

# MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

SUMMER 2020

## Putting the Pieces Back Together

*With your help, Marquita found the support she needed*

**M**arquita and her husband were so excited to have a baby. She was sure he was going to be a good father and thought their marriage was strong.

But when the baby came, her husband changed. First, he became verbally abusive — and then, the abuse turned physical. So, Marquita packed up and left.

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*“MorningStar gave me a quiet, safe space.”*

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She decided to give him a second chance after he went to counseling and, for a while, things were good again. But when Marquita got pregnant for the second time, and his old habits returned, she moved in with her mom while she tried to get back on her feet.

After her baby was born, she worked as a nurse and found an apartment for herself and her children. But, between the cost of day care and rent, she wasn't able to make ends meet. Not wanting to burden her mom again — who had recently been diagnosed with cancer — Marquita turned to MorningStar Mission for help.

At MorningStar, not only did Marquita and her children find a safe place to stay, she was also able to



**After an abusive marriage, Marquita needed help putting the pieces of her life back together — that's when friends like you stepped in.**

get counseling to help her deal with everything she had been through.

“I needed to get my mind healthy. I had so much anger. I was mad at the world,” she says. “MorningStar gave me a quiet, safe space to think, write, journal and get one-on-one time with my boys.”

Today, the pieces of Marquita's life are coming back together. She remarried and now helps with couples' and women's counseling at the church she and her new husband minister at together.

“I'm so thankful and happy now,” she says.

**When things seem like they're falling apart, people like Marquita can count on MorningStar and friends like you to help them put the pieces back together. Thank you!**

**Once Homeless, James Is Optimistic About His Future**

[See inside >](#)

**Changing One Life at a Time**

[See inside >](#)

**Your Support Means the World**

[See inside >](#)

# Once Homeless, James Is Optimistic About His Future

James grew up with a big, loving family. But after he started drinking and partying in high school, things quickly spun out of control.

“It started out just drinking for fun and relaxation and, over time, became something I had no control over. I just couldn’t stop. I alienated my whole family,” James says.

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*“I’m so grateful for MorningStar Mission,  
and optimistic about my future.”*

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James’ drinking got so bad that he ended up homeless and living in a parking garage. It was when he turned to a homeless shelter for help that he learned about MorningStar Mission.

“I was looking for a place to stay warm and, gradually, I started using my brain and decided to take the next step with the recovery program,” he says.



**Through your support of MorningStar’s recovery program, you’re giving people like James a second chance. Thank you!**

Today, thanks to supporters like you, James is sober and is continuing to improve his life. He is now studying electrical engineering and has goals to work as a mechanic maintenance tech.

“I’m so grateful for MorningStar Mission,” James says. “I’m optimistic about my future.”

**Through your support of MorningStar’s recovery program, you’re helping people like James transform their lives. Thank you!**



**Bob works hard every day to help change people’s lives — and it all started with the support he received from friends like you.**

## Changing One Life at a Time

Bob never thought of his drinking as a problem — until he got a DUI.

“My son was worried about me and so he shopped around to find a program and found MorningStar,” Bob says. “I came here five years ago, and I’ve been here ever since.”

After graduating from MorningStar’s recovery program years ago, Bob decided he wanted to help change other people’s lives, and now he does so by working at MorningStar.

“If I can help one person a day, I’ll have accomplished a lot in my life,” Bob says. “You see it all the time — people’s lives changed. The world needs more places like this.”

**Every day, lives like Bob’s are changed at MorningStar, and it’s all thanks to supporters like you. Thank you!**





Lionel struggled with alcoholism for years — that's when he turned to MorningStar and friends like you for help. Now, he's optimistic about his future.

## Your Support Means the World

*How you helped Lionel get the help he needed*

When his mom passed away while he was in college, Lionel dealt with the pain the only way he knew how.

"I numbed the pain with alcohol," he says. "And it eventually progressed."

He left school and worked odd jobs for a while, but he was never able to fill the hole that his mom's death had left.

In the years that followed, Lionel had periods of sobriety and things would start going well for him. But his struggle with alcoholism never fully went away, and he would always relapse. His last relapse occurred after the death of a good friend.

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*"It means the world to me to know that somebody is able to reach out and help me."*

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"I'm not good with deaths," Lionel says. "I stopped and got a six-pack of beer — which was my first drink in years. Things went downhill from that."

He lost everything — his house, his job, his marriage. Finally, he decided to call a friend who told him to go to MorningStar Mission.

At MorningStar, Lionel found the support and care he needed to turn his life around.

"I feel better mentally, physically, emotionally," he says. "I'm optimistic now about my future."

Today, Lionel has a job working in logistics and has plans to finish his college degree, and he's working toward building a better life for him and his fiancé.

"It means the world to me to know that somebody is able to reach out and help me," Lionel says.

**Thank you for being there for people like Lionel when they need help the most.**

## SUMMERTIME NEEDS

Your generous support today will go a long way to help meet the many summer needs. Thank You!

- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal
- Salad Dressing
- Canned Soup
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Coffee
- Juice
- Milk
- Eggs
- Mashed Potatoes Mix
- Stuffing Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Sugar
- Flour
- Ketchup & Mustard
- Relish
- Salt & Pepper
- Seasoned Salt
- Garlic Powder
- Chili Powder
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Disposable Razors
- Baby Hygiene Items
- Soft Scrub
- Laundry Soap
- Bleach
- Towels & Washcloths
- Furniture Polish
- Window Cleaner

## SAVE THE DATE

**Hop on the Bus**  
(Dinner Event)

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

**Jump on the Bus**  
(Backpack Event)

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

For more details,  
please contact Eloise Crabb at  
815-722-5780, ext. 226

# A Note From Sandi

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." — Hebrews 13:16*

Dear Friend,

This time of year is a particularly difficult one for us here at MorningStar Mission.

As summer rolls in and the weather improves, we usually see a drop-off in donations. It makes sense. Summer is the time of year when many of our kindhearted supporters are traveling and spending time with their loved ones.

While we anticipate this decrease in donations, it doesn't make the strain on our budget any easier — and that strain is felt by the people we serve. People like Marquita and James, whose stories are featured in this edition of the *MorningStar Chronicle*.

After you read their stories and see the incredible impact your support makes in the lives of those who are hurting in our community, I hope you'll take a moment to continue your support with a generous gift today. Every \$2.17 you give will provide a meal and life-changing care for someone in need.

Thank you for your kind support.

In His service,



Sandi Perzee  
Executive Director



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

## IN MEMORY OF

Ismail Baya – Yusra Baya  
Emil & Jenny Chizek – Margaret Chizek  
Edward Chizek – Margaret Chizek  
Elmer Dole & Earl Rowan (Our Fathers) – Greg & Deb Dole  
Iggy & Angie Montalto – Michael & Audrey Montalto  
Gene & Mille Majka – Michael & Audrey Montalto  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Graham – Stephen Graham  
James Harper – John Fair  
William Mabel & Sherry Huckaba – Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner  
Alberta Jones – Crystal Keys  
Tom Kemp – The Kemp Kids  
Jeremy Lepage – Cynthia Lepage  
Mrs. Carol Ann Mankowski – Kelli Chvoy  
Leonard Micklich – Edward M. & Bonnie Y. Andrade  
Leonard Micklich – Barbara Bender  
Leonard Micklich – John W. & Janet M. Gianino  
Leonard Micklich – Jodi K. Wartenberg & Gregg Vershay & Anton  
Leonard Micklich – Rich & Rosemary Hylka  
Leonard Micklich – Destinations by Dixon LLC, Pamela Dixon  
Leonard Micklich – Alexander & Maria Sosenko  
John & Isabel Misak – John Misak  
Mrs. JP Moloney – John Moloney  
Catherine & Walter Mueller Sr. – Mueller Family  
Catherine & Walter Mueller Sr. – Judith Mueller Olson  
John Murphy – Mary Wilson  
Sofronio Paredes – Adona Posecion  
Frank & Kathryn Politano – John Politano  
Dawn Simmons – Lawrence Paveza  
Jeanne Sola – Lynn Emme  
Diane Stevens – Christian Stevens  
Richard Tantillo – Lisa Wrobel  
Ann VerSchave – June S. VerSchave  
Homer Warren – Susan Munguia  
Bernice Wojenik – Michael Schlachter  
Carol Jean Yunker – Darlene Hentsch  
Carol Jean Yunker – Brenda Michuda  
Carol Jean Yunker – Tammy Okma  
Carol Jean Yunker – Sandra & Sam Swaid  
Carol Jean Yunker – Jacqueline Woodburn  
Jess & Ruby Zibell – Dale Fredericksen  
Mom & Dad – Thomas Clarke

## IN HONOR OF

Jim Begley – Sally Winter  
Dad, Joe Bianchi – Emily Bianchi  
My Mother, Audrey Crossen – Jane Rinard  
Virginia Ferry – Lori Ferry  
Sharon Fredericksen – Dale Fredericksen  
Donald Groves – Michael Groves  
Mike Hugunin – Your Guys at Sonoma Underground  
Mrs. Pam Kaumeyer – Ron & Marilyn Johnson  
Eun Jung Kim – Johwa Lee  
Norbert & Rae Lee Kleidon – Danah McDonnell  
Godparents, Joan & Greg Lines – Jeffrey Chandler  
Mrs. Nancy McGrath – Bernard McGrath  
Kimberly Moloney – John Moloney  
Ed & Donna Nelson (amazing parents) – Kris Hayden (grateful daughter)  
Bernie Powers – Your Guys at Sonoma Underground  
Mrs. Ella Quinn – Mary Lee  
Lynda Rainwate – Debra Schneider-Gorney  
Mark Thompson – Jose Sanchez  
Sam & Jackie Tucci – Joseph (Jay) L. & Patricia L. Adler  
Ann VerSchave – Linda Grieve  
Bridget Villegas – Avery Volk  
Edward Westra – Jodie Yerkes  
Children of Carol Yunker: Rick, Tim & Christy – Brenda Michuda  
Children of Carol Yunker: Rick, Tim & Christy – Tammy Okma  
Brianna – Kevin Ladesic

## MY GIFT TO HELP DURING THE TOUGH SUMMER MONTHS

**Yes!** I want to bring help and hope to neighbors in need this summer 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](http://MorningStarMission.org)  
Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

**MORNINGSTAR**  
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 East Washington St.  
Joliet, IL 60433-1150  
[MorningStarMission.org](http://MorningStarMission.org)

☐ 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