

MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

SPRING 2019

Facing My Demons

You helped Bill change from the inside out.

“Alcohol ruined everything in my life,” Bill says, thinking back on the events that led him to MorningStar Mission. His battle with drinking had begun years earlier when people very close to him died suddenly, and he turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism. But in the months that followed, drinking gradually took over his life.

“I lost the house, I lost my cars, I lost jobs ... all because of drinking,” Bill says. “I would go on isolation binges where I would get a hotel room, and I would drink for weeks straight.”

Bill was referred to the Mission and joined our 180 Men’s Residential Recovery Program. “I quickly realized that the problem for me was not drinking,” he says. “That was just my solution. The real problem was me.”

Through addiction recovery classes, counseling and mentorship, Bill began facing the demons he hadn’t dealt with years before. And he rekindled his relationship with God.

He began doing daily devotional readings and



“Let God lead the way. That’s what it all comes down to for me.” — Bill

reflecting on scripture, things he’d never really done before. Slowly but surely, he was changing from the inside out.

Since graduating from the program, Bill has a whole new outlook on life. He recently got a job in sales, which he loves. And he enjoys going to church every Sunday.

“The program saved my life and really just changed it completely. I’m so happy.”

Thank you for making stories like Bill’s possible ... and for your continued support this Easter season!

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A Note From Sandi

I love the Easter season. Partly because it's a celebration of the most meaningful sacrifice ever made, Jesus laying down his life so we might have new, abundant life. But also because I see the fruit of that sacrifice every day here at MorningStar Mission.

Some men and women come here hoping beyond all hope that maybe they still have a chance to climb out of the muck and mire their lives have become. Others believe they're too far gone — that they've made too big a mess of their lives to deserve grace. But grace is here for every one of them ... in the strength of the cross ... in the warmth of our staff ... in the compassion of friends like you who know God wants every one of His children to have life abundantly.

What a joy it is to see these lives transformed, as the old falls away and is replaced by self-worth, confidence, dignity and a zest for life.

Indeed, lives are being made new here at the Mission. And friends like you make it all possible. Thank you for opening your heart for the sake of others. And Happy Easter!

In His service,

Sandi Perzee
Executive Director



Lester

You Help Lester Make Ends Meet

Lester is a proud father of three grown children and one grandchild. Like so many seniors in our community, he gets by on a very modest Social Security income, which is no easy feat with today's high cost of living. Though Lester is used to stretching every dollar as far as possible to meet life's basic necessities, he still needs a little help sometimes. That's why he's so grateful for the meals he receives at MorningStar Mission.

"They do a really good job here," Lester says. "Three meals a day — breakfast, lunch and dinner. And they usually have somebody here every morning to pray with us. They do a really good job."

Every day, our kitchen staff and volunteers serve between 90 and 200 nutritious meals to our neighbors in need — people like Lester. And your generosity helps make that happen.

This Easter, we're planning a special dinner for men, women and children who have nowhere else to celebrate the holiday. Please continue your support today!

An Extra Easter Blessing

Because of the generosity of friends like you, hundreds of local children will soon receive festive Easter baskets filled with treats. It's one small way to bless girls and boys whose families are struggling through a difficult time in life — and to ensure they're not left out of the fun.

Last year, we gave away 400 Easter baskets, and we're expecting that number to climb even higher this year. Thank you for blessing children in this special way!



Volunteering Is Good for the Soul

Gayle had driven by MorningStar Mission many times. But last January, as she cruised along, something in her heart was stirred, and she wondered if she might be able to help as a volunteer. One year later, Gayle is still a committed weekly volunteer and a blessing to those we serve.

In her volunteer role, Gayle performs a variety of duties from filing and data entry to preparing donated goods for our Treasure Chest thrift stores. And with each task she completes, she helps touch the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.

“This place is so much more than a homeless shelter.”

“The Mission is a real help to the community,” Gayle says. “Since we’re in an area that’s low-income, people can come here for the things they really need — like food from the pantry, clothing or backpacks and school supplies for when school starts.”



Gayle Cheney

Gayle says her time at the Mission has been good for the soul. It’s given her new perspective and helped her see that sometimes people who need help land in bad situations through no fault of their own. “Some people are trying to go to school to better themselves,” she says. “Others are just trying to get by.”

For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact our volunteer coordinator at 815-722-5780 or volunteercoordinator@morningstarmission.org.

Mike Altobelli – *Andrea Schlageter*
 Julio Arboleda – *Delores Arboleda*
 Jerry Baggett – *Regina Litteral*
 Larry Bebej – *Ed & Melissa Kuzia*
 Doug Bierma, Sr. – *Doug & Christine Bierma*
 Laura Buchanan – *Debra Buchanan*
 David Cobb – *Liam Mungovan*
 Laurie Coco – *Deanna Hacker*
 Carrie & Dan Demski – *Bill & Shirley Harris*
 James Downing – *Janet Downing*
 Marilyn Farmer – *Richard Schenk*
 Henry Fischer – *Cecelia Fischer*
 Mary Hastings – *Douglas Hastings*
 Elaine Hill – *Kathleen Jones*

William Hromada – *Barbara Gros*
 Wilburn, Mabel & Sherry Huckaba – *Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner*
 Earl Jeffries – *Karen Ward*
 Philip Kemper – *Deborah Kemper*
 Leonard Kiernan – *Jane Kiernan*
 Jerry King – *Julie Lotarski*
 Eugene Klainsek – *Georgette Vota*
 Jimmy Kupchek – *Amanda Kupchek*
 Kyle Leeney – *Sandy Kramerich*
 Thomas Lockie – *William Lockie*
 Glen Marcum – *Bob Wunderlich*
 Carole Mathison – *Carl Mathison*
 James McNulty – *Judith McNulty*
 Duane & Mary Ann Osterman – *Jeff & Brenda Dixon*

James Perez – *Bill & Sandee Perez*
 Nancy Potempa – *Amy Potempa*
 Lenora Regan – *Lou Hagemaster*
 Howard Scheidt – *Jean Holling*
 Ruby Jeanna Sims Dawson – *Rene-Ramona Dawson*
 Margaret Louise Smith – *Thomas Smith*
 Kathy Snyder – *Snyder Family*
 Michael Sterr – *Julie Sterr*
 Albert Stogsdill, Sr. – *Albert Stogsdill*
 David Swayze – *William Ainsworth*
 Richard Tantillo – *Lisa Wrobel*
 Ted Thomas – *Theresa Kosakowski*
 James Uremovic – *Jeannie Uremovic*
 Nono Villalba – *Helen Boehlefeld*

Gloria Walsh – *Eileen Rico*
 Homer Warren – *Debbie Fletcher-Broucek*
 Homer Warren – *Pamela McDermott*
 Homer Warren – *Cathy DeCamp*
 Marilyn Williams – *Carson Cook*
 Michael Wolyn – *Bryan Wolyn*
 Britney Zeinert – *Cynthia Zeinert*
 Dad – *Frank Andrejasich*
 My Pops – *Julie Bieszczak*
 My Father – *James Derganz*
 Biji, Benchan & My Mom George – *Alex George*
 Iggy & Montalto and Gene & Mille Majka – *Audrey Montalto*
 The Murin Family – *Carol Murin*

Josh & Natalie Caruso – *Marilyn Platter*
 Paula Conroy – *Gail & Mark Stevens*
 Joan Payton Ducksworth – *Doug Price*
 Tom Foreman – *David Foreman*
 Carl Gramza – *Jerry Haseman*
 Grandson John – *Gail Stevens*
 Barbara Jones – *Jennifer Jones*

Steve Kessler – *Samantha Kessler*
 Ron Madro – *Valentina Knapp*
 William Mangan – *Shawn Mangan*
 Eileen McDermott – *Mark McDermott*
 Eliyahu Moscowitz – *Patricia McCann*
 Jim Piechowiak – *Ruby L. Lee*
 Donald Pierce – *Joan Ruether*

Jim Stadler – *Paul Thompson*
 Kay Stocks – *Jacqueline Stocks-Rust*
 “Granny” Doris Stubbs – *Sunni McNeal*
 John D. Verta, Sgt. CPD – *Peter & Rosemary Waitkus*
 Courtney Woodrow – *Marilyn Platter*
 Paul & Linda Zoller – *Lauren Zoller*

Anyone Who Needs a Hand – *Daniel Mancillas*
 7th & 8th grade RE teacher at St. Raymond – *Rosemary McCune*
 Karen’s Skating Students & Families – *Karen Perry*
 Veterans in Need of Support – *Scott Potter*

YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION



163,591
Meals Served



5,835
Emergency Beds Provided



400
Easter Baskets for Children



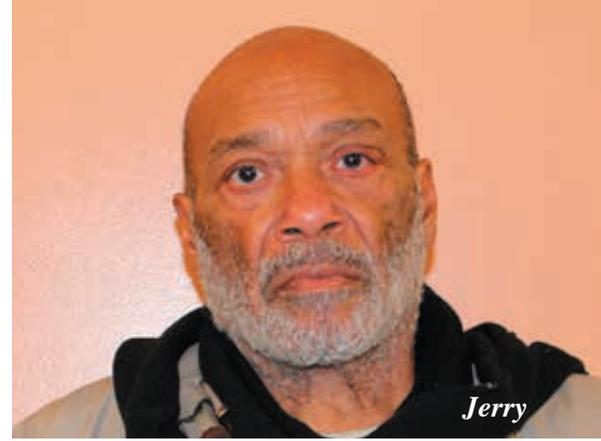
1,421
Individuals in Recovery Programs



793
Food Baskets Provided

Because it takes just \$2.17 to provide a hot meal and other care for a neighbor in need, imagine the impact you can make in 2019. Please continue your support today!

Continue Your Support to Help People Like Jerry



Jerry

Jerry lives on disability, and getting by has been pretty tough. He's dealing with several health problems and is surviving the best he can, but he's been homeless for a while now.

Jerry says the meals he receives at MorningStar Mission are a real blessing. "I come here every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner," he says. "I don't know what I'd do without it."

Thank you for helping people like Jerry!

Can We Count On You This Easter?

Just \$2.17 — that's all it takes here at the Mission to provide a hot meal and hope to people like Jerry. Last year, we helped 200 families with food baskets. Imagine how many lives you can impact this Easter season ... and the incredible impact you can make.

The best part is that a meal served with love at the Mission is often the first step toward new beginnings and a fresh start for someone who is suffering.

Please take a moment to send your generous gift today along with the reply slip. Thank you, and God bless you!

▼ Please cut off the reply form below, and return with your gift. ▼

MY EASTER GIFT

Yes! I want to bring help and hope to neighbors in need this Easter.

Enclosed is my heartfelt gift of:

- \$21.70 to provide 10 meals and other assistance
- \$32.55 to provide 15 meals and other assistance
- \$65.10 to provide 30 meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as much care as possible.

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

Please make your check payable to MorningStar Mission.

To donate online, visit MorningStarMission.org.

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

\$

Card Number _____ Amount of Gift _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV (security code) _____

Cardholder's Name (please print) _____

Cardholder's Signature (required) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email Address _____



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