# INTERVIEW ORLEANS MISSION | IMPACT REPORT 2024

Page 15 A New Beginning at Lynhaven



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Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility VALUE OTHERS above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4



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### a word from david bottner, **CEO**



Dear Supporters,

This year marks our 35th anniversary, and it's an exciting moment to reflect on all we've accomplished together. While our staff has been faced with increasing challenges—such as the rising needs of our community in the fight against addiction, homelessness, physical and sexual abuse, mental illness, and trafficking—the powerful transformations in the lives of those we serve continue to inspire me and drive our mission forward.

It feels as though each year our organization grows in response to the growing needs around us. This year has been no different. We've expanded our ministry's impact by adding 7 new duplexes and 150 additional beds for men. These new facilities have allowed us to serve individuals more holistically—rescuing them from life's greatest pains, walking them through the process of recovery, helping them reengage with society as productive members, and equipping parents to fulfill their God-given role. As a father of seven, I can attest that parenting is one of life's greatest rewards, and I'm excited to be part of the generational change we're seeing in the lives of families in our programs.

While we are deeply grateful for all that God has done, I always find that with each year, there are areas where we can grow and expand our impact. As we learn and grow, I'm filled with anticipation for the new opportunities to serve even more people and meet the needs of our community more effectively. In 2025, we're already planning to expand further with new homes, apartments, and properties, advancing our mission to take more ground for God's Kingdom.

On behalf of the entire team at the New Orleans Mission, Lynhaven, Giving Hope Retreat, Chrome, and Stillwaters, I want to thank you for your partnership in transforming lives. It is because of your support that we are able to witness so many miracles, and we want you to know that you are a vital part of every life changed here.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Thank you for being a part of this journey.

With sincere gratitude.

David Bottner CEO, New Orleans Mission, Inc

### a word from JOHNNY LONARDO, COO



Greetings in Christ,

As we approach this season of gratitude and giving, I want to express how deeply we appreciate each one of you who has joined the mission to bring hope and healing to those in need. Your generosity—through volunteering, giving, or simply praying—makes a difference that extends beyond what we can see. It's because of you that lives are being changed, families are being reunited, and hope is being restored.

I'm John Lonardo, servant leader and COO of the New Orleans Mission. For over a decade, alongside my friend and brother in Christ, David Bottner, I have had the privilege to witness God's hand in this work. Each day, we serve men, women, and now, children—each facing struggles like addiction, homelessness, and past abuse. At the Mission, they find more than just food and shelter; they find a safe place where they are loved unconditionally, and where the lifechanging message of Jesus brings healing.

God is truly at work here. We've been able to expand with new housing for women and children, providing safe, nurturing environments where families can rebuild their lives and experience a sense of belonging and purpose. It's the gift of faith, hope, and love that makes this possible, and your support is what fuels this work.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this mission. Together, we are carrying out God's vision to serve those in need and lift them up. We are so grateful for each of you who, by God's grace, is part of this journey with us.

In Christ's love and gratitude,

John Lonardo C.O.O., New Orleans Mission







### THE NEED

#### HOMELESSNESS

LOUISIANA Roughly **4,580** people are experiencing homelessness

#### NATIONALLY

Approximately **650,000** people experienced homelessness on a single night in January 2023.

#### Scan here Who are these people video **>**



#### FOOD SHORTAGE

LOUISIANA

Approximately **1 in 6** individuals (or 16.5%) is food insecure

#### NATIONALLY

About **34 million** people in the U.S. face food insecurity, including **9 million** children

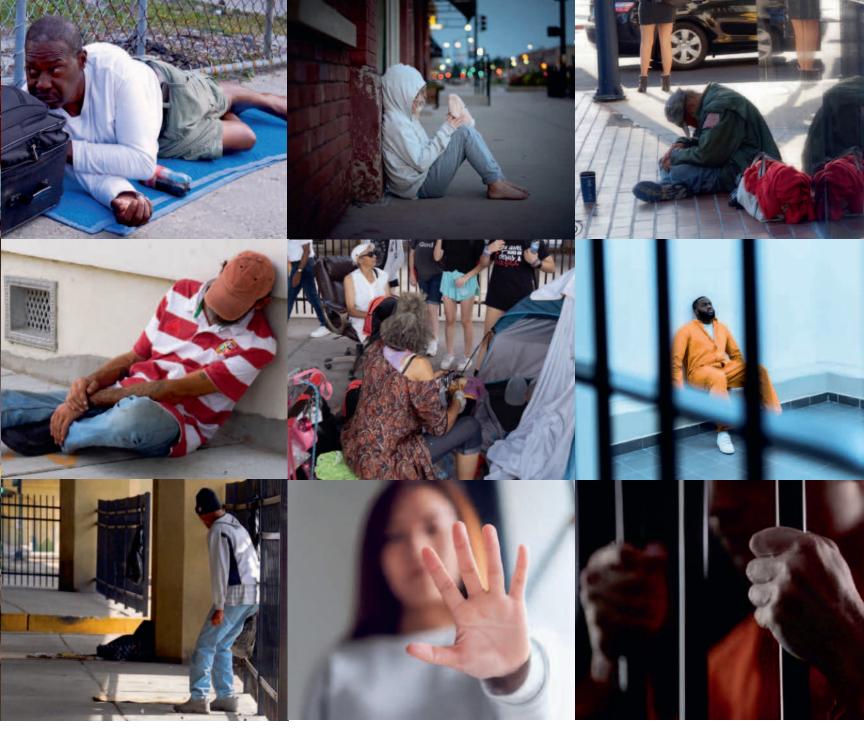
#### MENTAL ILLNESS

#### LOUISIANA

Approximately **1 in 5** adults experiences mental illness

#### NATIONALLY

An estimated **59.2 million** adults (23%) received mental health treatment in the past year



#### ADDICTION

LOUISIANA About **9%** of the adult population has a substance use disorder

#### NATIONALLY

In 2023, **8.9 million** people (3.1%) misused opioids; 23.6% of individuals needing substance use treatment received it

#### TRAFFICKING

#### LOUISIANA

In Louisiana, the number of confirmed trafficking victims has risen sharply by **53%** over the past five years

#### NATIONALLY

Over **300,000** individuals in the U.S. are at risk of being trafficked each year

#### **INCARCERATION**

#### LOUISIANA

The state has one of the highest incarceration rates in the country, with about **880** individuals per **100,000** people in prison

#### NATIONALLY

Approximately **2.1 million** people are incarcerated in the U.S.

### THE SOLUTION



The New Orleans Mission is dedicated to serving and transforming the lives of homeless and hurting individuals in the community. Its mission focuses on providing essential resources such as food, shelter, medical care, and vocational training, while also fostering spiritual growth through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

#### THE MISSION ACCOMPLISHES THIS THROUGH THE FOUR R'S:

#### RESCUE

Providing immediate assistance and support to individuals in crisis.

#### RECOVERY

Offering programs and services to help individuals heal from addiction and trauma.

#### **RE-ENGAGEMENT**

Equipping individuals with the skills and resources needed to re-enter society and the workforce.

#### REUNIFICATION

Supporting the restoration of families and relationships to foster a stable environment.



environment, the Mission aims to restore dignity and hope to those in need, ultimately healing lives for generations to come. Our ultimate goal is to love God and love people, making the New Orleans Mission a beacon of hope, compassion, and love in the heart of the city.



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Class of 2024

#### BREANNA BALL



I'm Breanna, and this is my testimony. At a young age, I was diagnosed with ADHD and disruptive mood disorder. **STRUGGLING** with anger, depression, abuse, and drug use, I began to believe that my circumstances defined me. I turned to men and drugs, thinking I deserved the **PAIN** I was experiencing. I was

bullied at school, which made me hate myself even more, and I even contemplated suicide.

Eventually, I became homeless, living in my car and in and out of hotels. I entered a toxic and abusive relationship, and when I became pregnant, I knew I had to leave. Tragically, my baby's father lost his life, leaving me devastated and questioning how I could continue. During this lowest point, I found myself in another abusive relationship that led to an abortion, filling me with guilt and shame. I was on the brink of **LOSING** everything, including my daughter.

In my desperation, I started calling out to **GOD.** With the help of my wonderful friend Laura and my mom, He led my daughter and me to Lynhaven, where our lives changed forever. God **RESTORED** my relationship with my mother and answered my grandparents' prayers. He showed me I have a purpose and taught me to love and forgive through His grace.

Now, I have peace in my **HEART,** knowing I'm going to Heaven one day. I realize that for years, I walked by sight, believing life was what happened to me. But with God at the center, I see the **BEAUTY** in life and know that everything is possible through faith. 2 Corinthians 5:7: For we walk by faith, not by sight.







#### A NEW BEGINNING AT LYNHAVEN: The women and children's addition

The Women with Children's Addition at Lynhaven stands as a beacon of **HOPE** for mothers seeking refuge and support. This facility offers a safe haven for women escaping domestic violence and homelessness, providing them the opportunity to **HEAL** and rebuild their lives.

In this nurturing environment, mothers find solace and strength, guided by our dedicated staff as they navigate their journeys. With over 20 children now living at Lynhaven, we've created a classroom staffed by a caring teacher who looks after the little ones while their mothers attend classes or pursue job opportunities. This vital support allows moms to focus on their personal **GROWTH,** knowing their children are safe and engaged in learning. We also ensure transportation for school-age children, promoting stability and educational access for families. Many fathers have taken the courageous step of enrolling in the GHR program, paving the way for healing and ultimately **REUNITING** with their families.

The Women and Children's Addition provides a **TRANQUIL** space where parents can reconnect with their kids and fully embrace their roles. By equipping these families for success, we are transforming lives and fostering a community rooted in **LOVE**, support, and hope for generations to come.

Scan here for Lynhaven video



Scan here for children at Lynhaven video



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### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

#### VOCATIONAL TRAINING AT THE New Orleans Mission: A Matter of the Heart

At the New Orleans Mission, vocational training transcends skill development; it transforms hearts, empowering individuals to become **KINGDOM BUILDERS** dedicated to serving God and loving others. Guided by Ephesians 2:8-10, our structured approach emphasizes a cyclical process of Vision, Planning, Preparation, Implementation, Evaluation, Growth, Rest, and Repeat, ensuring each step contributes to our mission. We instill divine principles like discovering one's purpose, integrity, effective communication, and resilience, encouraging participants to view challenges as growth opportunities. **OUR HEART-CENTERED** vocational training not only equips graduates with practical skills but also instills a renewed sense of purpose, enabling them to live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. With **YOUR SUPPORT**, we can continue to change lives for generations, fostering a community rooted in **HOPE AND LOVE**.



### THE IMPACT

Our heart-centered vocational training equips graduates with skills and a renewed sense of purpose, enabling them to live out the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). With your support, we can continue changing lives for generations, fostering a community rooted in hope and love.



#### **MISSION MEDIA**

Participants learn digital media skills like photography and social media management, empowering them to share impactful stories about the Mission's work.



#### **DIVINE STAFFING**

This program prioritizes professional development and personal growth, providing participants with essential skills in landscaping, lawn care, and irrigation.



#### **BUILDING HOPE**

Participants gain hands-on skills in construction and maintenance, working on community projects that foster pride and technical knowledge.



**LYNHAVEN EVENTS** Event planning training builds front- and back-of-house skills, emphasizing teamwork, organization, and event coordination.



**REDEMPTION NOLA JEWELRY** Participants learn jewelry making and design, fostering creativity and entrepreneurial skills by selling their handmade pieces.



#### REDEMPTION NOLA THRIFT BOUTIQUE

This retail training program teaches merchandising, sales, and customer service skills, preparing individuals for careers in the retail sector.

### THE MISSION OUTREACH

#### OUTREACH EFFORTS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our **OUTREACH** initiatives have expanded across the city, allowing us to serve those in need more effectively. Through our weekly Brown Bag and food events, we've seen an increase in individuals **SEEKING HELP** and joining our year-long program, especially in the French Quarter.

These efforts do more than meet physical needs; they create **OPPORTUNITIES** for individuals seeking change. We've noticed a rising demand for safe spaces for women and children, and as word spreads, we **WELCOME** more women each week.

We also conduct monthly food **DISTRIBUTIONS** in neighborhoods like St. Roch and Treme, essential for families struggling to put food on the table. On the Northshore, we're addressing food insecurity in Bogalusa, Picayune, and Slidell, providing critical assistance to families affected by recent storms. So far this year, we've distributed around 20,000 Brown Bags, demonstrating our commitment to **NOURISHING HOPE** and facilitating lasting change in our community.





#### THE MISSION PANTRY AT GIVING HOPE RETREAT

Located in Lacombe, Louisiana, the New Orleans Food **PANTRY** at Giving Hope Retreat serves as a vital resource for our community. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and closed on Tuesdays, Sundays, and most holidays, our pantry provides food assistance to thousands of individuals each month.

The pantry is not just about food; it embodies our commitment to serving those in need with **COMPASSION** and dignity. We invite volunteers to join us in this mission, where they can pray with clients and lend a helping hand. The men in our program actively work in the pantry, connecting with individuals and families, and providing **SUPPORT** where it's needed most.

Our pantry is a true **BLESSING** for the community, addressing food insecurity and ensuring that everyone has access to nourishing meals. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help our neighbors and foster a spirit of hope and resilience. Together, we are making a meaningful **IMPACT**, one meal at a time.



Scan here to see more about our | mission pantry



THE NEW ORLEANS MISSION





#### THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY GIVEN 10K OR MORE TO THE NEW ORLEANS MISSION THIS YEAR! WE ARE SO APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR BLESSING!

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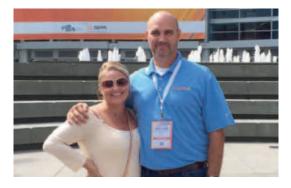
### PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS



#### PREMIER NISSAN OF METAIRIE

I am proud to support the Mission because they play a huge role in lifting up individuals facing homelessness, addiction and all kinds of challenges and work to give them their dignity back.

CRAIG COLLINS



#### ORANGE SOLAR HOLDCO LLC

We choose to partner with the New Orleans Mission because of their unwavering dedication to transforming lives through hope, healing, and restoration. Their work reflects a genuine love for people, offering a second chance to those who need it most.

MARK AND JILL JONES,



#### **IN JESUS NAME**

I support the New Orleans Mission because of the work they do saving men and women. I love to see how the Lord changes people's lives. After being in medicine for over 50 years, I am interested in their program of addiction prevention which really changes people's habits and lives.

SAM CAMP



#### **CREOLE CUISINE**

We have been inspired by the hard work of the New Orleans Mission for the past 11 years. What they do is truly transformative. They share food, clothing and shelter for those in need but more importantly they share the good news of God and they do so with great love. It is for that reason we are confident that the money we raise will help those most in need in our community. Every dollar is hard at work making a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

MARV AMMARI

# Super Standout **ALUMNI**





#### KAYLA PAGE

I grew up in a broken home, surrounded by cycles of abuse and addiction that shaped much of my early life.

Those experiences left me feeling trapped and weighed down by years of pain, anger, and shame.

Finding the New Orleans Mission was the beginning of an entirely new chapter. Through their compassion and unwavering support, I was able to confront the hurt I had carried for so long. For the first time, I began to truly understand and experience the power of forgiveness—not only the importance of forgiving those who had hurt me but also in accepting forgiveness for myself.

This journey of transformation has allowed me to shed the chains of my past and step forward into a life of freedom and purpose that I never imagined possible.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32



Scan here to view Kayla's video story





#### LOGAN GALATAS

I grew up in a hardworking, middle-class family in Slidell, LA, with my parents and brother. Despite having a strong family foundation, I started drinking at

age 10 and was using pain pills by 12. Addiction took hold of my life early, and even though I managed to graduate high school with good grades and a college scholarship, my addiction led to dropping out and a downward spiral that included heroin, jail time, and numerous failed attempts to break free. By 2017, I had hit rock bottom, cycling through rehabs and experiencing the emptiness of addiction without a real foundation or accountability.

After facing felony charges again, I was given one last chance and was released to the New Orleans Mission, thanks to my mother's relentless support and prayer. There, I finally found faith, community, and purpose. Through the Mission's program, I rebuilt my life, got my electrical license, and now run my own business. Today, I have a beautiful family with my wife and daughter and step children, a strong relationship with my parents and family, and a future full of hope. Jesus has transformed my life, and I am so grateful for this journey.



Scan here to view Logan's video story



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All proceeds benefit the New Orleans Mission, Lynhaven and Giving Hope Retreat.

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