statement

Bridge Street Mission will be a catalyst for individual and community transformation; while being known for a compassionate staff, excellent facilities and faithfulness to God's Word.

Core Values

- i. Compassionate Care*
- ii. Evangelistic Fervor*
- iii. Transformational Support*
- iv. Community Collaboration*

One of the men in our Recovery Program reconnected with his wife and daughter by inviting them to church. The staff told us, with tears in his eyes, how that man's eight year old daughter didn't even wait for him to get out of the car, but ran all the way around to give him a hug.

“Drugs took her dad away, but Jesus gave him back.”

It's not easy to interrupt the cycle of brokenness, but a life restored now also has a ripple effect on those around them. That is one of the greatest treasures; not only seeing joy return to our clients, but learning about how they reconnect with their children, families, friends, coworkers, etc. and continue to live and bring joy to those around them.



Pictured is a staff member (3rd from the left) on an outing with residents in the Men's Recovery Program.

LEADERSHIP



Craig Vincent - Executive Director

Craig Vincent has worked with those facing homelessness, addiction, or other crisis for over 43 years. For his first 26 years he was at The City Mission in Cleveland, Ohio where (among other duties) he oversaw a 1,200 youth program and 3 shelters. Craig was also the Executive Director at a Christian camp for at-risk children from New York and Philadelphia in the Poconos Mountains of Pennsylvania. He has also consulted for other missions around the country.

Craig came to Wausau in October of 2020. He has also served on the City of Wausau/Marathon County Joint Homelessness Task Force, as well as the local Housing Task Force hosted by United Way, where he helped start the Community on Call initiative to keep people alive during the especially cold winter days.

James Torstenson - Director of Homeless Services

After over 40 years as a professional electrical engineer, James decided to go back to school to pursue a career in social work. This decision was brought about by a powerful desire to help adults in a meaningful way.

"Advocacy for the homeless population is what I do here. My faith allows me to show the truth of Jeremiah 29:11 to their lives. 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Elizabeth Tegart - Director of Recovery Services

Elizabeth began serving with Rescue Mission homeless ministry in 2002. She started serving in her home state of Arizona, oversaw an 80-bed facility in Buffalo New York, and worked at Shirley's House of Hope in Marshfield before coming to Bridge Street Mission.

"Every now and then someone will ask why I have remained in the work of rescue missions. The answer is clear. I have the privilege of serving Christ by bringing His help, His healing, and eternal hope to the least, the last, and the lost. How is that not the best job ever? I am glad to serve another 25 years, if that is His desire."

Kevin Keller - Development Director

Kevin comes to the Mission with nearly 30 years of development experience. He was Concordia University's Director of Annual Giving, the Eastern US Regional Development Director for Ablelight, and Director of Mission Advancement at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He became interested in the Mission when his son graduated our program.

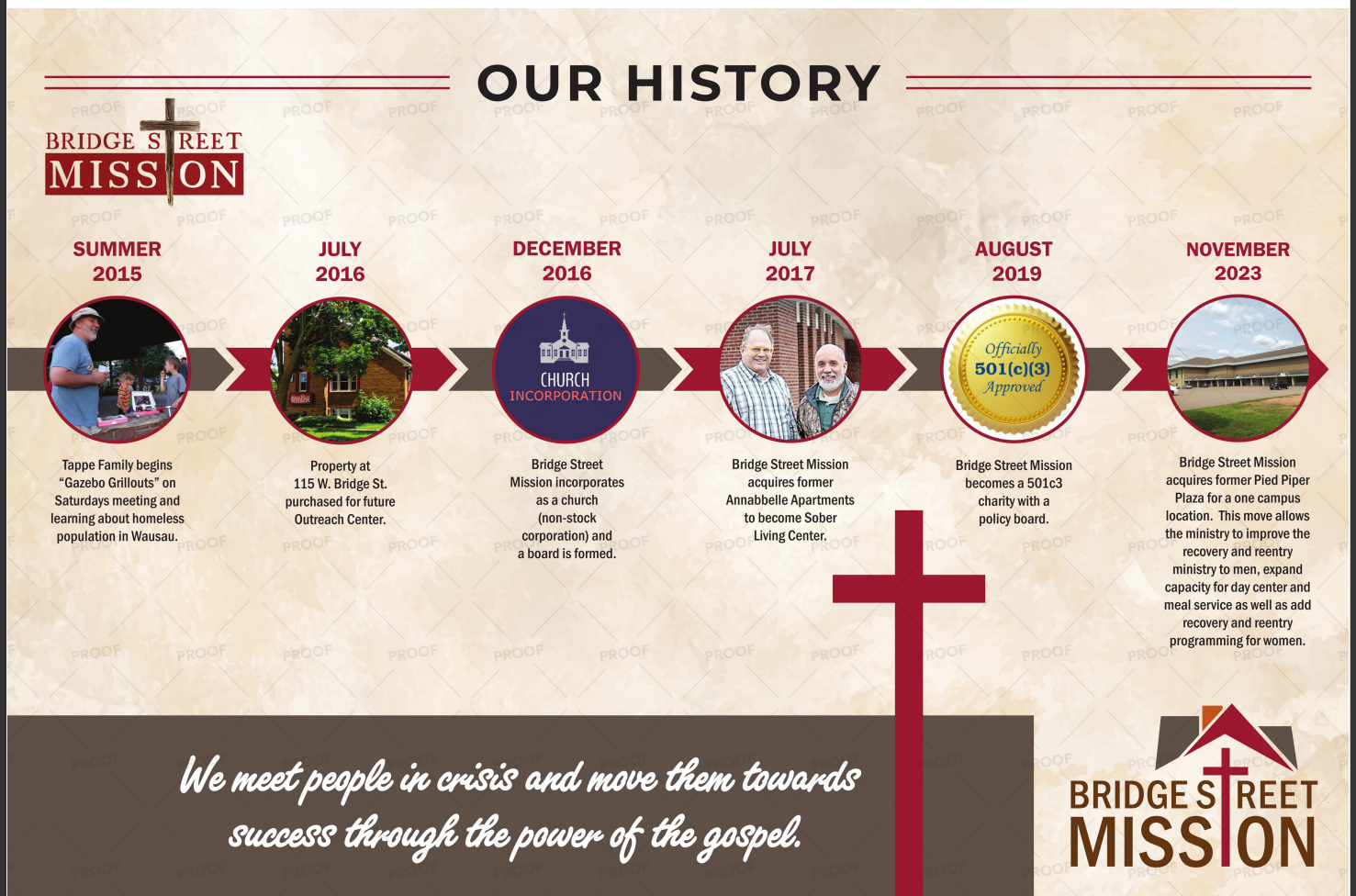
"Bridge Street Mission helped Tom at a very critical time in his life. They gave him a place to live and good food when he was almost homeless. The most important thing was the Men's Recovery Program. My son graduated as a self-sufficient, Christian young man. He moved into an apartment with a friend and has gainful employment. Most important, he is attending church and staying close to Jesus."



HOW WE GOT STARTED

**Sometimes we wonder,
“What can one person or family really do?”**

Bridge Street Mission started with a mom, dad, and their seven kids doing Saturday grill outs and playing lawn games with those in crisis. Wanting to help their new friends led to the purchase of one building, then another, and finally a major leap of faith to our current facility.



THE CHALLENGE

**Where do you even start to help the person
sleeping under the bridge,
or caught in a cycle of addiction?**

In 2025, **462 people came to our Outreach Center** in housing crisis.
Close to 1/3rd of these were women.



- Homelessness is negatively impacting Wausau's downtown and public recreational areas, and causes strain on our police department and health care system.
- In 2025, the United Way found that 40% of those in Wausau are earning above the Federal Poverty Level, but still can't afford basics.
- Single women have very few addiction recovery options, leading them to not want to leave prison.
- If there aren't pathways out of homelessness, the problem will continue to grow.

"For about 40 years, my life was like a rollercoaster. I chose the wrong friends-family, got caught up in alcohol early on progression and into meth addiction, ended up in jail treatment centers, and crisis after crisis. I lost my marriage, my kids and everything I owned a few times.

My way or willpower wasn't working... "

-(BSM Resident)

OUR APPROACH

“We meet people in crisis and move them toward success through the power of the Gospel.”

That mission statement has three important parts:

Meet people: By offering the basics of food and shelter, we not only keep people alive but build relationships to help them to the next step.

Move toward success: We are not seeking to be permanent housing, but to connect people with area resources and/or our own recovery programming so they can succeed on their own.

The Gospel: We are a Christian organization. Our shelters/meal service have no required religious programming, but staff may relationally share the Gospel. Our recovery program accepts any faith, but Christian teaching is part of our programming.



...I'm loving my life compared to how I used to be. Since I have Jesus, life has been great. Also so much help from the Bridge Street Mission has helped open up my eyes and mind about my sins. I never looked at anything I done was sinful, until I've really took the time to look at my old self/life. I'm extremely happy to get a chance to be here. Also I've gained a lot of my family back in my life."

-(Same BSM Resident as previous page)

WHAT WE OFFER

Community Shelter & Outreach Center

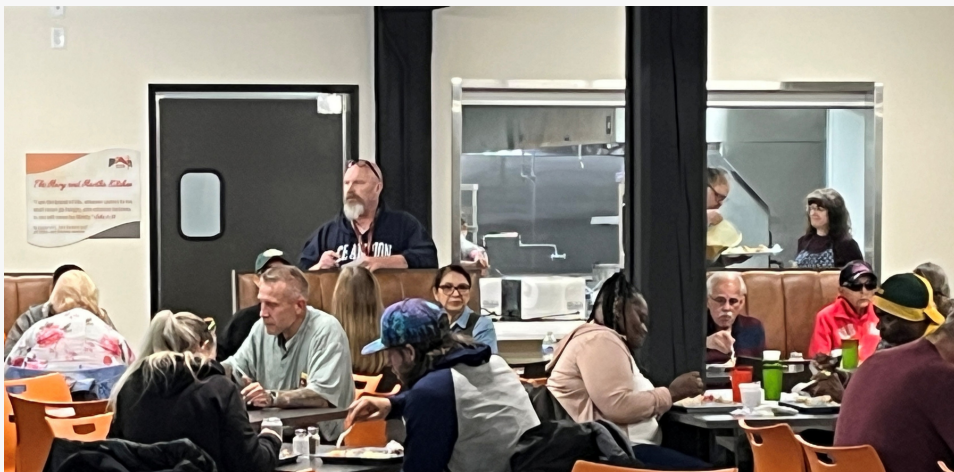
One of the biggest challenges with helping someone in crisis is changing their mindset to one of hope.

Our *Community Shelter* is open year-round from 4:00pm-8:00am, and has separate dormitories for up to 40 men and 20 women. Guests are initially welcomed into shelter for up to 60 days, providing them a time of **peace and safety** while they work with our staff to move out of crisis, either directly into permanent housing or recovery programming.

*Starting in 2026,
our Community
Shelter, in addition
to the Outreach
Center, offers
respite from the
elements and
3 meals a day.*



The *Outreach Center* is our day shelter open 8:00am-4:00pm. Welcome to all, up to 120 guests can escape the elements and grab a meal. Our staff build relationships with our clients, and work to connect them with resources, housing, or recovery programming.



*Both day and night, all
are welcome in a low
barrier shelter
environment. Staff
form relationships to
encourage the next
step.*

WHAT WE OFFER (CONT)

Men's and Women's Recovery Centers

With the completion of this year's renovations, we will have space for up to 40 men and 20 women in our 3-phase residential recovery programs. These centers are separated from each other, secure from the rest of the building, and offer the necessary job training, recovery tools, and financial skills needed to succeed.

Our Recovery Programs Include 3 Phases

Stabilization

The first 30 days someone is with us. This is a chance for someone to get out of survival mode in a safe environment with 3 meals a day. They start a minimal programming schedule, and are given a chance to decide if our recovery program is right for them.

Transformation

8 months of programming.

Their days are split between vocational tracks (we work with Northern Valley Industries, Lamb's Fresh Market, Goodwill, St Vincent de Paul) and coaching from staff to get to the root cause of crisis. We also have rotating evening programs: Faith and Finance, Jobs for Life, and Celebrate Recovery. Upon completion they get a cap and gown graduation.

Reentry

While some choose to immediately move out, others stay with us in this final phase. Programming is minimal, they set their own schedules, and for the first time they pay program fees to both give back to the program that helped them, as well as prepare them for the reality of budgeting for their own home.



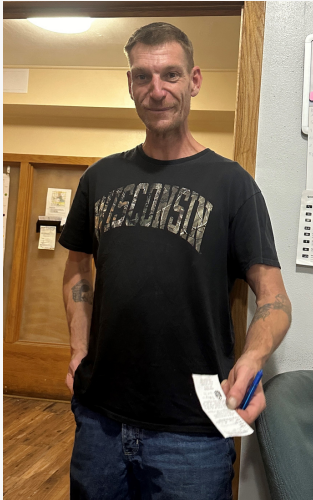
Entering the program

For those looking for life transformation, it starts with an application on bridgestreetmission.org. Staff will help those without internet onsite.

OUR IMPACT

In the **past 4 years we have helped over 47 men through our Men's Recovery Program** move into their own homes sober, working, and living in healthy relationships.

In June of 2026, we opened our Women's Recovery Center.



Frank was raised by his single alcoholic mother. At 12 his father appeared and took him fishing 3 times, before disappearing again forever. **That's when Frank turned to alcohol.**

He worked odd jobs, including a carnival, until eventually finding a wife, having a son, and a life stabilized by Jesus. The 2008 crash led to the loss of his job, family and his church shut down. He spent years drinking again until coming to Bridge Street Mission, where

'I got my walk with Jesus back.'

Daniel was arrested after seven-week crime spree where, facing 96 years in prison, he desperately accepted Jesus as savior. But even after salvation, serving three years, and starting a family, he started abusing drugs and lost his children.

"I fell so far away from God".

But God led Daniel to Bridge Street Mission. He has stayed sober for 3 years, works at a local small business, and is in his children's lives again.

He told us,

"You gave me the opportunity to get well so I can be a good father."



Daniel (2nd from right)

In 2025 we did 703 referrals to other agencies and 95 placements to better situations. Staff in the Outreach Center and Community shelter meet with our clients to help define their goals and next steps out of crisis.

Carol* is elderly and deals with mental health challenges and communication issues.

When she lost her apartment and had a week to find a new home, she was scared.

Our Community Navigator at Bridge Street Mission helped her find an apartment, fill out the application, and talked with the landlord.

One day before she was homeless, she helped Carol find a new home.

Later, she even helped Carol find a job.

**While their stories are real, we often use generic names or photos to protect their privacy.*

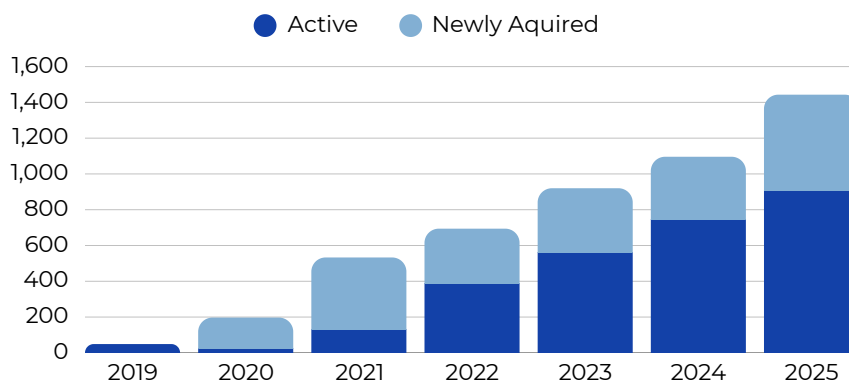
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?"
(Luke 12:42)

In each of the resident stories you just read, life transformation did not happen overnight. It took years of encouragement, work, and perseverance. Bridge Street Mission needs to be stewarded wisely, so we are sustainable for them over the long journey of recovery.

We are working hard on financial sustainability. **We increased our donor base from 49 individuals in 2020 to 1443 in 2025.** In addition, \$1.2 million of our \$5 million On Track Capital Campaign was designated for our increased operating costs.

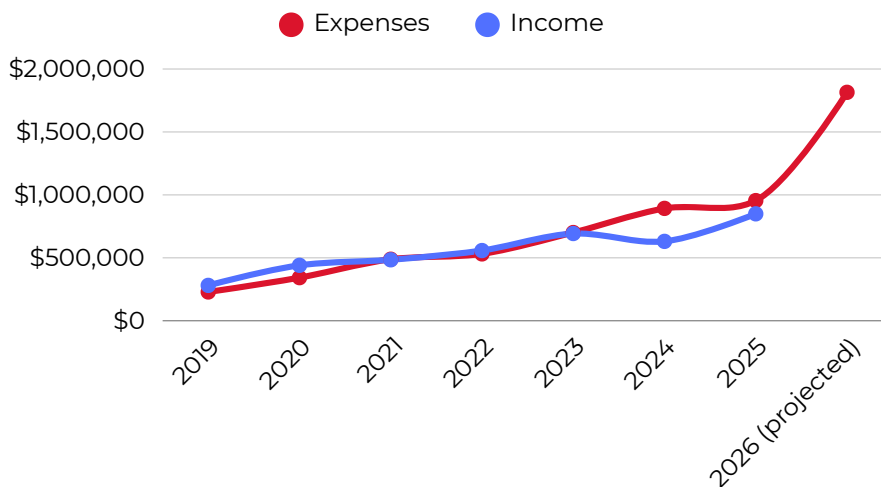
BSM DONORS BY YEAR



From 2025 to 2026, the Mission expenses will nearly double from \$959,000 to \$1.8 million.

We hope you will invest, ensuring the Mission is there to meet people in crisis and move them toward success through the power of the Gospel.

BSM OPERATION EXPENSES BY YEAR



Enhancing Trust

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A donor once told us he views his giving as an investment, and we hope you will invest in life transformation today.

We hope you will also consider becoming part of our **Monthly Mission Movers** giving club. This saves us cost postage in mailings, as well as provides stability for our programming.



*Thank you
for partnering with
Bridge Street Mission!*

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT OF...

- 1** **Emergency Shelter**
\$25 or more **moves people** in crisis from the street into safe, dignified shelter where they will have their basic needs provided for in Jesus's name by a caring team of staff and volunteers.
- 2** **Outreach Center**
\$50 or more **moves people** into relationships that inspire hope at a day center with meal service where they are ministered to and connected to life changing local services including our residential recovery programs for men and women.
- 3** **Men's & Women's Recovery Centers**
\$100 or more **moves people** into a community setting with comprehensive recovery programming that combines biblical principles, brain science and recovery tools preparing them to successfully overcome addiction.
- 4** **Successful ReEntry**
\$250 or more **moves people** back into society as healthy contributors, addiction free and connected in supportive relationships with a strong understanding of their identity in Christ.

If you are considering a **single gift**, please give the very best you can. It is only through a broad community being generous that we have had success in our work, be it \$500, \$5,000, or \$25,000.

Our hope for our donors is twofold:

- 1) You see Bridge Street Mission as a worthy investment; wisely stewarding your gift(s).
- 2) You feel the joy of partnering with the Mission to see lives transformed.

Tours are a great way to understand how the Mission works, plus we love to get to know our supporters!
Please contact Ryan Augustyn at (715) 409-3506 x16 or email ryan@bridgestreetmission.org.



Bridge Street Mission is proud to be part of the **CITYGATE NETWORK**, a 200 year movement to *'respond to homelessness, trauma, poverty, and addiction with excellence, compassion, and lasting impact.'* While every Mission is locally founded and locally funded, we continually learn from other members, share what works and put that knowledge into practice for our community here in Marathon County.

- **1826** - David Nasmyth founds the Glasgow City Mission in Scotland as an interdenominational lay movement to address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the poor. The mission was groundbreaking, offering evening literacy classes and "Chimney Sweep Schools" for children, as well as establishing creative partnerships with local churches and civic organizations to meet the city's social needs.
- **1872** - Jerry McAuley founds the first rescue Mission in North America in New York, now called the Bowery Mission.
- **1893** - The Milwaukee Rescue Mission is founded.
- **1910** - The City Mission in Cleveland, Ohio is founded. **Our Executive Director Craig Vincent later served here for 26 years.**
- **1913** - The International Union of Gospel Missions (IUGM) is officially established. Renamed the Citygate Network in 2018.
- **1953** - Gospel Rescue Mission is founded in Tucson. **Our Director of Recovery Services, Elizabeth Tegart, served here for 14 years.**
- **1998** - Hope Gospel Mission in Eau Claire opens. **Bridge Street Mission's former board chair Joel Rueber volunteered here.**
- **2016** - Bridge Street Mission is founded in December. The Mission later joins this movement of 325 missions around North America moving people out of crisis and toward success through the power of the Gospel.