

# MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

Fall Issue 2015



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**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

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

## I'm one of the happiest people on earth . . . thanks to YOU

**M**y name is Lark. The emotional and physical abuse went on for 18 months. I never knew who he was going to be when he came home — the good person I knew, or the bad person he had become. I'll never forget when I was five months pregnant how he threw me so hard into the wall that he damaged my already injured hip. *I was afraid to stay, and I was afraid to leave.* I never thought I'd get out of that situation.

But then God led me to MorningStar Mission, where I am learning I have worth and value after all. Everyone here cannot be wrong when they tell me I'm a good person, so I've chosen to believe them, even though it is difficult at times to do so.

### I figured God had walked away from me

I didn't have a Christian background, so I didn't know anything about the Bible. But today I can say I love the Word of God, and I appreciate how it's opening my heart and my mind. In the process, I'm learning about my real self. I now believe with all my heart that God has a plan for my life. For too long I thought God had walked away from me; in fact, I had turned away from Him.

I'm so grateful to  
God, to the Mission and

to you who do so much to keep these doors open for someone like me. This place is here for a reason, and that's to help women and children succeed in life. Every day, God is building up my self-esteem. He helps me understand that in spite of what I've done in the past, I deserve to be happy. I'm grateful for the good things that are happening in my life. It's my prayer you and your family will enjoy a happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Lark



"This place is here for a reason, and that's to help women and children succeed in life."



# Food Drive Needs List

- PANCAKE MIX
- CANNED VEGGIES & FRUIT
- PASTAS/NOODLES
- COFFEE
- CANNED SOUP
  
- LAUNDRY SOAP
- TOWELS
- WASHCLOTHS
- BATH CLEANSERS
  
- DEODORANT
- RAZORS
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- LOTION
- BABY HYGIENE ITEMS
- SIZE 4 DIAPERS

MorningStar Mission is in GREAT NEED of Turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

## An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .



Dear Friend of MorningStar Mission,  
If you're like me, you have a lot of lists going at all times: a grocery list, a TO-DO list . . . (and yes, that "honey-do" list) and the lists go on and on. Well, this Thanksgiving I want to share with you a few items on my gratitude list:

- I'm grateful for my family and the support they continue to give me as God gives me the strength to work in this ministry of rescue.
- I'm thankful for the beautiful facility God has provided here at MorningStar Mission, where we can welcome people who have lost their way in life. Every day, I see people go from hopelessness to hope, and for that I am eternally grateful.
- I'm especially grateful for you, and the way you keep supporting the Mission's efforts throughout the year. Without your compassion, our doors would be closed and so many in our community would suffer. So thank you.
- I'm also grateful for our Family Center, where mothers and children can take a deep breath and have someone tell them they have worth — just as Lark says in her testimony.
- I want to thank you for volunteering to come to the Mission to talk with our guests and listen to their stories. I cannot begin to tell you how much your personal touch means to those who didn't know they had a friend in the world.
- And of course, I'm thankful to the Lord for giving us the strength and the resolve to carry on day after day. So from one thankful heart to another, God bless you and keep you always . . . and thank you for all you do to help bring hope to so many.

Your servant,

*Marilyn Farmer*

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director

Without your compassion, our doors would be closed and so many in our community would suffer.



## Thank you for being a Thanksg

The entire Mission staff thanks you for your overwhelming support of this ministry of rescue during the past several months. It would be an understatement to say these are challenging economic times. For many, *unprecedented* would be a more appropriate word.

But as tough as it may be during these days of uncertainty, it's even more difficult for those men and women who stream through our doors during the Thanksgiving season. These are the homeless, the ex-offenders, those who suffer from addictions and others who have simply lost their way. The good news is those who choose to make positive changes in their lives are finding new hope, new opportunities and new life as they make the decision to follow *in the steps of Jesus*.



## When I was using drugs and alcohol . . .

### *I was alone and without a friend*

**M**y name is Dave. I thank God the past is the past and that I never need to go there again. Drugs and alcohol ruined my life. I had great promise as a youth, particularly in sports, but because of my substance abuse I lost everything. I burned bridges to my family. Even though I went to school and got an AA in electrical engineering, I didn't learn much. So I think I'd be dangerous if you asked me to wire anything. Later, I was in the restaurant business. But after work I just went home and drank and smoked pot. I was alone and without a friend. People would try to tell me to change my ways, but their advice went in one ear and out the other.

#### **God's Word is opening my eyes to a new way of living**

I never went to church much, and I didn't read the Bible until I got to MorningStar Mission. Now, every word in Scripture blows my mind. The message of the Bible is opening my eyes to a new world. Today, I am clean and it feels great to be at peace with myself.

What I like most about this Mission is that it's teaching me discipline, good work ethics and an appreciation for what God is doing in my life. I'm also

learning to be patient. *And for that, I need to ask the Lord daily for strength.* My life is so different compared with just a few months ago when I lost everything. Today, even though I don't have much in the way of this world's goods, I have something more precious: an awareness that God has a plan for my life if I will simply listen to Him *and stick to that plan.* My negative outlook on life is gone. God is making me a positive person. Thank you for your donations and for everything else you do to help me get my life back on course.

Your grateful friend,

*Dave*



# 600 Turkeys needed by November 20!

**Hundreds of men, women and children** in Joliet will not enjoy a Thanksgiving this year. Many have been evicted from their homes. Others have lost their jobs . . . many single moms can't feed their children... and too many are dealing with substance abuse issues. But regardless of anyone's situation, everyone deserves God's love and a bountiful meal at Thanksgiving.

**600 gobblers needed now** MorningStar Mission needs 600 turkeys to help fill food boxes to be given to those in need at Thanksgiving. That's a lot of turkeys . . . but it's what we need immediately to help provide a happy Thanksgiving for homeless people, elderly people and parents who struggle to feed their children.

#### **Will you be kind enough to drop by MorningStar Mission with one or more turkeys by November 20?**

With your enthusiastic support we will feed those who are hungry . . . *one turkey at a time.* And remember, you're giving more than just a turkey . . . you're giving love, comfort and an abundance of hope to someone in need at Thanksgiving. God bless you for being one who cares.

## giving friend to those in need

#### **God bless you for giving from a grateful heart**

You continue to bless us by reaching out to those who are hungry, homeless and without a friend. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity — not only during the Thanksgiving season but throughout the year. Now to continue to touch the lives of others in our community, please send your donation to the Mission today. For your convenience, you can either use the remit slip enclosed or make your donation online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you for being there for so many who need your kindness — people like Lark and Dave, who are so grateful to you for your compassion.



## in memory of

**Bob Baitinger** Robert & Carolyn Baitinger • **Marie Black** Rolf Anderson • **Barbara Brown** Inischa Friend • **Evelyn Merwin & Ardele Spiess Burke** Sharon Merwin • **Diane Cockburn** Steven S. Brown, Carolyn Cockburn, M.S. & A.J. Davenport, David Goulding, Brian Jones, Elmer Krusa, Adam & Elizabeth Petrovic, Peter & Lisa Reed, Marjorie Sniegowski, Robert B. Tafaro, William J. Woodring, Donna Zumbrunn, Bone Roofing Supply, Inc., Braidwood Goodwill Committee, Riverstone Financial Advisors • **Marian Connors** Ronald & Susan Da Rosa, Vincent & Josie Dibartolomeo, David & Lynn Laurich, Richard & Mary Miller, Vicki Wittenauer  
**Chris Cornstalk** Amy Novander • **Tracy Delgatto** Beverly Conterio, Sharon Renzetti, Mary Ellen Tercall, Rohin Ullberg, Metlife 505 Team Southern Region & Friends • **Benjamin J. Easton** Champion Drywall, Inc.

## in honor of

**Laura McCloud** Westminster Presbyterian Women

# 2015 Spring Fling Gala

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## My Thanksgiving Gift

RM\_45-0903\_H01JO

**YES, Marilyn,**

it warms my heart  
to continue to support  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 generous 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.