

the MESSSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — **Together**

NOVEMBER 2021

YOU ARE GIVING
Christmas Joy!



Jazelle is giving a new blanket to one of our guests as part of our **Winter Warm Up** outreach. ▲

 **carriage town**
MINISTRIES
Serving the Needy Since 1950



A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Considering It Joy

Dear Friend,

The Christmas story is a beautiful one. But it's not a simple one.

As an unmarried young woman, Mary learned she would bring a child into the world in a society that hardly valued her.

Bearing the enormous weight of an unplanned pregnancy could have devastated Mary. But Scripture tells us she treasured this responsibility in her heart and trusted the Lord to keep going.

Mary persevered. She moved forward when it was difficult, dangerous, and even dirty, giving birth in a stable reserved for animals.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds... Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

- James 1:2-3

But the gift of Mary's perseverance was our Good News of Great Joy, Jesus, our Savior of the world.

I hope you'll take time to read the stories of perseverance in this Christmas edition of The Messenger. Like Mary, guests are learning from God's work in their lives -- even the challenges. They are making the most of opportunities God is giving them through the generosity of friends like you.

Thank you for your gifts to Carriage Town Ministries. They are truly life-changing, at Christmas and beyond.



God's love and your kindness transcend differences and change lives

Last December, Ummy was running out of options to keep herself and her children safe.

After escaping an abusive arranged marriage in a country that devalued her worth as a woman, Ummy returned to Michigan to start a new life. But she had not been given the adequate support she needed to enter the workforce with confidence. Then her former husband came looking for her.

Ummy and her children stayed in a woman's center until her abuser left the country. However, their stay ended and left them looking for shelter again. That's when they learned about Carriage Town Ministries.

Coming from a Muslim background, Ummy was hesitant to stay in a Christian environment. But her worries were eased the moment she stepped inside our doors.

"Once I came here, my whole perception changed," Ummy shares. "I was welcomed

and felt comfortable and all my children agree they were treated very well."

Not only did Ummy and her children have a safe place to rest and recover from their past, Ummy recognized Carriage Town Ministries' desire to help her succeed in her future, too!

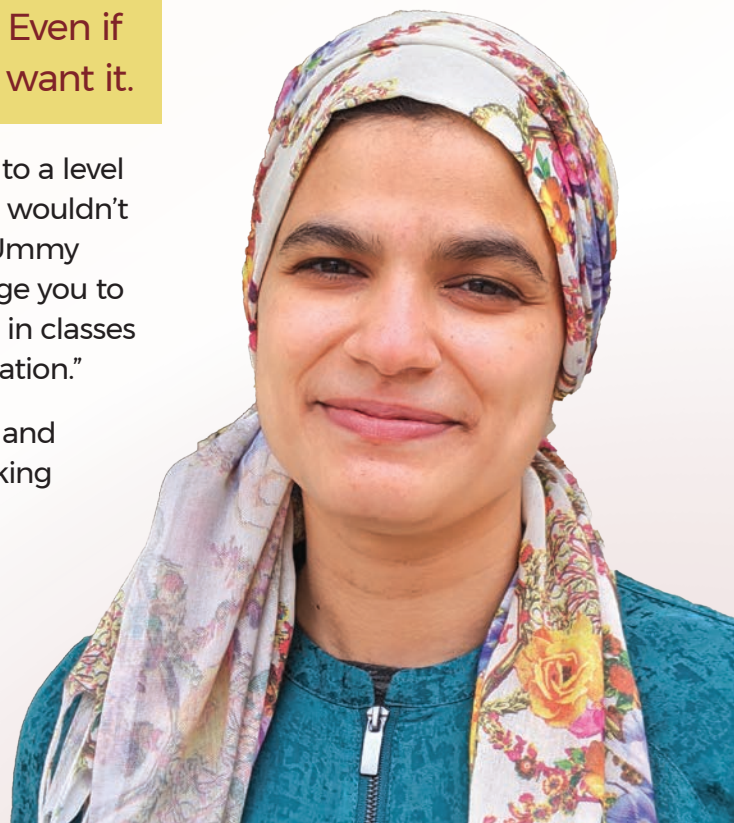
"Their focus here isn't just getting you out of the shelter. It is giving you the discipline to get you on your feet. Even if you don't always want it.

"They help you get to a level of stability so that you wouldn't have to come back," Ummy shares. "They encourage you to save money, take part in classes and improve your situation."

Ummy persevered and soon found a job working through AmeriCorps serving the Flint community. She receives a living wage, educational

benefits, health coverage and is gaining what she's long desired ... an opportunity to grow in a professional career. All her efforts were at last rewarded when Ummy was able to successfully leave the family center and move into her own home!

After working so hard to regain a secure life for herself and her children, Ummy encourages anyone else who comes to Carriage Town Ministries to "never give up."



"There are people who care and will help you at Carriage Town Ministries."



“What has perseverance taught you?”

We were honored to hear from three of our transitional employees who are finding meaningful employment as they move forward from our program.

See what the past year has taught them as they have fought to overcome personal challenges and build a better future for themselves!



“Perseverance has taught me to keep going even when I don’t feel like it.”

- *Paul*

“Perseverance has taught me to move ahead and finish my college degree.”

- *Susan*



“Perseverance has taught me patience in working to establish a better life.”

- *Tyelor*

Your gift today can restore more people like Paul, Susan and Tyelor!



A Celebration of Transformed Lives

On October 21, our caring community gathered for a virtual celebration, praising God for transforming lives over the past year at Carriage Town Ministries.

If you weren't able to attend and would like to see video testimonials from the evening or contribute a donation, please visit www.carriagetown.org/events. Thank you!



WATCH EVENT ONLINE AT:
www.CarriageTown.org/events

Thank you for changing more lives like John's!



Thank you to our sponsors!



Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

Gifts received July 30 through October 5, 2021

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

Angela Ahchin

Jarrett Trombley

Barbara Barnes

Mr. & Mrs. Garland Jackson

James H. Bennett

Renee & Ken Booker

Marie & Steve Collins

Ray & Pat George

Doug George

Jessica George

Mr. & Mrs. James Pace

Marcie Berberich

Davison Home Bakery

Doug Blunt

William Bouman

Pat Canning

Mary Catherine Gendrikous

Gary C. Cooper

Gary L. Cooper

Matthew Ellis

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Milne

Betty Engerer

Ann Marie Erlenbeck

Freda Farone

Eileen Branoff

Nancy Galassini

Emily Galassini

Gary

Mrs. Penny West

Jan Graham

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Cota

Charles Haffner

Gayle Haffner

Kevin Howse

William Rein

Clarence Lemon

Joan Lemon

Norman Looney

Chris & Kimberly Hall

Margaret Medore

Dorothy Moore

Jacob Morse

Eric Morse

"My Parents"

Michael Strauss

Sally Richardson

Juanita Bennett

Natalie Croy

Bonnie Ferguson

Juanita-Barb & Janet

James & Marilynn Theolet

Joan Turner

Ernest Rison

Fay Rison

Joseph & Mary Roberts

Carol Shanks

James Robinson

Julie Santamour

Brian Rudolph

William Bird, Jr

Jessica Kasper

Milton E. McLain Jr.

E. L. Melton & Barbara Melton

Andrea Nustad

Lorna & Dudley Place

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Janet Russell

Gordon & Cindy Wyant

Stanette Schwab

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Friedrieachsen

Sallie Stinson

Gloria Stinson

Leo/Carm – Strauss

Michael Strauss

Weston Tolliver

James M. Anderson

Sean K. Trombley

Jarrett Trombley

Joe Veto

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Granter

Donald Wesley

Catherine Frederick

Barbara Wesley

HONOR

Newt & Tilly Bowen

Ronald Bowen

Duane Chapelle

Dawn Nelson

G-E-S-S

Dennis Sleva

Maria P. Guerra

Carmen Glowney

Jackie & Doug Holbrook

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Witzgall

"St Jude"

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Stolpin



Christmas Adopt-a-Family Brings Joy

We are blessed to host our **Adopt-a-Family** at Carriage Town Ministries. Every year, this event brings hope to families as they celebrate an extra merry Christmas.

As one mom shares: "Thank you for providing a piece of joy to my children on the one day of the year that they should witness love, caring and giving back."

If you would still like to get involved in helping families in need this season, visit www.carriagetown.org/events today!



Warming Up Neighbors this Winter

On November 13, Carriage Town Ministries, in partnership with Samuel's Blankets Powered by Jazelle, Molina Healthcare and Snuggle Sacks, hosted our **Winter Warm up**, and annual event providing warm items for homeless and needy neighbors.

Many thanks to everyone who donated new or gently used blankets, bed sheets, hats and gloves.

Your kindness is truly bringing warmth to our hurting neighbors and our entire community. Thank you!

For Your Convenience!

Many friends have requested that we provide them with the ability to make contributions via credit card. To donate using a credit card, you can fill out this form or make a secure donation via our website (www.carriagetown.org). Please provide the following confidential information:

The card I am using today is: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express Gift Amount \$ _____

Name on Card _____ Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ 3-Digit Verification Code _____
(Located on the signature panel on the back of your credit card)

Signature _____

Home mailing address Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

To set up recurring donations online, please visit www.carriagetown.org/luminary

John knew of Carriage Town as a child Now he donates every month!

Q: How did you hear about Carriage Town Ministries?

My family has been involved for quite some time, so I heard talk of it since I was a little kid. I remember in high school, I helped serve a meal. Since that time, my involvement has just grown.

Q: Over time, you decided to donate financially every month. What motivated you to become a Luminary, or monthly donor?


I do a lot of historic restoration work locally and see a growing need from people downtown. It's an ongoing need, so ongoing gifts seem like the right option.

Q: Would you encourage others to also give on a monthly basis?

Definitely. One way you can positively affect your community is by supporting what Carriage Town Ministries is doing. They are getting people on the right track and helping them find career opportunities. Not to mention the spiritual side of things.

A lot of churches do great overseas mission trips which have their place. But there is also a big need right here, just 15 minutes down the freeway, in Flint. It's great to help in your own backyard.



 Start your monthly support at www.carriagetown.org/luminary



Bring Christmas Joy Throughout the Year

Yes, Dallas, I want to partner with Carriage Town Ministries by making a monthly commitment to provide meals, shelter, and practical resources to help neighbors all year long.

\$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 \$ _____

Make my gift monthly like John's!

Complete the form on back, or donate online to put your gift to use right away!

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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

