

2018 **IMPACT
REPORT**

Your compassion at
work, transforming
hearts and lives.

Prepared for:

**Our Valuable
Donors**

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Ministering
to the Whole
Person

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Families Have
Hope, Thanks
to You

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God Is
Strong in Me

“... the old is gone, the new is here!”

This portion of scripture from 2 Corinthians reflects what I see every day at MorningStar Mission. Men, women and even children who were once in the very depths of despair are made new. Their brokenness, pain and heartache are stripped away ... replaced with the peace, joy and hope that God offers.

God is using this place to work miracles in the hearts and lives of suffering neighbors. And He is working through you to do it. I hope you see that as you read through these pages, take in the stories and reflect on the impact you made in 2018.

Of course, the figures shared in this report are more than just numbers. They represent very real people – neighbors who came to us hungry, homeless, addicted, hurting or alone. These are the lives you’ve touched through your compassion and generosity. For many of them, *the old is gone, the new is here.*

On their behalf, I thank you for faithfully answering God’s call and standing with us this past year. Now that 2018 is “gone,” I pray you will renew your support in the new year so others might find new hope and a new life. ★



In His service,

Sandi Perzee
Executive Director
MorningStar Mission
815-722-5780

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward them for what they have done.”

— Proverbs 19:17

YOUR COMPASSION MINISTERS TO THE WHOLE PERSON

Real recovery begins in the heart. That’s why our 180 Men’s Residential Recovery Program focuses on three life-changing “pillars,” which you help make possible.

PILLAR

1 Spiritual Development

Men discover the importance of having a relationship with God, how to receive forgiveness and forgive others, and steps for mending relationships with loved ones.

PILLAR

2 Clinical Counseling

Christian counseling with a licensed social worker helps men in the program discover the real root or “heart problem” of their addiction and allows them to see that Christ is the way out.

PILLAR

3 Work Ethic

Men in the program are assigned a variety of jobs that involve serving others. This not only builds self-esteem but also helps develop a strong work ethic as they prepare to re-enter the workforce.



Homeless Families Have Hope, Thanks to You

I Know Life Will Get Better

by Janet

I never thought I'd be fleeing an abusive marriage. But when things got bad, I knew I had to take my kids and run — for all of our safety. If not for my sake, but for theirs. We fled our home state and came to Illinois to stay with my sister. Unfortunately, she moved soon after, and we had nowhere else to go.

Thankfully, we never had to be on the streets. That's because MorningStar Mission took us in right away. The staff here really listened without judging me. I could tell from the first day that they had our backs. They provided us with shelter, food — everything we needed. And they've been amazing with my kids during this difficult time in our lives.

Currently, the good folks at the Mission are helping me find employment, so

we can get back on our feet. And every morning, we have a class where we talk about God. It really helps me get through the day knowing God is there.

I still have moments when I feel like I'm doing it all wrong because we're in a shelter. But being here and having a roof over our heads ... we're OK. And because of the Mission and people like you who support this place, I know life will get better. Thank you so much! ★



Through your support of our Women and Family Center, you are showing the love of Jesus to women and families experiencing homelessness. Your generous gifts help to provide:

- Safe Shelter
- Nutritious Food
- Clothes and Shoes
- Case Management
- Education Classes
- Support Groups
- Celebrate Recovery
- Mentoring and more ...

All in a safe environment aimed at restoring dignity and promoting healing. ★



Stephanie, here with our Songbirds, is so grateful that you help bring joy to homeless children.

Your Support Helps Homeless Children Too

MorningStar Songbirds Are Singing a New Song

Little Erica was struggling to come to terms with life at MorningStar Mission. She and her family were staying at our Women and Family Center, and she was having a difficult time adjusting. But then, we discovered her love for music.

“When you asked her to sing, her face lit up,” says Stephanie Putman, director of the center. “She loved singing, and it gave her purpose.”

That got Stephanie thinking about starting a singing group to help children like Erica cope with this transitional time in their lives. And that's exactly what she did. Named the MorningStar Songbirds (which the kids came up with themselves), the group of youngsters began meeting under

Stephanie's supervision to sing some of their favorite songs.

“When our executive director heard the kids singing, she asked if they would like to sing at our big gala event,” Stephanie says. “The kids were so excited and started really practicing. They couldn't wait for their first ‘gig,’ and everyone at the gala cheered them on enthusiastically. The kids felt like rock stars.” ★

YOUR IMPACT

Compassion in Action

Men's Program:

221 Bible Studies
299 Life Skills/Educational Classes
690 Counseling Sessions

Nights of Shelter:

4,406 Hope House
5,835 Emergency Shelter
13,017 Women and Family Center
1,095 Transitional Housing
1,536 Vets

Community Outreach Programs:

163,591 Hot Meals
291 Back to School "Jump on the Bus Program"
746 Children's Easter Baskets
793 Food Baskets for Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter
12,000 Christmas Gifts
1,428 Friday Food Pantry

New Day Drop-In Center:

8,372 Warming Center and Computer Lab Visitors
155 Job Referral
31 Housing Referral

You were an answer to prayer this year!

The services listed above were recorded in 2017.



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

— Matthew 25:40

GOD IS STRONG IN ME

by William

Not that long ago, life seemed pretty good. I was college educated, I had a good job working at a school, and I was happily married with a young son. Then, my wife and I began having marriage problems — mostly my fault — which led to divorce. That's when life began to unravel.

On the heels of the divorce, I lost my job and was soon living out of my car. For a while, I saw my son every day and was able to hide the fact that I was homeless. But then, my car got repossessed, and I was truly homeless. I tried a few different jobs but nothing would stick. At that point, depression and anxiety set in, and I felt completely lost.

MorningStar Mission has been a Godsend. I didn't realize it, but I'd been looking for God. And it's here that He touched my life



— changed it completely. Yes, I've received meals, clothes, shelter and counseling. But the biggest impact is how they're helping me grow in my relationship with God. God is strong in me!

During my time here, I've decided what I really want to do is help people. So, I'm now applying for a scholarship to study to become an RN. Thank you for being a shining light by supporting the Mission. There'd be a black hole if this place wasn't here. ★

Please renew your support in 2019 to help more people like William!

You've had an amazing impact in the lives of men, women and children in 2018. So many people who turned to MorningStar Mission in recent months have new hope and a new lease on life because you care. Of course, the Bible says we will always have neighbors in need. That's why I hope you will start off this new year by renewing your support today.

Please take a moment to return the enclosed Memorandum of Reply with your most generous gift. Or put your support to work right away by giving now at MorningStarMission.org. Thank you! ★

“The poor you will always have with you ...”

— *Matthew 26:11*

The logo for MorningStar Mission Ministries features a five-pointed star above the word "MORNINGSTAR" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below "MORNINGSTAR" is the word "MISSION" in a smaller font, and below that is "MINISTRIES" in the same bold font as "MORNINGSTAR".