

# MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

*Good News About Changing Lives!*

Holiday Issue 2015



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**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

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

## *When the doors of life close . . . God always seems to open another one*

**M**y name is Monique, and this is my dear grandson Montrez. Not long ago, God and I had to have a little talk about one specific issue: here I am, a grandmother, and now I'm having to raise my grandchildren. I used to ask God *what have I done wrong?* Why do I have to go through all this child-rearing all over again? Well, my early complaint has now turned into accepting my responsibility as a *blessing*. I've already raised Montrez' sister, and now I can say I have the *privilege* of raising Montrez. His dad is incarcerated and his mother is unable to care for him. Therefore, he is my responsibility.

### **Thank you for the good food, the clothing and the safe shelter**

Another reason I feel blessed is here at the Mission, Montrez is able to enjoy a positive experience with other children. Because we are homeless, we both appreciate the food, clothing and safe shelter. It was tough for me to lose my jobs and my apartment. There were times when I wondered where life was leading me. Now I can say God has been on my side all the time, and I'm so grateful. He has led us to MorningStar Mission.

This is an amazing place. We have our own room, our own bathroom, and all the necessities of life. It's also a spiritual place, where both my grandson and I are learning

to lean on God for everything. It's exciting to see Montrez learn how to pray out loud. So I guess the lesson for me is when it seems like all doors close, *another door opens*. That seems to be the way God works. I also want to *thank you*, who give so much of your time, energy and money to make this place available to people like us. I will always remember how you are reaching out to us.

*Monique*



**"I will always remember how  
you are reaching out to us."**



## Thanksgiving and Christmas food box needs list

- SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- JAR OF JELLY
- SUGAR
- FLOUR
- BOX OF PANCAKE MIX
- SPAGHETTI
- BOX OF CEREAL
- CANNED VEGETABLES: CORN, GREEN BEANS, CARROTS AND PEAS
- SALAD DRESSING
- COFFEE
- POTATOES
- SYRUP

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

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

## An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .



Dear Friend of MorningStar Mission,  
Because you continue to provide *one more bed* and *one more room* for *one more person*, you help to create *one more opportunity* for someone to become the man or woman God wants that person to be. It often starts out with a meal that costs the Mission only \$2.05. But that \$2.05 quickly sets off on an amazing journey . . . a journey to sobriety, to reestablishing relationships with family, to becoming a responsible member of society and, most important, to making Jesus Christ ruler of their lives. All this happens because you make sure there is room in the inn — an inn in Joliet, Illinois known as MorningStar Mission.

**There will always be a VACANCY sign at MorningStar Mission**

You will never see a *no vacancy* sign outside the Mission. We don't have one hidden in the closet. It simply doesn't exist. That's because there is always a **VACANCY** for anyone in need. The ladies in our Women & Family Recovery Center tell us again and again how much they feel cared for. Some have not had shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, or other personal hygiene items for months due to their homeless condition. They tell us here at MorningStar Mission they feel special. The men are also reminding us how glad they are to be off the streets, and able to enjoy shelter, good food, and warm clothing. Again, all this is possible because you make sure there is room in the inn. Now, the holidays are here, and there is already a steady stream of people coming through our doors. The good news is there is room for everyone . . . thanks to you and your acts of kindness. God bless you for being one who cares.

Your servant,

*Marilyn Farmer*

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director

The good news is there is room for everyone . . . thanks to you and your acts of kindness.



## Thank you for your ongoing generosity

Once in the year — and only once — the whole world stands still to celebrate the advent of a life. Only *Jesus* claims this worldwide, undying remembrance. Christmas celebrates that moment when God stepped down from the stairs of heaven as a baby. Aren't you glad the light shining from a humble manger is strong enough to lighten our lives? Thank you for helping us share this divine light with so many who've lost their way.

Once again you have continued to help sustain this ministry of rescue for another year. You've been generous month after month, season after season. Even when times are tough, you stand alongside those in need. *Thank you.*

### Stomachs filled . . . spirits lifted

Now as we prepare for the holiday season, once again you are the spiritual wind

# I am the definition of a *miracle*

**M**y name is Branden. I started smoking pot at 15 years of age and I was soon on my way to doing hard-core narcotics. I figured it was the best way to run away from my problems. I didn't meet my father until I was 18, and it was not a happy encounter. He was drunk and he stabbed me six times with a pocket knife. So that relationship didn't really ever work out. Instead, it drove me further into a deep, dark hole.

## **I can now sit down and do something other than use drugs**

The good news is I no longer live in that hole, because I have since committed my life to Jesus Christ. I now have a passion for God and his Word. Because of my relationship with my heavenly Father, I also want to be a role model for my younger brother — especially since I was the one who gave him his first high.

## **I never thought I could quit using drugs . . . but God is giving me the power to overcome my addiction**

If you don't believe in a miracle, then I hope you would look at my life — because *I am the definition of a miracle*. God has completely turned my life around. For the first time, I can actually sit down and do something other than

use drugs. I owe this new lifestyle to a loving God, a caring staff at MorningStar Mission and to you who donate so much to keep the doors open for someone like me.

I never thought I would be clean again. But here I am — clean, sober and doing my best to live for Jesus Christ. No longer am I on the streets selling drugs. Instead, I am beginning to make something of my life for the first time. I'm so grateful for all you keep doing to help someone like me find my way home to God.

*Branden*



# Walk a Mile in My Shoes Thank You

**Thank you to all of the sponsors who made our 2015 Walk a Mile event a great success!**

Rathbun, Cservenyak & Kozol, LLC

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& Ruzon, LLC

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Frito Lay

## Generosity throughout the year . . .

beneath our wings. Every day hungry mouths come to be filled. Spiritually parched spirits are fed. And whether our guests verbalize it or not, all will leave a bountifully filled Mission table with hearts filled with gratitude.

The Christmas season continues to be *one of the greatest opportunities we have all year to share the good news of freedom in Jesus Christ*. You have already played a great role in lives that were once damaged goods. Now with God as your strength, please continue to carry on your own personal ministry of rescue.

To send your donation to reach out to the needy this holiday season, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also give your gift on our secure website [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you for your support of the Mission during the holiday season and throughout the year.

**“Even when times are tough, you stand alongside those in need. Thank you.”**

# A Warm Thank You for Cold Storage!

MorningStar Mission would like to extend their heart felt appreciation to Al Blunt and Joliet Cold Storage. For the past 1 1/2 years, they have provided extra freezer space for us when we have been in urgent need of storage. They have also assisted us when our refrigerated truck has

gone down for necessary repairs. Additionally, they store approximately 1,200 turkeys that we distribute to families at the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Thank you Joliet Cold Storage for your abundant generosity to the Mission and all those we help and serve!

# Stars of Hope

Our Stars of Hope program provides hundreds of families with Christmas gifts for everyone in the family. In 2014, we gave out over 10,000 gifts to over 350 families. You can help!!! Call **815-722-5780** and ask for a star today!

## in memory of

**Ardell Mason** Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Herzog • **Tracy Delgatto** Barbara Colandrea, John & Ellen Lange, Robert & Diane Flammini, John & Deborah McKeown, William & Kathleen Ernst, Matthew & Virginia O'Brien, Anita Flassig, Kerry Johnson, Michael & Sherry McKeown • **Kevin Hansen** Eric Hansen • **Anna Orsini Horvat** Jon & Cynthia Larson • **Richard Egly** Daryl & Janine Downing, Robert & Wanda Egly, Norman & Ginger Kelm, Cissy Egly, Gregory & Mary June Schulte, Wilfred & Shirley, Margaret Shell, Rodger & Jo Ann Nahas, Glen & Mariana Schulte



## My Holiday Gift

RM\_45-1104\_H01JO

**YES, Marilyn,**  
please use my gift to provide food, clothing and shelter to people in need during the holiday 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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► Please use this completed form and return it with your generous holiday 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.