



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

FALL 2019

Freed from a lifetime of addiction

“I started using when I was 11 years old. I was surrounded by it,” Brett says. “I got in trouble at 19 and spent 10 years in jail. I came home and within a couple years I was getting high again.”

Brett finally decided he couldn’t live like that any longer. He needed to be a better father to his son, Haidin, to give him stability and a future. So Brett enrolled in MorningStar Mission’s 180 recovery program, a Christian-based program that frees people from addiction. A program your support makes possible.

Now Brett has full custody of his son and he’s building a better life for the two of them. “I have structure now and we’re surrounded by people who want to be clean and want to do better. I have a closer relationship with God and I have a good, full-time job.”

Brett and his son recently came back to MorningStar to help start a new life together. “It’s the change we needed so I could save for a house and stay on track. Life has challenges and this brings us some stability while I work and save.”

Brett also likes that he’s able to give back by helping at MorningStar, whether it’s loading trucks to give food out or helping in the kitchen.



Thanks to your generous support, Brett was able to build a better life for himself and his son.

“It feels awesome to be able to be part of something that’s much bigger than just me getting help. I’m able to give back to the community, too. That touches you in a way that’s indescribable.”

Brett couldn’t be more grateful for the part you played in his transformation. “I don’t think words can express what I have to say other than thank you for your donations. You benefit people in so many different ways — it’s the most amazing thing I’ve ever seen,” he says.

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

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A Note From Sandi

Thanksgiving is such a wonderful time of year when we all gather with our loved ones to celebrate and count the many blessings in our lives. And we're surrounded by God's love.

But for many neighbors here, it's a time when they feel even more broken and lost or alone. Thanks to your support they have somewhere to turn to put their lives back together, get help to free themselves from addiction, reconnect with family and feel God's love in a way they've never experienced before.

Food. Shelter. Love. That's what they find at MorningStar thanks to you. And the gratitude they feel is indescribable. Thank you and God bless you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving season.

In His service,

Sandi Perzee
Executive Director



*Jennifer joins
you in support of
MorningStar Mission.*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A tradition of service

For years, Will County Executive Larry Walsh Sr. has been a dedicated volunteer at MorningStar Mission. But when his cancer came back, he could no longer serve the community in the same way.

That's when Jennifer Scharf, the Manager of Operations at the county office, decided to step up and carry on his tradition of service. "It was such a great experience," she says. "I was glad to do that. We met so many nice people and the kids that come in and the joy they have — they're just so grateful."

Jennifer and another coworker spent their volunteer time in the kitchen getting everything ready to serve. They then helped serve the food and asked people if they needed anything, clearing plates and pausing to talk to people.

Jennifer says the experience of her volunteer time stayed with her for days after. "You realize how lucky you are. It's just a time to reflect and feel grateful for all that we have," she says. "All of us are just a step away from needing help."

**"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies
the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."**

- Psalm 107: 8-9



Thanks to you, Sandra was able to receive the support she needed for her and her children.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Single mom gets the help she needs, thanks to you

Sandra was searching for a better life for her children when she decided to leave her husband and what seemed like a toxic situation.

"I had the choice to live in my current situation with him or do better for myself and my kids," she says. "I wanted to raise them differently."

But leaving her husband meant they had no place to live, and Sandra and her children, ages 4 to 17, found themselves in a nearby homeless shelter. Thankfully, Sandra heard about MorningStar at church one day and decided to get the help she needed.

This holiday season they'll have everything they need.

"They help a lot here," she says. "They encourage us. They always say, 'keep smiling and keep seeking God.'"

And best of all, thanks to support from friends like you, we've been able to help Sandra keep her family together.

"I just want my kids to be happy. I wish I could do more, but I'm so thankful for what they get here."

Recently her kids were able to attend summer camp through MorningStar, and this holiday season they'll all get to stay together and have everything they need.

Sandra says if she could talk to generous friends like you, she'd tell you, "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Your support makes everything we do for people like Sandra possible. Thank you!

IN HONOR OF

Little Joshua Arce — Natalie Atkinson
Lois Bernhard & Joan Abbott — Doug & Kathleen Bernhard
Eugene Klainsek — George Vota
Mrs. Rosemary Kruse — James Kruse
John Michael — Nina DeBoer
Stella Purpura — Joseph Purpura
Frank & Julia Turk Family — Margo & Fred Turk
Walt Wettergren — John Wettergren

IN MEMORY OF

Iggy & Angie Montalto & Gene & Mille Majka — Michael & Audrey Montalto
Dolores Bertino — Mark & Beth Berosek
Dolores Bertino — Janice Masching
Brian Coffey — Daniel & Jane Coffey
Marilyn Farmer — Steven Lader
Arthur W. Koller Sr. — Nancy Cruz
Mary Lakota — William Strahanoski
Ross Mathews — Jane McCahon
James P. McNulty III — Judith McNulty
Evelyn Merwin — Sharon Merwin
Dorothy O'Brien — Denise O'Brien
Robby Platipodis — Kurt & Patricia Westergren
Matt Pollock — James Pollock
Officer Dan Rupp JPD — Madonna Arredondo
Ora Sanders — Sandra Pierce
Alex Smith — MeriBeth Dunsmoor
Ardele Spiess Burke — Sharon Merwin
Mary Stachnik — Lauren Alvarado, CrossCheck Compliance LLC
Mary Stachnik — Anne Christine Ortigara & John D. Lazaar
Mary Stachnik — Tom & Sue Kouba
Mary Stachnik — Carol Nenne
Mary Stachnik — Margaret Quinn
Mary Stachnik — Ronald & Arlene Cygan
Richard Stone — Patrice Maslan
Alfretta Walker — Karen Walker
My beloved daddy, David J. Waltmann — Henrietta Lazzarra
Homer Warren — Susan Munguia
Bess Wettergren — John Wettergren
Eugene Zsigray — Mark Zsigray
Mom & Dad — Gerri Tourville

Making the holidays a little brighter

Every holiday we provide hundreds of baskets, packed with food for Thanksgiving and Christmas, for families in need. The holidays are an especially difficult time for struggling families and families facing homelessness.

With your help, we're able to ease the burden and make the holidays a little more special, sharing God's love and providing food for families and even gifts for children.

Thank you for all you do, and God bless you!

Thanksgiving supplies needed

Your generous support today will go a long way to help our neighbors this Thanksgiving.

1 15-17 lb turkey & stuffing
1 jar spaghetti sauce
1 jar jelly
1 bag of sugar
1 gal milk
1 can cranberry sauce
1 jar peanut butter
2 boxes Jello
1 bag of flour

1 pkg dinner rolls/bread
1 box pancake mix
1 box of spaghetti
1 box of cereal
2 cans vegetables
1 bottle salad dressing
1 1 lb margarine or butter

1 bag of potatoes
1 bottle syrup
1 bag of candy
2 cans of soup
1 jar or pkg of gravy
1 dessert
Plus other various items

Thank you!



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

HELP STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS THIS THANKSGIVING

Yes, I want to help hungry and hurting people this summer. Enclosed is 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 mail this completed form and return it with your generous donation.
Please make your check payable to MorningStar Mission.
To donate online, visit www.MorningStarMission.org
Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.



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MISSION MINISTRIES

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Joliet, IL 60433-1150

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