



# MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHANGING LIVES

Fall 2018

**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES  
350 E. Washington St.  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 1-3**

*Christmas and Stars  
of Hope registration*

**November 20**

*Thanksgiving Food  
Box distribution. We  
are always happy to  
receive donations of  
turkeys for our boxes.*

**November 23**

*Christmas Parade*

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## WE HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP, AND WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADED

**M**y name is Fran and my children and I have been at MorningStar for almost 2 years. What we've received here has helped us a lot, and we're getting ready to take the next steps and move out.

Our family was living in Chicago when I had a health situation that affected my ability to work. I was working two jobs at the time and I had to quit the better paying one. That put me in trouble with the rent, so I looked for help, and we ended up at MorningStar. Coming here was a humbling experience. I thought we'd be back on our feet in just a couple months, but it hasn't been that easy.

### Learning to trust God

Even though I grew up in a family that was very involved in church, I wasn't very engaged. Coming to the Mission has really helped my relationship with God. I've learned that God never gives you more than you can bear and that he'll never leave you or forsake you. God always knows what's going on in your life, even if some things are meant to humble you or draw you closer to Him. Coming here, I feel more sure of the path he's leading me on.

My kids are also enjoying learning about the Lord. And the structure here has been good for them. They've also learned the value of doing chores, which I appreciate! Before school started up, they got new books, backpacks, and supplies from "Jump on the Bus". That's been a

real help, especially as they get older!

***"Everything that's provided  
shows us you really care  
about the well-being of  
our children."***



### I love my new job

We're excited to be moving into an apartment of our own soon. I've been working as an independent living coach for people with disabilities. I love my job! I've always wanted to help people and be a nurse, so this job is moving me in the right direction. I had started studying nursing, but had to quit when I got pregnant with my twins. Now, I'm ready to go back and get my degree.

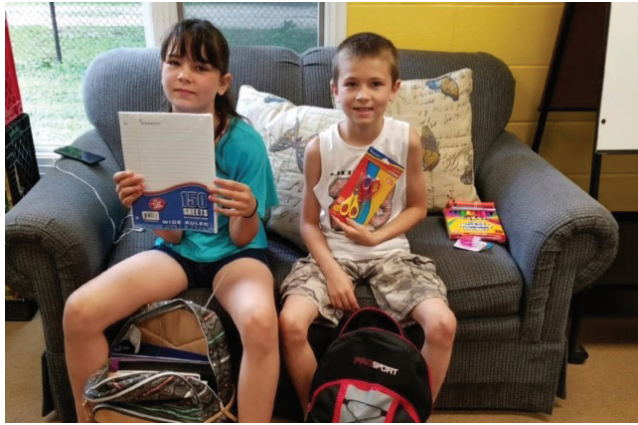
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## PROGRESSIVE DINNER

**D**uring our annual Progressive Dinner fundraiser three buses were loaded with MorningStar Mission supporters who came out for a fun night of food, song and silent auction to benefit the Mission. Thank you to all who joined in the fun and helped us raise funds to support our programs this fall.

### Special thanks to our sponsors:

DOT Foods, D'Arcy Buick - GMC, Harrah's Casino Joliet, Lincolnway Community Bank, L. DeGeus & Associates, Wermer Rogers Doran Ruzon, BMO Harris Bank, Excel Electric Inc., and KeHE Cares, and all the sponsors who came forward after this newsletter went to print. ★



## WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!

We are so grateful for the community support we received for this year's "Jump on the Bus." We registered over 300 low-income kids for this back-to-school event and you provided the supplies, backpacks and new school outfits to get students all ready to return to class.

Many of our churches sponsored multiple buses and our volunteers did the enormous job sorting and matching all your donations to the kids who came to receive help. Thank you to GKN Walterscheid for their program sponsorship. What an impact your generous caring will have on the lives of students who know someone cares enough about them to provide these supplies. ★

## AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM SANDI



Summer camp is over and the children in our Women & Family Center are heading out the door to school early. With fall approaching we're planning for the upcoming holidays and making sure that the homeless men, women, and families we serve, as well as our struggling neighbors, have the opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

This summer we had outdoor movie nights for our families and invited our local community. We had a great time together, and our last movie was "I Can Only Imagine." We asked the families who attended to think about their own hopes and dreams and shared what is possible through the power of God.

In Ephesians 3:20 Paul prays, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..." Men like Mike and parents like Fran never imagined living at a shelter. It's a privilege to walk alongside them as they re-imagine their lives through the power of God that is at work in them.

One of the heartbreaking and growing needs in Will County is unsheltered youth. At the Mission, we've been asking God what we can and should be doing to address this issue. We're praying God will work beyond the human solutions we can imagine for these at-risk youth. Would you pray with us as well?

Your support and friendship is a witness to what you believe God can do in the lives of those who come to us for help. Thank you for the many ways you support this work — from the churches and individuals that help kids "Jump on the Bus" for school, to those of you who send regular monthly donations or show up to volunteer at our events. We are so grateful for you!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sandi Perzee".

Sandi Perzee  
Executive Director



## YOU CAN HELP US GET READY TO SERVE THANKSGIVING MEALS

Thanksgiving is such a special time of year at MorningStar Mission. Not only are we serving a holiday meal to the people living at the Mission, but we're also reaching out to our low-income neighbors to ensure they have what they need to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with their families. Because that's what makes Thanksgiving special — spending time with family and friends.

Although we work to create a caring community here at the Mission, we recognize that most of the people who come through our doors are burdened by broken family relationships. They carry the weight of guilt, shame, or trauma that can make traditional family celebrations feel painful.

We also believe that there is a spiritual family that welcomes everyone who wants to belong. Along with a Thanksgiving meal, that's the hope we share with those who are hurting. You are safe. You belong. You are loved in this family of God.

Today, we're asking you to help us feed and care for those in need this fall and get ready to provide Thanksgiving meals. You can give a gift online or return the enclosed reply slip. Your support will help us provide tangible expressions of safety and love — whether it's a warm bed or a delicious Thanksgiving dinner — as well as the hope that is found in accepting the love of God. ☆



## I CAN SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

**I**'m Mike and I'm a graduate of the MorningStar Mission Men's Recovery Program.

I didn't grow up in the best neighborhood, and my family was very familiar with drug addiction. In high school, I got involved with a bad crowd and started us-

ing cocaine. I took pain pills to help me feel normal and fill me up with confidence that hid my insecurity.

When the pills went away, I turned to heroin. It got so bad I was robbing homes to pay for my habit. When I was caught, I lost everything — my fiancé, my apartment, and my car. I thought my life was over. I started hurting myself and the sheriffs took me to the hospital to detox. My brother, who is clean and sober after heroin addiction, brought me to MorningStar Mission, and he's been a real mentor to me.

After being here for two months, I discovered I had 3 warrants against me, so I turned myself in. I went to jail and that was a pretty hopeless time. But God had a plan for me, and the people I had robbed agreed to lessen the charges. They knew I was trying to change. When I got out, I came straight back to the Mission to finish what I started.



**God had  
a plan  
for me.**

*Article continued on page 4*



*Fran's Story continued from page 1*

I would like to say thank you to the people who support MorningStar Mission. There are a lot of women with children here who can't do it on their own. Having everything that's provided for us shows us that you really do care about the well-being of our children. ☆

## OUR SUMMER CAMP KIDS!

This summer, 9 students living at our Women & Family Center enjoyed a week of fun and spiritual nurture at summer camp. Makayla liked the beach party. "We got to go swimming, tubing, and play volleyball in the water!"

"I learned that even though people can be mean, God still loves you no matter what," said TJ about his camp take-away. We're all grateful for your help in making this life-changing experience possible! ☆



## IN MEMORY OF

**Irene Bleck** —  
Eugene Bleck  
**Brandi Cosmetic Donahue** —  
Michael Witte  
**Marilyn Farmer** —  
Michael and Rita Desett  
**Melvin Graves, Sr.** —  
Katie Graves  
**Mary Catherine Hedstrom** —  
Ann Golden  
**Mary Catherine Hedstrom** —  
Loretta Lohman  
**Mary Catherine Hedstrom** —  
Thomas Lohman  
**Mary Catherine**

**Hedstrom** —  
Robert Lynch  
**Mary Catherine Hedstrom** —  
Susan Spiegel  
**Mary Kaffer** —  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kaffer  
**Dale Mindrup** —  
Fred & Ruth Mock  
**Helen Pelletier** —  
Doc, Ken & B.J.  
**Judy Pendleton** —  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pendleton  
**Donald Staab** —  
Mari Tittle  
**Michael Sterr** —  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sterr  
**Joseph Troha** —  
Moran Athletic Club  
**Joseph Troha** —

City of Crest Hill  
**The Mother of Mary Dausvardis** —  
Stephen & Anna  
Marie Keller

## IN HONOR OF

**Mary Pat Barney** —  
Clerics of St. Viator/  
Donald Wehnert  
**Mary Pat Barney** —  
John & Jan Hanson  
**Mary Pat Barney** —  
Harry & Melinda  
Neumayer  
**Edward Cain** —  
Kimberly Cain  
**Leonard Kiernan** —  
Rita Kiernan

*Mike's Story continued from page 2*

## This place is like a family

First and foremost, MorningStar helped put God back in my life. I started reading the Bible in jail, especially the Psalms. It gave me so much peace and comfort to know that God has a plan. I know I'm here today because of God.

Working at MorningStar on their truck helped build my work ethic. I also learned a lot about the pain and trauma I was trying to hide from and how to cope with those emotions without using drugs as a crutch. Now that I'm graduated, my goal is to live life sober, have a good job and make friends.

MorningStar Mission showed me there's a light at the end of the tunnel, even if you're going through a really hard time. I don't even know how to thank the people who support this program, except to say thank you for your generosity. ☆

## MY FALL GIFT

**YES SANDI,** I want to help provide food and shelter this fall, and make sure our neighbors in need have a Thanksgiving meal.

### HERE'S MY 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 bill my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO.

EXP DATE

NAME

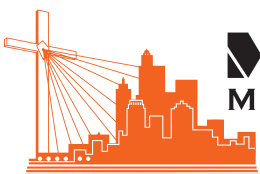
SIGNATURE

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.



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