

## From the Streets to Home: "The Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me."



Glen Piper formerly homeless, now a musician and mentor

**Dear Fellow New Yorker,**  
Meet Glen. Every Monday and Friday he volunteers at Project Renewal's Third Street Shelter, teaching clients to play music--and giving them the encouragement they need to begin a new life.

Glen is a keyboardist and songwriter and recently had the opportunity to play with some of the members of Dizzy Gillespie's band! He's working toward a music contract and has written over 50 songs in the past two years. "I see a blessing every day," he says.

**That's because Glen was homeless for 25 years.** As a young musician in Philadelphia, one of his bandmates introduced the group to cocaine. Eventually they didn't want to perform, rehearse or even go home without drugs. The band broke up and, to provide for his habit, Glen became a trash digger.

"One night in 2005," he says, "I was going through the trash wearing only a t-shirt and a pair of pants because I sold everything I found. It was raining. I was freezing, tired and hungry. And then it hit me: I don't want to do this anymore!"

**[Support Project Renewal now and help us show people like Glen that they are not alone and deserve a second chance at life.](#)**

After 30 days in a shelter, he found Project Renewal. "That's when everything started to change in my life," Glen says. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me. The staff treated me like a human being. They called me Mr. Piper! They never were afraid to touch me or shake my hand. Some people want to put gloves on when

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hard to transform their lives.

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they touch you if you're homeless. They never looked at me like that. They never looked at me like I was a crackhead. They showed me so much love, it made me want to do right!"

Three months later, our caseworkers found Glen permanent housing. "I said 'thank you, Lord.' I promised I would be worthy of this chance." Glen has been sober for three years now and, he says, "I'm having the time of my life."

Now think for a moment about what might have happened had Glen not received this second chance. Instead of volunteering to help those who were once like him, or instead of writing music and loving life again, Glen might still be digging through the trash.

You can be a part of the transformation of a life that was once like Glen's by making a gift now. [Your support](#) can help us bring the freezing and tired and hungry inside and get them started on a path toward recovery. By [donating now](#) you can make your dreams for a better world come true.

**[Yes, I wish to Help Transform the Life of a Homeless New Yorker!](#)**

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