

# A Prayer for Help... and a Life Transformed



“My life was in shambles. I had no job, and I was jumping from couch to couch. I was always trying to escape, so I turned to alcohol and partying. I was dead inside – but I realized I was hurting myself and my family. I remember praying,  
**‘God, I know I need You.’**”

Soon after that prayer, Rizane M. entered rehab and enrolled in I Care Outreach. Like so many who come to ICO searching for a new start, he found exactly what he had been longing for: hope, structure, and a biblically-grounded path forward.

ICO’s practical, faith-based classes gave Rizane the tools he needed – how to manage finances, set healthy boundaries, build supportive relationships, and pursue meaningful work. But even more than skills, he found hope and strength for a new way of living.

“Before I came to I Care Outreach, I was overwhelmed,” he recalls. “I didn’t have role models or people encouraging me. People told me I couldn’t succeed before I even tried—and I believed them.”

Hope changed that. It gave him the courage to dream again.

“I learned that with God’s help, I could change my life,” he says. “Now I think about how my choices affect my future. I ask myself if I’m being a positive influence in my community and how I can be better than yesterday.”

Gone are the days of drifting “like a leaf in the wind.” He laughs, “I actually use a planner now. Little goals and accomplishments build into big ones.”

One of those “big ones” is already in motion: Rizane will begin nursing school this spring – fulfilling a lifelong dream. In the meantime, he’s working as a rehab counselor and recently earned his medical technician certification.

“Becoming a nurse means I get to help people,” he says. “That’s what we’re here to do – to serve one another.”

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**RIZANE M.**



# Real Life Change *Happens Here*

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!”

Psalm 126:3

Two recent I Care Outreach graduates, Emmanuel S. and Paul A., say the practical, biblically-based training they received at ICO has reshaped how they approach their lives, finances, and futures.

Emmanuel says the classes helped him see his finances from a spiritual perspective.

“I understand that I have responsibilities not only to myself and my family, but also to my community and my church,” he explains.

He was especially encouraged by guest speakers who invested their time and expertise.

“Not only did they believe in people like me – they believed in God. It meant a lot to know there are people who want to see me do well and are building a fellowship around God.”

Paul A. says ICO’s biblical financial principles were equally transformative.

“I wasn’t good with money management,” he admits. “But now I write out a monthly plan and put money into savings once my budget is set.”

The classes also encouraged him to make long-term career goals.

“I learned we’re all called to work – but that doesn’t mean settling for just any job.”

Paul is now earning his commercial driver’s license while working full-time, preparing for a stable career that provides a living wage, benefits, and retirement.

Of all the classes, Paul says Boundaries made the biggest impact.

“It showed me from a biblical perspective that it’s healthy to say no sometimes. It went deep into real-life situations and helped me a lot.”

Both Emmanuel and Paul agree: ICO equips people with the tools, confidence, and hope they need to face the future with hope and purpose. Emmanuel notes, “I Care Outreach classes give you tools for life.”



# 2025

## *A Year of Blessing!*

This past year, God has blessed I Care Outreach (ICO) in remarkable ways. Here are just a few ministry highlights:

### Life-Changing Classes Offered in Bridgeport & New Haven

- Boundaries
- Financial Literacy & Management
- Job Readiness & Workforce Preparedness
- Self-Care & Sober-Minded Living (new in November with 26 participants)

### We Had the Joy of Serving

**107**  
participants in  
ICO classes

**84**  
ICO  
graduates

### Volunteers Who Made Ministry Possible

- Classroom Allies & Facilitators
- Community College Representatives
- Business Owners
- Professionals in banking, education, finance, technology, healthcare, and counseling
- All volunteers shared their gifts generously, supporting our participants with compassion and respect.

### A Major Milestone – Expanded Facilities!

In August, we celebrated the opening of our expanded Training Center, thanks to a foundation grant and our generous donor family. This expansion has already transformed ministry by providing:

- Additional classrooms for concurrent classes
- Dedicated areas for single moms and young children
- A larger community room for graduations, guest speakers, and online learning
- Updated technology, furnishings, and essential equipment

As we prepare for 2026, we continue to develop practical, biblically-grounded tools and programs that help men and women break the cycles of spiritual and economic poverty in Bridgeport, New Haven, and beyond.

# Your Generosity Helps Release a Cycle of Blessing

“And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11b

*Dear Friends,*

In many communities, a painful cycle of poverty persists – often shaped by limited access to education, healthcare, stable housing, and employment. For many, the weight of these challenges leads to discouragement and difficult choices.

Yet even in the midst of this, God is moving. Men and women come to I Care Outreach after a hard season, open-hearted and praying, “Lord, I need You.” They arrive longing for change – spiritually, emotionally, and practically.

As you’ve seen in these pages, God is using I Care Outreach to meet people in that brokenness and begin a new cycle – one of hope, faith, and lasting transformation.

This ministry is only possible because of friends like you. Through your generosity, God is replacing despair with thanksgiving – a transformation we see every day in the lives you help change. As ICO graduate Paul A. shared:

“I got my faith back, I got my confidence back, and I’m feeling really great about life again. I thank God for I Care Outreach!”

As ICO’s ministry expands, our need for faithful support grows as well. We are deeply grateful for your prayers and generosity – your partnership has been essential to every life changed.

As we approach the end of 2025, would you prayerfully consider becoming a monthly partner or making a special year-end gift? Your support sustains the Training Center and helps provide the biblically-based, life-changing guidance that empowers individuals to break poverty’s grip and build a new legacy for their families and communities.

May you be richly blessed at Christmas and in the New Year,

*Pastor Robert M. Turner*

**P.S.** If God prompts you, please consider becoming a monthly partner. Steady monthly support strengthens ICO’s ability to serve more men and women throughout the year and provides vital stability for our growing ministry.

**TO GIVE, MAIL YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO:**

I Care Outreach, P.O. Box 5188  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Or use your credit card to make a secure online gift @ [ICareOutreach.net/donate](http://ICareOutreach.net/donate).

