

MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

EASTER 2020

Army Veteran Gets a Second Chance

How you helped Doug get his life back on track

Easter is a time for hope and renewal. A time of transformation and change. And that's just what you helped make possible for Army veteran Doug.

Doug served in Korea during his three years in the Army, but his career was cut short because of a degenerative joint disease. He bounced back, got a job and was doing okay ... until things took a turn and he lost his apartment.

"I would be out on the streets or in jail if it weren't for MorningStar."

— Doug, Army veteran

Because Doug has a service dog, he had a tough time finding family and friends and even a shelter who could take them both in. And he needed to be with his dog for both emotional and physical support.

Thankfully, Doug found out about our Veterans Home, a special, fully furnished house exclusively for veterans who need help.



Doug often had trouble getting a place to stay because he needed his service dog Holly with him. But now he's got a safe, secure place for them both, thanks to you.

"This place is different," Doug says of MorningStar. "People here genuinely care about you. They want to help and get you stabilized."

The Veterans Home removed the stress and burden of homelessness, and allowed Doug to get his life back together and to get a stable income by filing for his VA and disability benefits.

"I would be out on the streets or in jail if it weren't for MorningStar," Doug says. Instead, he's a new man with a bright future ahead.

Thank you for all you do for neighbors in need like Doug. Please keep up the good work!

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A Note From Sandi

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

— 1 Peter 1:3

Dear Friend,

Easter will be here soon, a time to reflect on God's sacrifice and His promise. It's a time for hope and renewal.

Every day, lives are being made new at MorningStar Mission through your help and God's love. People walk through our doors, lost and broken, but they leave whole and renewed. Thank you for being God's hands and feet, doing His work by helping our neighbors in need.

I hope you'll continue your support for people like Doug and Michael.

In His service,

Sandi Perzee
Executive Director



Carol and Rick have been volunteering at MorningStar for over five years, and have become a staple of pizza Fridays.

Dedicated Volunteers Take Service to the Next Level

Carol and Rick first heard about MorningStar Mission at church when they were looking for ways they could help in the community.

Now, five years later, the couple is a staple of our pizza Friday lunch services. "We're here every week," says Rick. "When people see us, they know it's Friday."

Rick and Carol love being able to serve the community and especially to see the lives transforming here every day.

"I think it's our calling to help," says Carol. "We're put here to follow Jesus' steps on Earth and that means helping people."


Carol and Rick take service to a whole new level, planning to move closer in large part so they can be more involved at the Mission and do more fellowship here.

"God has blessed us so much, we couldn't think about not giving," says Rick. "In a way, what we're doing here feels selfish. I think we get as much out of it as the people we're helping."

Rick says he understands what a lifeline MorningStar is to the community and it means so much to be a part of it. Both Rick and Carol encourage others to get involved, too.

"We're called to action to do something and follow in the steps of Jesus who went to the homeless, the disenfranchised, the outcasts," Carol says. "There's always something you can do no matter how old you are or what your position is in the community. There's always something."

Visit us online at MorningStarMission.org/volunteer to learn how you can get involved.

A portrait of Michael, a middle-aged man with a beard and mustache, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Michael was horribly abused by his stepfather as a child and turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with his pain and rage. Then, he turned to MorningStar Mission, and everything changed.

"God Opened a Door for Me"

How you helped Michael go from abuse and anger to peace and hope

Michael was just a small child when his stepfather began abusing him in unthinkable ways. "I grew up with a lifestyle of pain, and I adapted to it. I thought that's what life was — pain," he says.

He had the choice to live with his dad, but Michael decided to stay because he was worried about what his stepfather would do to his mom if he wasn't there. And she was too afraid to leave. "He hit her too, and I felt I had to protect her," he says.

But years of pain and struggle turned to uncontrollable rage and a burning need to numb everything. "The cycle of pain and anger just doesn't stop. All I wanted to do was get high to make it stop," Michael says.

"I thought drugs and alcohol would take the pain away, but all it did was add to the trouble," says Michael. "I was living in the woods, eating out of trash cans. I can't even describe the pain and suffering of being homeless."

Finally, he decided it was time to stop the cycle and stop hurting himself and others.

So Michael turned to MorningStar Mission and, from the moment he walked in, he finally started to feel free.

"I've been carrying around this big bag of garbage emotionally. And when I came here it's like they poked a hole in that bag, and every day it gets lighter and lighter," Michael says.

"God is gifting me with knowledge and understanding. God opened a door for me, and He took my hand to lead me through it."

— Michael

Michael says he's a whole new person now, and that every day is a gift from God that's better than the days before. Now all he wants to do is help others feel the freedom he feels in being sober and walking with God.

"You're not worthless," he says. "No matter what your past is. You're worthy of help and worthy of God's love."

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

You're Filling Baskets With Love — and a Few Treats, Too

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 707 Easter baskets, and this year we're expecting that number to climb even higher. Thank you for blessing children in this special way, filling their baskets with goodies and, especially, with a little extra love this holiday!



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

IN HONOR OF

Lori Cockburn — Michael Crehan (in lieu of Christmas gift)
 Andy & Joanne Janiak's Anniversary — Deborah Lillwitz
 Tom Kelly — Michael Fitzgerald
 Michelle Marek — Jerry Maziarz
 Bryan Slinkard — Mrs. Stella Slinkard
 Samaria Walker — Daniel Senseng

IN MEMORY OF

Jerry Baggett — Regina Littrall
 Patricia Barrowman — Marc Johnston
 Harold Calder — Andrew Calder
 Edward A. Cechura — Edward Cechura
 Karen Dowd — McMaster-Carr Supply Co.
 Karen Dowd — Tim & Sue Chlopowicz
 Kermit & Martha Estes — Vicky Valadez
 Jorge & Eva Gutierrez (Parents) — Veronica Ochoa
 Wilburn, Mabel & Sherry Huckaba — Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner
 Terrance Edward Hylka — Destinations by Dixon, LLC.
 Julia Jackson — John L. Jackson Jr.
 John Jackson Sr. — John L. Jackson Jr.
 Dennis King — Patrick King
 Arthur Koller — Nancy Cruz
 Grace Lai — Edward Lai
 Kyle Leeney — Sandy Kramerich
 Salvatore Maranto — Allen Truhlar
 Glen Marcum — Bob Wunderlich
 John McGrath — Bernard McGrath
 Raymond Meader — Jana Kubacki
 Leonard Micklich — Kathleen Skov
 Leonard Micklich — Kevin & Kay Williams
 Leonard Micklich — Gail Dixon
 Leonard Micklich — Cheryl Nolden
 Leonard Micklich — Ronald Erjavec
 Iggy & Angie Montalto Gene &
 Mille Majka (Our Parents) — Audrey Montalto
 Jeanne O'Connell — Joseph O'Connell
 Betty O'Dell — David & Carol O'Dell
 Betty O'Dell — Drs. Russell & Laura Swayne
 Betty O'Dell — H. John & Betty Schmitz
 Harold & Bess Relyea — Dale & Debbie Relyea
 Wayne Rice — Retired Members of Local 134
 Richard Stone — Patrick Maslan
 Rose Sweeney — Louis & Jean Kellen
 James Uremovic Sr. — Jeannie Uremovic
 Jay Vana — Michelle Vana
 Homer Warren — Susan Munguia
 Walt Wettergren — John Wettergren

MY GIFT TO HELP THIS EASTER SEASON

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

Enclosed is my heartfelt gift of:

- ☐ \$17.36 to provide 8 meals and other assistance.
☐ \$28.21 to provide 13 meals and other assistance.
☐ \$56.42 to provide 26 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.

MORNINGSTAR
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