

MORNINGSTAR

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives!

Holiday Issue 2016



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From a world of verbal abuse . . . to a place of love, caring and compassion

My name is Valerie. For 10 years, I was trapped in a relationship of verbal abuse. I was controlled in every area of my life. Then, after enduring all that hardship and finally being engaged to be married, the man left me for someone else. That was insult to injury, and it threw me for a loop. He was the only father figure my disabled son, Jacob, knew. Suddenly, I was alone with no place to call home. I didn't want to go to a shelter because it's never been easy for me to ask for help. But when I heard MorningStar was faith-based, I reconsidered . . . because I was raised in the Christian faith. I'm glad I chose to

This loving place is a family I never had

Holidays in the past were seldom pleasant. But I know this Thanksgiving and Christmas will be different because of where we are. It will be a night and day contrast compared to what I've known in the past. Every day, people reach out to me and ask us how they can help. There is always someone to talk to. Most of all, I am no longer controlled or verbally abused, nor am I isolated or afraid to speak my mind. Thanks to a loving God, the Mission and to a donor friend like you, *the real Valerie is finally emerging.* Jacob and I thank you for your kindness from the bottom of our hearts.

“. . . I didn't know there were so many nice people out there.”

come here, because everything about this place is wonderful, *especially the feeling of family.* If my son needs to be taken to a doctor's appointment, someone is always ready to help us with transportation. And the food, clothing and safe shelter mean more to us than you could possibly imagine. To be honest, I didn't know there were so many nice people out there — and that includes someone like you *who reaches out to Jacob and me.*

Valerie



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Someone You Should Know



We want to thank KeHE Food Distributors for their generous financial donation this summer. In addition to monetary support, KeHE provides food donations, they volunteer in a variety of ways, they support the Jump On The Bus and Stars of Hope programs, provide food items for our Easter baskets and sponsor events. We are grateful for all the ways they support MorningStar Mission.



An Encouraging Word from Marilyn . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar,

“I don’t deserve the love I receive here . . .” “How could I ever be good enough to receive food, clothing and safe shelter . . .” “I didn’t know there were so many wonderful people in the world . . .” These are just some of the words we hear from those who come through our men’s program and families who enter the doors of our Women and Family Recovery Center. When we hear comments like this we quickly remind our friends, people like Kenneth and Valerie, that they do deserve to be here, and, yes, there are many wonderful people in this world and in our community who care about their well-being. People like you.

Thank you for helping us share the greatest gift in the world

Now we are approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas, and what a special time this is for our guests. Once again, we share with our friends God’s greatest gift . . . a gift that arrived that special night in Bethlehem . . . and a Savior who one day went to the cross and died for our sins. Through your support of MorningStar Mission you help provide this life-changing gift, and then you give us the privilege of wrapping it with loving care. Some open the gift immediately. Others are hesitant, allowing the gift to remain unwrapped. We force no one to open this gift. But each person we serve knows the gift is available simply for the taking. Thank you for giving the Mission the opportunity to share this gift with everyone who comes through our doors. God bless you and your family at this holiday season.

Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

Marilyn Farmer
Executive Director



“Through your support, you help provide this life-changing gift . . .”

You are a special friend to the needy . . . espe

Because you continue to be a faithful ministry partner, you are a valued friend to more people in our community than you could possibly imagine. When the economy is challenged — *you stand with those in need. Thank you.* When things go well, you remember the Mission and those we serve. You read about the challenges our guests and the Mission face each day — and you continue to respond with acts of loving kindness . . . *because you know it is the right thing to do. Thank you.*

Our Mission guests especially feel your presence during the holiday season, when you provide an even greater abundance of food, clothing and concern for their well-being. As always, our entire community depends on the contributions of each one of us.

I'm now back in Joliet *but this time . . .* *I'm not sitting behind bars*

My name is Kenneth. I left home at 16 to join a gang. That was the beginning of a life of drugs and criminal activity. Now I'm back in Joliet, but this time it's at a Mission and not a prison. There I was, the son of a pastor, doing time for my crimes. I should've known better. It's amazing how those sermons from my father and the verses of Scripture I learned as a kid kept roaring back as I sat in my cell. As I look back now, those were the things that really kept me alive. But that is all in

"I'm happy to say MorningStar Mission is my home for the time being."

the past. Today, I'm happy to say MorningStar Mission is my home for the time being. I enjoy the classes, and strangely enough, because of my background, I could probably teach some of those Bible classes. However, for now, I'm on the receiving end . . . and I'm enjoying what I'm learning, along with my time with the other men. We start our day by getting up at 6 a.m. to do our daily devotions from *Our Daily Bread*. Being in the Word of God and fellowshiping with others helps me start my day off right.

I've always been a person who cared about others

As I look back on my life, I now know I've always been a person who cares about others. I just rebelled early and

started off on the wrong path. I guess I needed to come to the end of my rope before I realized Jesus is the only answer to life's problems. I used to think God was punishing me for my sins. Now, I know He is not a vengeful God, but rather a Savior who wants the best for me. It's still hard to forgive myself for the pain I have caused my family. But little by little I am making progress. Thank you for all you do to make MorningStar Mission available to me . . . especially for the food, clothing, safe shelter and Christian counseling. This Thanksgiving and Christmas will be special for me. Thank you for all your support.

Kenneth

Thank you for being there for me right now . . . when I need help the most.



cially during the holidays

You are so generous . . . and we are so grateful

Because of your ongoing support during the holidays, no homeless or hurting person who comes to us will be able to escape the goodness of a loving God — and the concern of a loving friend.

To continue to invest in the lives of those in need, please use the remit slip enclosed. Or, if you wish, you may make your donation online at www.morningstarmission.org. Thank you for standing by us as a loyal friend as together we reach out to the homeless during the holiday season . . . *and every day of the year.*

**Thank you
for doing your
part to *help*
those many
*have forgotten.***





In Memory of

Carolyn M. Mathisen Carl Mathisen • **Joe Kociuba** James Kociuba • **Frank & Julia Turk Family** Fred & Margo Turk • **Rev. Bill Johnson** James Pollock • **Bill Deufl** Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Hicks • **Richard Tantillo** Lisa Wrobel • **Michael James DeVries** Wade Harmon Lynn DeVries John & Jan DeVries Joanne B. DeVries Robert Hughes Craig Weeks Gerhard Gross Steven & Diane Armstrong Ronnie & Susan Voytas • **Carrie Demski** Mr. & Mrs. Billy Harris • **Harold** Beverly Hamstra • **Danny Davis** Dianna Ketchem • **Lee Lavette** Susan Mecozzi



MorningStar Mission: Possible 5K

We would like to thank the Mission: Possible 5K Sponsors:

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Electronics, Inc., Quick Plumbing

Thanks to the food vendors: TCBYShorewood, El Ranchito, Certified Warehouse Foods, The Great American Bagel Bakery and the companies that displayed our 5K Shoes Chignoli Auto, Dr. Mark Fritz and First Midwest Bank.



My Holiday Gift

RM_46-1108_H01JO

YES, Marilyn,
please use my donation
to provide food,
clothing and shelter for
the truly needy 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 _____

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MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.
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► Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous holiday donation, or donate online at www.morningstarmission.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.