



MORNINGSTAR ★

CHRONICLE

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2017 | Vol 17 No 4

Good News About Changing Lives!



MANY TIMES MY ONLY DIET WAS GATORADE AND WATER... WHILE I JUST KEPT GETTING SICKER AND SICKER

Thank you for giving me a safe place to stay as I get my life back together

My name is Julie. It's no fun sleeping in a car, especially when you're sick and need to go to the hospital. But that's what happened to me. The worst part of being homeless is constantly trying to hide from the police. I felt like I needed to have eyes in the back of my head. A person becomes homeless for many reasons. For me, it was because I lost my job and I became desperate. Many times, my only diet was Gatorade and water... while I just kept getting sicker and sicker.

When you're homeless, people turn their backs on you. You really have no friends. Finally, I was so despairing I decided to come to MorningStar Mission, a place I had been to before. And now here I am once again, hoping the best for my life. It feels good to

“... it's my prayer, with God's help, I will one day be on my own again.”

have friends, and to be in a faith-based place. It's good to have God back in my life.

Every day, I'm aware of what your donations and generosity are doing for the people at the Mission. I appreciate you so much — especially the good food and shelter. Because I'm not all that well, I don't eat too much, but the food is good. My goal is to get back on my feet, get another car and have my own roof over my head.

Being homeless took so much away from me. Now, it's my prayer, with God's help, I will one day be on my own again. I know I want to better myself.

It's encouraging to know that you and all the Mission staff are my advocates and want me to do better. Having your support means so much to me. Thank you again for your kindness.



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 E. Washington Street | Joliet, IL 60433 | 815.722.5780 | morningstarmission.org

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM MARILYN . . .

Dear Friend of MorningStar,

It hurts more at Christmas. Many of our guests remember when they were children — when they had fond memories of the Christmas holidays — the tinsel on the tree in the living room, the aroma of a hearty Christmas dinner, and the abundance of presents on Christmas morning. Then, something happened. Suddenly, there were no more happy Christmas mornings, no more gifts. All joy had departed. Instead, domestic abuse took over the house . . . drinking and drugs replaced the gifts . . . and before everyone knew it, dad had left mom with the children, the rent went unpaid, and “home” for mom and the kids was now an abandoned automobile.

I remember one little boy telling me, “We couldn’t have a tree this year because it wouldn’t fit in the back seat of our car where we sleep.”

One Mission guest, tears streaming down his weathered face, was overwhelmed when we gave him

some homemade cookies. He said, “I haven’t had a homemade cookie in years . . . I almost forgot what they tasted like.” Just a cookie . . . but loaded with memories of times past — good times.

That’s why we make the Mission like a family more than ever during the holidays. We sing, play games, give toys to the children and serve sumptuous Christmas meals. And we are able to do all this and more because of your generous support — not only during the holidays but throughout the year.

As you enjoy your own Christmas holidays, it’s my prayer you will continue to reach out to so many who need food, clothing and shelter — gifts wrapped in the love of Jesus. God bless you for reaching out to the needy in our community and for being one who cares.



Your servant,

Marilyn Farmer

Marilyn Farmer
Executive Director

THANK YOU FOR BEING A HOPE PROVIDER

We care deeply about our Mission guests . . . and one of the most encouraging things we say is *where there’s life there is hope . . .* and, conversely, *where there’s hope there’s life.* For most who come to the Mission, “hope” has not been an active word in their vocabularies. It’s certainly not a word heard on the streets. But when our friends begin to realize they are loved, and when they start to see a flicker of hope — even the faintest beam of light on their darkened lives — things begin to change. That’s when a spiritual transformation begins to take place — a change only possible when the light of Jesus Christ comes into once despairing hearts.

Thank you for being a beacon of hope for people like Omar, Julie, and others who’ve asked Jesus to change them from the inside out. God bless you for standing with us — and for reaching out to so many — during this special holiday season.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MEET THE NEED

It’s always a challenge to run a race when you start off by standing at the bottom of a tall mountain or with your feet in a hole. Yet that’s what it’s like for many of our friends and neighbors who come to MorningStar Mission. For many, life did not start out well at all: there was domestic abuse, drug addiction, extreme poverty, lack of education, or the unfortunate choice of simply *leaving God out of the picture.*

Over the years hundreds of our guests have heard “You are no good,” or “You never will amount to anything.” Cutting, damaging words indeed — words that often rob our friends of their self-esteem for their entire lives.



FROM BEING HOMELESS AND AN ABUSER OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL... TO FINDING TRUE FREEDOM IN JESUS

My name is Omar. I grew up in a Muslim family and the message of the Koran was my life. I'm now 49, and I didn't open the Bible until I was 48 years old. The more I read and reread the Bible, the more I knew it was true — *that Christianity was true*. This all took place while I was still hooked on drugs, alcohol, and an angry spirit. I was also homeless and downtrodden. If anyone knew how to abuse drugs and alcohol, I was the man. So many times I prayed to have

“**My life is being transformed. I cannot wait to start giving back to those who've given so much to me.**”

these addictions taken away from me, but my prayers always went unanswered. Now, I'm praying to Jesus and I'm getting a life worth living — a life of sobriety and peace.

GOD IS TRANSFORMING MY LIFE

As a Christian, I'm also beginning to know what it means to care about others — just like you care about me. My life is being transformed. I cannot wait to start giving back to those who've given so much to me. Even though I don't know you, I can say *I love you* and appreciate you for helping to save my life.

It's amazing that even though I grew up in Joliet, just a few blocks from the Mission, I didn't even know this place existed. But I guess it's true: when the student is ready, the teacher always appears. I'm glad that today my teachers are Jesus Christ and the counselors here at the Mission. I now believe God has great plans for my life. Thank you for being there for me . . . and I hope you and your family enjoy a wonderful holiday season.



SO MANY OF US ARE IN NEED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Then, by the grace and mercy of God, these folks come to the doors of MorningStar Mission. Finally, those with the most severe life challenges have an opportunity to change course and accept the promise that Jesus will be with them today and forever. And this reminder: *everything we do to help homeless neighbors is made possible through your prayers and generous support.*

To keep providing hope for so many in need, please use the enclosed remit slip and return it with your donation today. You may also give your gift by visiting us at www.morningstarmission.org. Thank you for your investment in the lives of those who come to us during the holiday season *and every day of the year.*

“**Thank you for your generous support.**”

MISSION: POSSIBLE 5K RUN/WALK

We would like to thank all the sponsors that supported our second annual MorningStar Mission: Possible 5K Run/Walk.



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Thank you, Little Caesars Pizza, for coming with your mobile kitchen to prepare lunch for our guests at the Mission.



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MY HOLIDAY GIFT



RM_47-KNLG_H01JO

YES, Marilyn,

I'm happy to help provide food and care to those who come to the Mission during the holidays.

Here's my gift 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

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MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.
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