



# hope

currency  
2019



Dear Mercy Street family,

This past year we celebrated 21 years as a radically safe space for anyone to come as they are and connect with God. Because of your generosity, we expanded our ministry focus and strengthened our work across Houston.

We work from the focused center that God's grace is available to all to become new creations who are leaving a legacy. "If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us." (2 Cor 4:7-8). In short, what we celebrate from 2018 is not our efforts but the miracles we've seen in following after Jesus.

Just a couple of highlights: we've doubled the number of children and youth in our weekly ministry, strengthened marriages through our couples' ministry, and reached out to individuals and organizations that help men and women re-enter society after being in prison or jail. Through our "Beyond the Sentence" emphasis, we've had 60 Hope Dealers who have found a new volunteer role in leading Alpha at a men's prison, mentoring youth with Houston revision or leading art and spirituality projects at BAMBI (pregnant women who are incarcerated). The Saturday night Spirituality & Recovery meeting is known as a 12-step meeting of strength where folks come to find sponsors.

What will be your currency of hope for 2019? I hope you'll join me in making a financial contribution so we can continue the work of dealing hope. No gift is too small and, let's be honest, no gift is too large! I'm grateful to be your pastor.

Loved you are,  
Melissa



*"Coming to Mercy Street I reconnected with God and for the first time feel a part of a loving, Christian community. I'm accepted for who I am and God has a purpose for me."*

Mercy Street desires to be a safe harbor of hope and transformation so all may experience the radical grace of God.

### Mercy Street New Member

In 2018:

- 1,300 individuals were welcomed to Mercy Street on Saturday nights
- 126 leaders in small groups and missions
- 50 men, women and children from Salvation Army and Santa Maria came every week
- 50 different volunteers invested 2,710 volunteer hours in jails/prisons. Programs include Kairos, Alpha, BAMBI and reVision Houston.
- 1,886 art and spirituality projects with Santa Maria with 19 volunteers invested 1,000 volunteer hours
- 875 meals served to the homeless by 20 Mercy Street Mobile volunteers
- 15,600 cookies and 2,600 gallons of coffee consumed on Saturday nights
- New kids weekly prayer practice: a custom-made talking stick teaching our children how to talk with God
- Unimaginable amounts of pizza, fajitas and pasta consumed by our youth and four outreach events and a fall beach retreat



*"Thank you for allowing me to feel so loved and welcomed."*

*"I got baptized at Mercy Street this year."*

Kimberly

Young woman in foster care

*"If I could go anywhere in the world,  
I would stay here."*

Kris

*"Thank you for always  
praying for me and  
welcoming me."*

Jasmine

*"Mercy Street coming  
every Wednesday is the  
highlight of my week.  
The art projects are  
fun and different from  
the structure of my  
treatment program, and  
I get to express what  
I've been thinking about  
on the inside. I realize  
how worthy I am."*

Woman  
from Santa Maria

*"I can't believe you come visit me.  
Your coming to see me in prison  
gives me hope."*

Man from  
Carol Vance Prison

**Total Mercy Street budget is \$645,000 which includes:**

- Youth, children, men's, women's and couples' ministries
- Emergency assistance
- Outreach to homeless, treatment centers, prisons, mental health, etc
- Saturday worship, community dinners, cookies, coffee
- And of course, the bare necessities! Utilities, facility usage and security



Submit your estimate of giving for 2019 by January 31. You may return the estimate of giving by mail, in an offering box on Saturdays or online at: [www.mercystreet.org/give](http://www.mercystreet.org/give)

