



**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

# CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

WINTER 2019

Thank you for helping families in Joliet and Will County who need a little extra help during the holiday season — families like Cassandra's!



## The Holidays Are Brighter for Cassandra's Family

Thank you for giving families a happy holiday season.

For many hard-working families in our area, it's hard enough just to put food on the table for their kids. Extras like gifts and special holiday meals are out of the question.

Some can't even afford their rent or mortgage and face spending the holidays in a car, or worse, on the streets.

But thanks to friends like you who support MorningStar Mission, you're changing that for families in Joliet and Will County. Like Cassandra's.

Cassandra works the night shift at a warehouse.

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*"I'm thankful for the program and for everything they do."*

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Even though she works hard, her job is only part-time, so covering her family's expenses is often difficult. And during the holidays, it's even harder.

To make matters even more challenging, Cassandra

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## A Note From Sandi

Dear Friend,

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, I feel the love and transformation He makes possible every day here at MorningStar Mission.

And I feel the love and support of people like you. I'm truly humbled by your generosity and kindness.

As you read through this issue of *The Chronicle*, I hope you will be reminded of the good you made possible through your compassion and support.

Then, I hope you'll consider making another generous gift today to continue that support.

You see, this is a challenging time of year for so many of the people who come to us for help. They often feel lost and alone. That's why it's so important to reach as many people as we can and open their hearts to love, acceptance and forgiveness.

That's when the real transformation starts. Transformation that you help make possible. Thank you for all you do and please continue your support as we head into the Christmas season.

In His service,

Sandi Perzee  
Executive Director

*(continued from front page)*

## The Holidays Are Brighter for Cassandra's Family

has five growing kids at home — ranging from 10 years old to 16-year-old twins.

That's why Cassandra is grateful that a neighbor told her about MorningStar four years ago. When times are especially tough, like during the holidays or back-to-school season, Cassandra can turn to the Mission thanks to supporters like you.

"MorningStar is very helpful," Cassandra says. "They try to help as many people as they can."

This holiday season, Cassandra and her children and others in their situation will have something special to celebrate, thanks to you.

With your help, Cassandra's family receives all the food they need to prepare a holiday feast — plus a little extra. She'll even receive gifts for her kids through our Stars of Hope program (you can read about that on the next page).

Cassandra and her kids are so grateful for your help. You can just imagine the smiles on those faces when they have something to open on Christmas morning!

"I'm very thankful because it really helps me out," she says. "With all the kids that I have, I'm thankful for the program and for everything they do. I'm just really thankful for it."

***Thank you for helping families like Cassandra's this holiday season. Because of you, families throughout Joliet and Will County are grateful they can celebrate with family meals and presents under the tree this year. Thank you!***



***You gave Cassandra's family a holiday meal and Christmas gifts. Thank you for helping them celebrate the holidays!***



# Giving Families Stars of Hope

Your support gives families in need the chance to celebrate the holidays.

Imagine a child on Christmas morning, waking up to no presents under the tree. No Christmas dinner to look forward to. The thought is heartbreaking.

Fortunately, families who are struggling this holiday season will have something to celebrate thanks to your support of programs at MorningStar Mission, such as providing holiday meals and the Stars of Hope program — a program that ensures children from low-income families receive presents to open on Christmas morning.

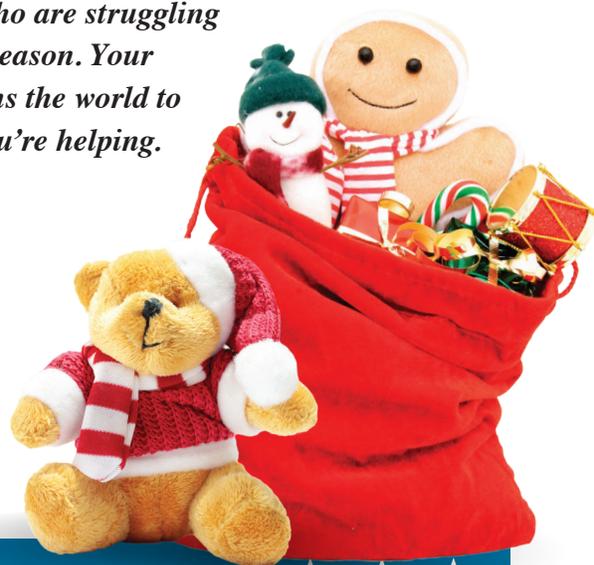
Qualified families can register at MorningStar to receive food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner, and to participate in Stars of Hope.

With Stars of Hope, parents or guardians of children and teens 17 years old or younger can fill out a form with gift suggestions for their children. The list includes things they need and things they want just for fun. Each child's wish list becomes a star that donors can choose to adopt. They purchase items from the star and drop them off here at the Mission. Then,

families pick up the gifts and get them ready for Christmas morning. It's that simple!

Because of you, children will have presents to open on Christmas morning. Families will be able to share holiday meals together on Thanksgiving and Christmas. They'll have even more to look forward to at the holidays.

*Thank you for thinking of families who are struggling this holiday season. Your support means the world to the people you're helping.*

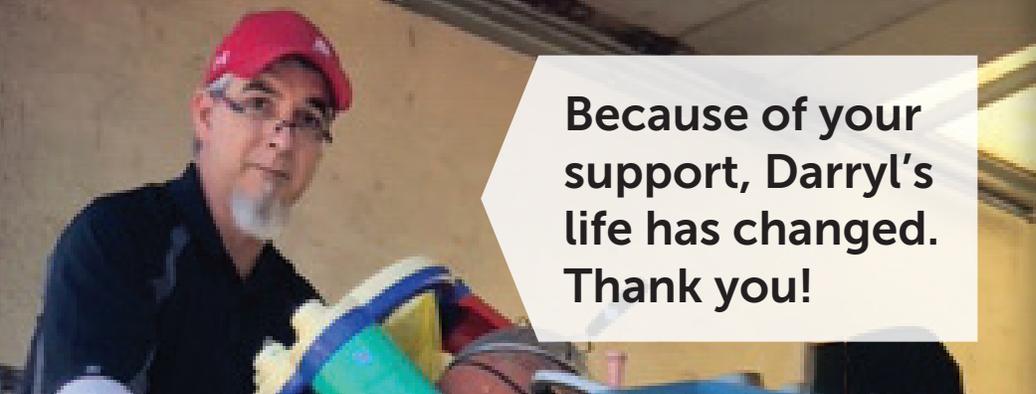


## ★ ★ ★ STARS OF HOPE GUIDELINES ★ ★ ★

***If you would like to adopt a star from the Stars of Hope program, please read the guidelines below.***

- ★ Individuals are assigned a letter and number. Please make sure all gifts are labeled with this letter/number combination.
- ★ Clothing gifts should be appropriate to the sizes listed on the form.
- ★ Wish lists are shopping suggestions. Just because an item is on the wish list does not mean it must be purchased.
- ★ Gift cards will not be accepted as gifts.
- ★ Do not include receipts with gifts. (This is to prevent recipients from taking them back to the store to get a refund.)
- ★ While the amount of money spent by the donor is the donor's discretion, a suggested gift amount is \$40 for clothing and \$40 for wish items.
- ★ Gift wrapping is encouraged.
- ★ All gifts MUST be tagged with the star securely attached and visible on the outside of the package.
- ★ If there is more than one package for the same person, please bundle them together in a large, sturdy, plastic garbage bag and clearly mark on all packages the complete number and letter for each individual.





Because of your support, Darryl's life has changed. Thank you!

**IN HONOR OF**

Joan & Herb Abbott — *Doug & Kathleen Bernhard*  
Lille Weingartner — *Christian Lovingfoss*

**IN MEMORY OF**

Leanne Converse — *John Wettergren*  
Karen Dowd — *Kevin Lee*  
Karen Dowd — *Persicketti Family*  
Earl Rowan & Elmer Dole — *Greg Dole*  
Wilburn, Mabel & Sherry Huckaba — *Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner*  
Alex Loosa — *Gloria Vazquez*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Carolyn Carlson*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Richard Overall*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Cynthia Kaskie*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Ginevra Basso*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Deborah Stimac*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Jen Peterson*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Bruce & Diane Meyer*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Jonathan & Jillian Lederhouse*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *William & Diane Mangan*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Candie Feurstein*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Charles & Lorraine Holt*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Kenneth & Susan Syverson*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Mrs. Charles Ellis*  
Betty L. O'Dell — *Kristine Kraker*  
Mel & Gloria — *Walsh Eileen Rico*  
Homer Warren — *Susan Munguia*

## "I Can Walk With My Head High"

**D**arryl still remembers how it felt when his mother, an alcoholic, walked out on the family when he was just 6 years old. And it wouldn't be the last time alcohol would tear his family apart.

Years later, it cost Darryl his marriage. "We separated because of her drinking," he says. "I'd asked her for years to quit, and she wouldn't, so I finally left."

Not long after his marriage ended, Darryl turned to the bottle himself. Because of his drinking, Darryl nearly lost his relationship with his daughter. After his daughter and her mother left their home in Seattle, Darryl tried to repair the relationship by following them to Illinois. But he wasn't able to stop drinking.

That's when he turned to MorningStar Mission for help. "I knew it was time to change my life and become a better person. I want to be there for my daughter," Darryl says.

Thanks to friends like you, Darryl has the tools and support he needs to maintain his sobriety and repair his relationship with his daughter.

"When I walked in, my head was hung low, and I was broken and miserable. I felt ashamed," he says. "Now, I can walk with my head high. I'm proud of what I've achieved. I don't feel broken."

Your support made that possible. Thank you!

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

## I WANT TO PROVIDE MEALS AND MORE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

**Yes, I want to help provide warm meals, shelter and care this holiday season. 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 give online, visit [www.MorningStarMission.org](http://www.MorningStarMission.org) or to charge by phone, call 815-722-5780.

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 \_\_\_\_\_