

# MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHANGING LIVES

Summer 2018

**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 E. Washington St.  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jump on the Bus Program

Help us get kids in  
need ready for school!

- **June 25** – Choose a “bus” and purchase school supplies and clothing for a registered child
- **August 14** – Help us distribute Jump on the Bus items to families. Contact Lisa Wainright 815-722-5780 x228 to volunteer.

## INSIDE ...

A Message  
from Sandi ..... Pg. 2

Building Faith  
at Camp ..... Pg. 2

A Place to Grow  
Spiritually ..... Pg. 3

But Jesus called them  
to Him and said, “Let  
the little children come  
to Me, for of such is  
the kingdom of God.”  
Luke 18:16 NKJV

## THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD WITH MY FAMILY

**M**y name is Cynthia and I'm here at MorningStar's Women and Family Center with my children. It means a lot to us to have a safe place where we can all be together.

most was keeping my children together with me. The first night we came to MorningStar we all had a bed and a shower. It felt good. We were all safe and comfortable and I really appreciated that.



I grew up in this area and I had my first child before I was able to graduate from high school. Later I got married and I was with my husband for ten years. During that time we had two incomes and we got by.

Last year I got divorced and I was injured at my job. When I lost my income we were unable to stay where we were living. For a month, we stayed in a motel, but we needed a place to go.

I have a big family and what mattered

### A memorable camp experience

I'm thankful for everything we've received here. The caseworkers are helpful and the fellowship with other families is encouraging. We share the ways God has been faithful to us in our lives.

My number one goal is getting back to being independent—getting a job that I can support my family with. I'd like to

Article continued on page 4

## THE POWER OF CAMP

**D**o you remember what it was like to go to camp when you were a child? The thrill of being away from home in a beautiful place. The powerful experience of hearing God's word shared in a way that made sense and mattered for your life. This year we're offering that experience during winter and summer camp for the children who are living at our Women and Family Center.

---

*"It felt good when the pastor was telling us about the Word of the Lord."*

---

Thirteen-year-old Mariah was one of eight students who attended winter camp. "It was fun. We had church and then there was a big slide, laser tag and wall climbing," says Mariah who said the counselors and the church services made her feel comfortable. "It felt good when the pastor was telling us about the Word of the Lord."

This was Mariah's first experience at camp. Many of the children in our center have never had the opportunity to experience nature this way, to be nurtured by a caring counselor or sing worship songs with hundreds of other children their age.

Your support will help us send kids in grades 2 through 8 to camp this summer as well. And Mariah has a special message for you, "I want to tell them thank you for all the experiences." ☆

Mariah (far left) and other MorningStar campers.



## AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM SANDI



Our MorningStar Staff is a family that helps strengthen other families. It's not just the legacy of caring that has been passed down from my parents, but the experience of unity we feel as brothers and sisters in Christ. And that comes through to our guests as well. In our mission life we model how a family lives together, works together, worships together, and re-builds our lives together.

As Mother's Day approaches, followed by Father's Day, we're deeply aware of the way poverty, homelessness, and addiction can fracture family relationships. The men who come through our program with broken family ties often find healing that leads to reconciliation. When families like Cynthia's come to stay with us, so much of their life feels chaotic. We help them find a way to support themselves and work to restore harmony in the family. We want them to leave intact, and stronger.

As a child I remember the life changing experiences of faith I had at camp. Those camp experiences really shaped who I am today. That's why I'm so excited that your support is allowing us to send the children living at our Women and Family Center to camp this summer.

Stepping into the role of Executive Director, I'm humbled by the awesome responsibility of taking your gifts and ensuring they are spent to bring healing and hope to those who come to us for help. It means a great deal to be following in Marilyn's legacy in partnership with you. We believe God is doing a profound work here at MorningStar Mission, and we are so grateful for your generosity that helps make that possible.

With gratitude,

Sandi Perzee  
Executive Director

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO FILL EASTER MEAL BOXES FOR FAMILIES!

This year your support helped us provide Easter Meal Boxes for 200 families in need in our community! Your gifts of food and funds helped us ensure each family who registered received a box with a ham or turkey and all the fixings for a special Easter meal. All the children in the family received an Easter basket with gifts and candy.

We're also thankful to all our volunteers who helped us put together the baskets and food boxes or came out for distribution day. A special treat for the children was getting candy from our Easter bunny!

Helping low-income men and women provide meaningful celebrations for their families is one way your support helps us strengthen families. What a gift for families to be able to celebrate Easter with a special meal without having to worry about providing enough to eat for the rest of the month. Your kindness is a tangible way we show the love of Christ to our neighbors. Thank you for bringing families joy this Easter!



## YOU PROVIDED ME A PLACE TO GROW SPIRITUALLY AND GET BACK ON MY FEET

**I**'m Rich. I was born in Joliet, and my mother and stepfather raised me here in a loving household with two brothers.

Over the years I had a hard time finding good work. I've struggled with depression and I have some medical issues that have made it hard for me to do a lot of jobs. After I lost my mother, stepfather, grandmother, and my aunt, I left Joliet.

I went to Las Vegas hoping to connect with my father, but he had a stroke. I ended up in California before coming back to Joliet. Finding work so I can support myself has been hard, and I was really headed downhill. I was living in the shelter and my mind was showing me things that scared me. That's when I came to the 180 Program to get help.

### I want to be a mentor

I've really appreciated the friendship and family lifestyle. The counseling I received has helped me clear my head. Since I came to MorningStar I've been saved and baptized. The things that have happened to me since I got into the program have made me want to understand God more. I'm looking to get work in security or customer service. I also want to be a mentor to other people with depression.

I want to thank the people who support MorningStar Mission for all their help. There are a lot of people who need this, and if I can, I will tell them, "I can take you somewhere that can help you get back on your feet, help with your spiritual walk and provide warm meals and a bed." That's what you've done for me here, and I appreciate it. ☆

*"I've really appreciated the friendship and family lifestyle."*



go to school for training as a Certified Nursing Assistant. I want to be able to pay my rent and my bills and do well by my children.

I'm thankful for what my children receive as well. The older ones go to the teen bible study and two of my children got to go to winter camp. They haven't stopped talking about their camp adventures!

To the people who support MorningStar Mission, I want to say thank you for giving us a feeling of hope during a hard time. It means a lot that you've given, your time and money to help someone else that you don't even know. Seeing you share the love of God this way inspires me to help others. ☆

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

We're grateful to the Joliet Township for the \$80,000 grant they awarded us to provide shelter and supplies for homeless women.

We also want to thank Dog House Pub, John Albrecht, and Mary Gajcak for organizing our first meatloaf cookoff! During the January event 13 meatloaf entries were presented for judging and earned cash prizes. The event raised more than \$750 for the Mission. ☆

## YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP BRING FOOD, SHELTER, AND JOY THIS SUMMER

While many families in our community have activities, play dates, and summer vacations, the families we serve are acutely aware of the needs that have brought them to live at the mission. We work hard to provide the families living here opportunities for learning, spiritual growth, and fun!

With children out of school, there are many more needs to meet. During the year, school children receive free breakfast and lunch. In the summer we provide all those meals at the mission. We're also working to offer more outings for the children living here along with activities that enrich their lives.

This is the first year we're sending children to winter and summer camp. With your support, our 2nd to 8th grade children will attend a week of camp this summer. Camp is such a formative experience in a child's spiritual and social life and we're excited to see what God will do in the lives of these children through this experience.

Your support today will be instrumental in making this a summer of hope for the men, women, and families who turn to the Morningstar Mission for help. Whether it's daily nutritious meals, a safe, comfortable place to sleep, support for getting a job, counseling and spiritual nurture, or a week away at camp—all of it relies on your generosity. Please take a moment to give online or return the enclosed reply slip. Thank you for caring!

## MY SUMMER GIFT

**YES Sandi,** please use my gift to help make this a life-changing summer for the children, families, and adults at Morningstar Mission.

### 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 much care as possible

Please bill my credit card:  VISA  MC  DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous 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.



**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 E. Washington St.  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150



May 2018

Dear Friend,

In the past few months we have been overwhelmed with the number of gifts in honor and in memory of loved ones, and they simply wouldn't fit in our newsletter. You'll find the full list of them on the back of this letter.

Your tribute gifts are such a beautiful way to honor your loved ones because your gifts bring hope and life-changing help to our neighbors in need. It means a great deal that many of you have remembered Marilyn in your tributes these past few months.

If you'd like to honor a graduate, celebrate an occasion, or remember a loved one, you can always designate your donation as a tribute gift in their honor. To do so, please use the line on the reply coupon below or give through the website at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). We regularly print those gifts with our quarterly newsletter.

We are so thankful to all of you—your generosity helps carry on a legacy of love by providing shelter, meals, clothing, and help to homeless and hurting men, women, and children who come through our doors. I hope you'll enjoy reading the stories in this issue that are reflections of gratitude from those we serve. Thank you for your gifts, prayers, and kindness.

Gratefully,

Sandi Perzee  
Executive Director

# TRIBUTE GIFTS

We thank everyone who has given so generously in honor and in memory of loved ones. Your tribute will help homeless women, men, and families to get back on their feet.

## IN MEMORY OF

Rose Abulencia – Eleanor Fernandez  
John F. Ameling – Stephen Ameling  
Jerry Baggett – Regina Litral  
Rodney Baierl – Teresa Baierl  
Louis & Helen Bakos – Stan & Carol Allen  
Linda Baltz – Jamie Herzberger  
Mike Bank – Karen Bigadza  
Thomas Lou Biggam – Penny Cross  
Frances Bobich – Robert Bobich  
John Bosley – Elveria Walton  
Franklin Bradach – Georgia Bradach  
Estell Brewer – Alene Smith  
Carol Brown – Rammie Spivey  
Laura Beth Buchanan – Steve & Debra Buchanan  
Zachary Church – Cathy Church  
David Clawson – Linda Clawson  
Mary Dausvardis – Stephen & Anna Marie Keller  
Jerry Delaney – John & Karen Balitewicz  
Mary B. DeSchamps – Barbara Seyfarth  
Joyce Dittrick – Lonnie Dittrick  
Joseph Dockendorff – Carrie Dockendorff  
Frances Dorris – Shirley Rockholt  
Jason Douglas – Gail Douglas  
Bertha Dover – Chrystal Gonzalez  
Dorothy Ehrhart – Clifford Feipel  
May Erwin – Donna Morrow  
Kermit & Martha Estes – Vicky Valadez  
Tim Geaoge – Bernd Melster  
Gabriel George – Timothy George  
Charles Eric Winter & Glen Oren Winter – Judith McNulty  
Karen Golden – Amy Culley  
Hershel Griffith – Janice McCrary  
John Hand – Debra Rice  
James Harper, Jr. – John Fair  
Evelyn Harrison – Aretta Sajna  
Ron Heilbrunn – Susan Heilbrunn  
Pappy Helsey – Russell G. Looney III  
Gayle Herter – Larry & Andrea Sheppard  
Erma Holloway – Tressel Holloway  
Michael J. Holba – Susan Holba  
Harold Holz – Judith Holz  
Charles & Dolores Hrabal – Cheryl Boyd  
John Johanson – Wendy Kazen  
John Kester – Kristopher Mecca  
Adam & Donia Kowalczyk – Mr. & Mrs. Casimir Kowalczyk  
Nancy Lietz – James Rendeo  
Bay Locklear – Brenda Griffin  
Candace Loechl – George Loechl  
Rollie Lycan – Mary Lycan  
Robert Madsen – Roberta Neumann  
Mary Malek – Ralph Malek  
Jack Maloney – Carol Maloney  
Charlotte Markusic – Cheryl Markusic  
Frank & Lottie Matz – Bob & Gloria Chance  
Dr. Eugene May – Sharon May  
Eileen McDermott Hawke – Mark McDermott  
Linda Melnyczuk – Ruby Lee  
Dolores Miklavcic – Robert Somrak  
Eddie Miller – William D. Miller  
Robert & Pearl Naumann – Mr. & Mrs. Casimir Kowalczyk  
Tim, Mom & Dad O'Neill – Sheryl Bradenbaugh  
Denise Patrick – Theodore & Katherine Deimer  
Denise Patrick – Chad & Emily Dotzenrod  
Denise Patrick – James & Ann Haywood  
Denise Patrick – Penelope Ives  
Denise Patrick – Marilyn Stewart  
Mary Lou Penninger – Charles Dvorak  
Sterling Perrine – Dean Daugharthy  
Andy Popernick – Ron Horne  
Michael R. Reed – Diana Hodge  
Mary Ann Regan – Gregory Pawlowski  
Carl W. Richter – Frances Meinke  
Crystal Robles – Felix Robles  
Karen Lee Rohde – Ellen Rohde  
Elmer Dole, Earl & Dorothy Rowan – Greg & Deb Dole  
Ora Sanders – Sandra Pierce  
Tony Scapillato – Candace Campbell  
Harold Scheidt – Jean Holling  
Carol Schneider – Katherine Colson  
Marvelene Sebranek – Dennis Sebranek  
Margaret Shell – Betty Shell Richter

Robert Sinon – Joy Sinon  
Morris H. Smith – Joseph Credle  
Bud Smolich – Mr. & Mrs. Ron Bolte, Sr.  
Alicia Soss – Anna Pavisich  
Jay & Dorothy Staley – Juliann Budde  
Diane Stevens – Christian Stevens  
William Stokes, Jr. – Pamela Ohl  
Isabel Tafoya – Elizabeth Moore  
George Tarulis – K Sullivan  
Sandra Thomas – Regina Arrington  
Jeremy Thompson – Debra Thompson  
Vivian Tirtadharsana – Katharina Atmadja  
Carol Toelke – Tracy Bruno  
Ventura Velez – Carmen Velez  
Dana Vickers – Greg Vickers  
Scott Villars – James Vaughan, Jr.  
Chuck Welch – Kristen Snyder  
Keegan Whaling – Deanna Hollingsworth  
John & Kathleen Woody – Jeff Woody  
Derek Young – Vicki Young  
Ted & Olga Yovan – Nancy Yovan  
Aunt Helen & Patty Lynn – Ken & Barbara Jo Ferry  
Bobby – Robert E. Roth, Sr.  
Evelyn – Katharina Pelkey  
Gene, Millie, Iggy & Angie – Audrey Montalto  
Matthew – Peggy Jo Hayes  
Maxwell Family Members – Kathleen Falaney  
My Father – Margarita Figueroa  
Nono & Nona – Helen Boehlefeld  
Wrigley & Minee – Barbara Fischer

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO GAVE IN MEMORY OF MARILYN FARMER:

William Armstrong  
Tawny Bell  
Anatasia Carter  
Bob & Ann Christler  
Frederick & Janice Coleman  
Barbara Jo Ferry  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ferry  
Peter & Molly Giancoma  
Erin Himes  
Jeanne Jacobs  
Johansen & Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Johnson  
David June

Pat & Jackie Kinney  
Dwayne Kuipers  
L. DeGeus & Associates  
The Lukens Company  
Dr. Kathleen Lynch  
Miriam Merrell  
Floy Pelletier  
Josh & Angie Perzee  
Larry & Gwen Rinkenberger  
John & Barbara Roach  
Rockford Rescue Mission  
Thomas & Janet Schatz  
Mark Turk  
Wermer, Rogers, Doran, & Ruzon LLC  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wilson

## IN HONOR OF

Jack & Cheryl Adams – Kimberly Koran  
Michelle & Justin Andes – Barbara Silvey  
Ed Bagdon – Paula Fitzmaurice  
Chuck Beck – Cherie Dirker  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Bertino – Patrick & Jan Conway  
Jim Culp – Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sheridan  
Jack DeMatteo – Thomas DeMatteo  
Alice Gabriel – Wendy McCullah  
Paul Heyden – Brittany Paloma  
Nello Isabelli – David Isabelli  
Tony Karlovich – Dean Karlovich  
Herald Longton – Terri Schrishuhn  
Elangovan Palanisamy – Visha Elangovan  
Joan Payton Ducksworth – Price & Associates  
Jack Reynolds – Fran Pulford  
Trent Robinson – Sue Robinson  
Trudy & Marshall Sanders – Robert & Sandra Ligocki  
Kay Seale – James Yearly  
Eric Stepien – Bruce Leon  
Courtney Woodrow – Marilyn Platter  
Bernard Yore – John Yore  
Fred C. Dames Funeral Home – Joseph Newton  
My children – Johnnie James  
Pauly – Denise Waters  
The Nowlin Family – Martha Jorden  
To all those that have served our country – Bob & Gloria Chance