

# MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

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Good News About Changing Lives!

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
KINDNESS . . .

*. . . God is using you  
as an instrument of  
His love*



**M**y name is Lori. MorningStar Mission is a lifesaver for us right now. I don't even have the words to express my thanks. As I look back on my life, I know I've done a lot of good things . . . but I've also made some poor choices. One of those poor choices was to assume a man could make me happy. I thought if I could just find that one man . . . that one person who would fulfill all my needs life would be wonderful. Now, I know true happiness comes from a relationship with God.

**WHEN I PRAYED JESUS I NEED YOU . . .  
HE ANSWERED MY PRAYER**

But something else also got in the way of my

journey to a better life. While I was in a shelter in California, I ended up on drugs. I just thank God I belonged to Him. Even though I was not faithful to my heavenly Father I was still able to take

“ **I did not need a 12 step program. One step to my Savior and Lord was all I needed.**”

care my kids and I still worked. But every day I was doing damage to myself. During that time I was also in an abusive relationship. Every time I would try to remove myself from that relationship he would break into the house and scare us to death. That's to Jesus. As it turned out I did

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**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 E. Washington Street | Joliet, IL 60433 | 815.722.5780 | [morningstarmission.org](http://morningstarmission.org)



## AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM MARILYN . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar,

**W**hen guests come to the Mission our goal is to help them rise up and move on. However, many have no idea what rising up is all about. They have been down so long and they have lived without hope for so many years the idea of seeing life in a positive light has never occurred to them. But here's the good news: when our friends hear and accept the whole story of God's love for them — of One born in a manger, dying on the cross and rising from the dead — their hopes and dreams become limitless.

### A STORY 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

I just received a note from a man who was a guest at the Mission 25 years ago. He had been down and out, living without hope or a future. But his note was a word of thanks in which he said he is married, has a

“Thank you for helping us tell people we love them, regardless of their physical or spiritual condition . . .”

wonderful family and is enjoying success in life. I just have to say WOW to that story.

Thank you for helping us tell people we love them, regardless of their physical or spiritual condition — even if the gratitude comes 25 years later. And while many of our guests may come to us dirty with only rags on their backs, inside we see a person who needs Jesus. God bless you at this Easter season . . . and thank you in advance for continuing to support this vital ministry of rescue in Joliet.

Your servant,

*Marilyn Farmer*

Marilyn Farmer  
Executive Director

not need a 12 step program. One step to my Savior and Lord was all I needed.

I remember the time the devil sent a woman to my house to offer me drugs. I just closed my eyes and prayed, *Jesus, I need you . . .* and because of that answered prayer He made me strong. Now that I'm here at MorningStar Mission God continues to make me strong. Thank you for the nutritious food, the warm clothing, and the roof over our heads. Thank you for helping both me regroup and recover. You are a blessing to me and to my family and to every other family here at the Mission. Thank you for your kindness and compassion.



## MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO H

**T**he entire MorningStar staff joins me in thanking you for your support of this ministry of rescue. There's no question we live in challenging times. But as difficult as it may be for us, it's even more challenging for the men and women who are coming through our doors this Easter season. They are the homeless, ex-offenders, the addicted, abused and the lost. But because of your financial support and encouragement, many are choosing to make positive changes in their lives — a decision, they say, is turning their lives around. *Every day our Mission guests tell us they're finding New Hope and New Life because they are following Jesus.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HEART**

# DRINKING MADE ME A PROFESSIONAL LIAR . . . AND IN THE END THOSE LIES COST ME EVERYTHING



**M**y name is Chuck. I'm at MorningStar Mission because of my addiction to alcohol. I've been too friendly with the bottle for more than 15 years and I needed to sober up. As result of my drinking, life has been nothing short of a downhill spiral. No other program has ever worked for me. But I have every confidence the Mission is educating me on how to become healthy, both mentally and physically. I now understand what drinking does to the central nervous system. I'm finally starting to get it . . . and *I would say it's about time.*

## THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

Drinking is a terrible thing. I once had a successful business doing plumbing and heating. But there I was, sleeping and drinking in my truck when I should've been working. When people would see my bloodshot eye I'd blame it on plumbing glue. How's that for a lame excuse? Drinking made me a professional

liar. It made me burn all bridges to my family — and was the main reason for my divorce. I remember going into liquor stores asking myself *why am I doing this? Why don't I have the willpower to stop?* Well, now I'm beginning to

“When people would see my bloodshot eyes I'd blame it on plumbing glue.”

understand why. I needed God in my life, and I thank Him — and I thank you — for giving me one more opportunity to get my life together. Drinking offers only immediate pleasure, but ends up offering only depression and heartbreak. So, how will my life change in the days ahead? It will only change if I continue to hold strong to my faith in God. In closing, I want to be sure you know how grateful I am for the food, the shelter and everything else you help provide for me here at the Mission. I also want to wish you and your family a happy Easter.

## HELP THOSE WHO'VE LOST THEIR WAY

Even though you may be facing challenges of your own, you continue to touch the lives of those who are hungry, homeless and without a friend in the world. We who serve the homeless cannot thank you enough for your generosity. But the reward for a job well done is *that we are given an even bigger job to do.* With that in mind, we encourage you to give a generous Easter gift to help the needy today. To send your donation please use the remit slip enclosed, or you may make your donation online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you for your continued investment in the lives of those who come to the Mission during the Easter season and throughout the year.

“

Every day our Mission guests tell us they're finding New Hope and New Life because they are following Jesus.”



## BOX CITY OF HOPE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who participated in our Box City of Hope event held September 9th to September 10th at the Galowich Family YMCA. A very special thank you to our sponsors:

D'Arcy GMC, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gajcak, Excel Electric, Northern Illinois Steel Supply Company, Larry Walsh, Sr., Will County Executive, L. DeGeus & Associates, KeHE Food Distributors, Inc., Polley's Garage Inc., Shorewood Animal Hospital and DTW. We would like to express our gratitude to our in-kind sponsors Allegra Printing, City of Joliet, Explorers Joliet Police, Galowich Family YMCA, Hamburgerseria, Heroes West Sports Grill, Joliet Fire Department, Joliet Park District, PeopleFirst Bank, Pizza Hut, J. V. Murphy & Associates, Shrimp Barn, Will County Emergency Management, Savarino's Pizza and Mrs. Nikki Stepanek.

## WILL BUY LOCAL

We would like to thank the WILL Buy Local non-profit independent Business Alliance for selecting MorningStar Mission to be the recipient of the food items and school supplies from its online scavenger hunt. Over 1,400 pounds of food was collected.

The Alliance's mission is to build a healthy local economy which provides better work opportunities and raises awareness of the power of consumer purchasing decisions and the impact buying local has on the community.



## IN MEMORY OF

JOSEPH STERIOTI • Mr. & Mrs. Stephen G. Keller  
 GERRY KING • Julie Lotarski  
 CAROLE MATHISEN • Carl Mathisen  
 JIM THOMPSON • Mokena Women's Club  
 FRANCES & EILEEN MURPHY • Gerald Murphy

## IN HONOR OF

MARY THERESA WALSH • Noreen Vogt  
 ROBERT & RITA MORIN • Catherine Weltsch  
 ARNOLD MAKOVSKY • Annie Propst



## MY EASTER GIFT

RM\_46-XXXX\_H01JO

**YES, Marilyn,**  
 you can count on my  
 continued support  
 at this Easter season  
 and throughout  
 the year.

### 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 mail this completed form and return it with your generous Easter 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.