

# MORNINGSTAR

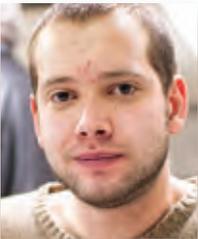
CHRONICLE

*Good News About Changing Lives!*

Fall Issue 2014



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Word from Marilyn ...  
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The tens of thousands of  
dollars spent for my rehab  
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## Thank you for giving me this place of safety ... it's what I need most at this time of my life

**M**y name is Murl. It's terrible to be abused by someone you trust. I had known the man for more than 10 years, but little did I know how he would end up treating me. The physical hurt was bad enough. But mentally it was also terrible. I never knew what was going to happen to me from one day to the next. I will never forget the day he put me out on the street. I finally realized I had gotten the worst part of a bad deal. Perhaps you can see why MorningStar Mission and the Women and Family Recovery Center mean so much to me. Here I feel safe. Within these walls I also feel the presence of Jesus. The fact that this program is Bible based also makes this place special. I receive biblical answers to all my questions. I'm going deep into God's Word each day, and this is making all the difference in my life.

### Thank you for giving me a place of safety

In spite of what's happened to me, I have no hate or ill feelings toward the one who abused me. I realize a heart of hate would accomplish nothing. I attribute my attitude to the Lord, whom I now

trust for everything in my life. Somehow, God knew I would survive my ordeal. But I'm not only surviving, I'm actually thriving, and I know this is how I will continue to live as long as I give God control of my life. Thank you for your part in giving me a place of safety and protection. I never realized there were so many wonderful people in the world.

Your friend,

*Murl*

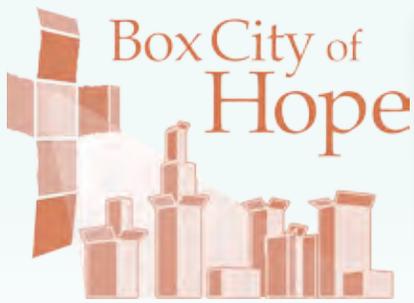
**"I will never forget the day he  
put me out on the street. I finally  
realized I had gotten the worst part  
of a bad deal."**



**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

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Mission Ministries, Inc.  
350 E. Washington Street  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150  
815-722-5780

[www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org)



Box City of Hope is a 14-hour overnight homelessness awareness and fundraising event for all ages. Guests are invited to spend the night in a box to show their support and to experience what it is like not having a home of their own. This will provide great insight into the struggles homeless men, women and children have on a daily basis.

**Box City of Hope will be held on September 19 – 20**

For more information please visit our website: [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org) or "Like" our Facebook page at [MorningStarMission1909](https://www.facebook.com/MorningStarMission1909).

## An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar, They come to us from all walks of life. Many have lived a lifetime of substance abuse. Still others have been victims of domestic violence, and are desperately looking for a safe, secure place to rest their weary heads. Whoever they may be and whatever their circumstances, your ongoing support gives MorningStar Mission the privilege of seeing lives transformed by the grace and mercy of a loving God. *Thank you for this ongoing compassion for those in need.*

Among the things our residents enjoy most are our classes, taught by competent Christian men and women. Our guests receive instruction on how to renew relationships, on how to set boundaries, and how to begin to see themselves as worthy men and women in the sight of God. We also help them come to grips with the things that lead them to a state of homelessness.

### God is faithful . . . all the time

One of our favorite songs at the Mission is *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. God is faithful all the time. Not everyone will embrace this Christ who loves them, but it's not our job to ensure that. Our only responsibility is *to be faithful*, to plant seeds of hope in longing hearts. We know after folks leave the Mission, their lives will never be the same because they have been entrusted to the God who harvests that seed.

At this Thanksgiving season, I want you to know how much our entire staff appreciates *who you are* and *what you do* for the homeless who come through our doors. Thank you for being at the heart and soul of what God has called us to do.

Your servant,

*Marilyn Farmer*

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director



**"Thank you for being at the heart and soul of what God has called us to do."**

## Thank you for reaching out to the needy — a privi

Remember when we played *hide and seek* as kids . . . and when we shouted from our hiding place, "Here I come, ready or not?" Well, as some might say, *there's a sermon in there*. Because one day, it will all come to an end — *ready or not*.

Sunrises and sunsets will be no more. It will no longer be necessary to go to the office or do the laundry. Our affluence, fame and influence will become insignificant. Our grudges, worries and suspicions will also finally disappear. Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

### It's all about choices . . .

In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave. Did we live with a sense of entitlement, or were we thankful for God's mercy



## The tens of thousands of dollars spent for my rehab were not effective . . . *but the program at MorningStar Mission works*

**M**y name is Lanny. The Internet is many things to many people. For me, it was my lifeline to MorningStar Mission. I used my cell phone to go online and get the phone number of the Mission. When I connected, the person on the other side of the call talked to me for a full 30 minutes. That was my first step toward sobriety. I've always done well in my career, which was working in the healthcare industry. But while my professional life was going well, my personal life was going in the opposite direction. I have spent time in high dollar places paid for by insurance. Those tens of thousands of dollars spent were supposed to provide me with tools for my recovery. It just didn't work. In fact, I remember how I once celebrated my 28 days of alleged sobriety by going out and buying some cocktails. I don't think that's what the program was supposed to be about. What a difference it is to be at MorningStar Mission and wherever God takes me in the days ahead.

### **I'm building my foundation on the person of Jesus Christ**

I've always felt I had to be the best, even perfect, in everything I would do. Now I'm coming to understand that's not only unreasonable, it's also impossible. In that regard, also, the Mission is coming to my aid. In days past, I would toss and turn for two to three hours before I would go to sleep. Now I go to sleep within half an hour, and with a mind that is more at peace now than ever before. I'm finally building my life with Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I want to thank God, the Mission and you who give so much of your money and time to keep the doors open for someone like me. God bless you at this Thanksgiving season.

Sincerely,

*Lanny*

**God bless you at this Thanksgiving season. Thank you for your many acts of kindness.**



## People You Should Know



MorningStar Mission would like to recognize CITGO in Lemont,

IL, for their employees' amazing volunteer work in MorningStar Mission's numerous programs and events. CITGO's employees have adopted children from the Mission's Women & Family Center to give them birthday parties, they volunteered their time to help with our back-to-school event called "Jump On The Bus," and have helped with our Christmas and Easter basket distribution to needy families during the holidays. MorningStar Mission is forever grateful to CITGO's amazing employees and their great volunteer work here at the Mission.

## *lege we share together*

and for the opportunities we were given to reach out to those in need? When our final words are spoken, it will be all about our integrity, compassion, courage and empowerment of others. Living a life of significance doesn't happen by accident. It's a choice we must make every day. Thank you for making the choice once again at this Thanksgiving season to reach out to the poor, hungry, homeless and abused who come through the Mission's doors. To continue your vital financial involvement with the Mission, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also make your donation online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you for being a loyal supporter and friend of MorningStar Mission during this Thanksgiving season and throughout the year as we carry on this ministry of rescue.

**"In reality, in the end, it will not be about how much we got, but how much we gave."**

Special thanks to our  
Spring Fling Gala sponsors

## Calling All Cars!



### Our sponsors include:

Lion Logistics  
Rathbun, Cservenyak & Kozol  
Whiteside & Goldberg  
D'Arcy Motors  
Lewis University  
Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon  
DeGeus & Associates Inc.  
Bill Jacobs Auto  
Stephen J. Medvesky & Associates  
PeopleFirst Bank  
Northern Illinois Steel  
Quality Quick Print

MorningStar Mission is in great need of vehicles of all makes and models in working and non-working order! These vehicles will be used to help the Mission accomplish its many tasks. All donated vehicles are considered tax-deductible gifts, at fair market value, and receipts for tax/accounting purposes are available.

**Please call**  
**(815) 722-5780**  
**or email**  
**info@morningstarmission.org**  
**Visit us online at**  
**www.morningstarmission.org**



### *in memory of*

**Joan Bauer** Mary C. Markwell • **Laura Beth Buchanan** Allison Kommel, Jamie Lewis, Steve Quam, Mark Wangler, Pamela Sher, and Troy - WBO Social Committee • **Carrie Demski** Grandpa & Grandma Harris  
**Roger Fronек** Judith Fronек, William & Patricia Maher • **Rita Gagnon** Lisa R. Lockett • **Naomi Grimes** Susan Grimes • **Michael J. Hardy** Kathryn S. Treichler • **Samuel Jenkins** James Jenkins • **Rev. William Johnson** James C. Pollock • **John Maier III** John Maier • **Louis J. Motta** Donald & Joyce Lockwood  
**Peter Scasny** Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fleming • **Leo** Deacon & Mrs. Richard Rosko

### *in honor of*

**Brother James Gaffney FSC** Karl & Gayle Maurer



## My Thanksgiving Gift

RM\_44-0904\_H01JO

**YES, Marilyn,**  
it's a privilege to continue  
to support the work  
of the Mission at this  
Thanksgiving season

### Here's my donation of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$\_\_\_\_\_** to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card:  VISA  MC  DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.**  
350 E. Washington Street  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150

► Please use this completed form and return it with your Thanksgiving donation, or donate online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.