

MORNINGSTAR CHRONICLE

Good News About Changing Lives

FALL 2020

"They Comfort Me"

You're giving Janet hope after she lost her job due to COVID-19

Life has been difficult for Janet since her husband died unexpectedly in 2010, leaving her alone with two young children.

"It's hard," she says, "but I've been doing the best I can."

It got even harder in March, when Janet lost her job at Lewis University due to COVID-19. They told her she could return to her job when the pandemic passes, but until then, Janet has no income.

"They tell me they're here for me, to help me through anything I need."

That's why she's grateful to have a home at MorningStar Mission — a home made possible by generous friends like you.

Janet's children, now 15 and 13, live elsewhere with other family members, but Janet is already counting the days until she's working again and can get her own place.

"I haven't been able to see my kids very much during COVID-19, and that's a struggle," she says. "But we do talk on the phone a lot, and I get to see them through video calls, too."

Janet says MorningStar has been wonderful in helping her keep afloat during these challenging times — at encouraging her and equipping her for the future.



Janet has a reason to smile, thanks to your kindness.

"They have helped me in so many ways," she says. "While I'm trying to figure out what I'm going to do about getting a place to live, they comfort me. They tell me they're here for me, to help me through anything I need — including with my kids."

"They're helping me keep my mind straight, so I don't have to worry too much," she continues. "I'm doing pretty well, but I still need some help. And they've helped tremendously."

Janet hates to think about where she might be without MorningStar.

"I would be homeless," she says. "And I'd be struggling a lot more. But with them by my side, I know I'll get where I want to be."

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

Stepping Up During a Pandemic
See inside >

"They Gave Me a Chance"
See inside >

"You Changed My Life"
See inside >



A Note of Gratitude From Sandi

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

— 2 Timothy 1:7

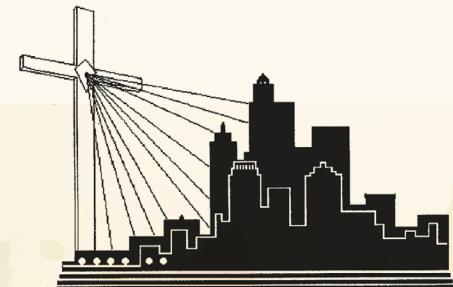
I want to thank you for your continued support of our work for the under-served populations in our community, particularly through the unprecedented times of COVID-19.

While many other places closed, we've remained open and vigilant, providing services to guests in our programs and to our day visitors. (See story to the right.)

The effects of the pandemic continue, and I ask for your prayers as our staff works overtime to ensure clean facilities and a healthy population. Please know that we are also praying for you.

Again, thank you and may God bless you this Thanksgiving season. In His service,

Sandi Perzee
Executive Director



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES



A big shout-out to Parkview Christian Church for donating time and food!

Stepping Up During a Pandemic

While COVID-19 closed many businesses and even some local shelters, our doors have remained open. We've continued serving three meals a day, every day.

We've made some adaptations — converting our chapel to hold extra beds, sending overflow guests to hotels and other accommodations. And we've been careful to keep our team safe and our facility sanitized, maintaining social distancing and other best practices.

We temporarily closed our Thrift Stores, but thanks to the support of friends like you, MorningStar has remained a full-service ministry — thanks also to our community partners. For example:

- Family Harvest Church donated 2,000 food boxes and frozen pizza to serve 200 people, a van load of cleaning supplies, and roses for the moms staying with us on Mother's Day.
- Parkview Christian Church held a drive-thru food distribution event, and also provided masks, kids' activities, food and more.
- Will County sent a mobile medical van and tested, at no cost, 80 of our guests for COVID-19. A health department spokesman said they plan to return this fall with vaccines.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion!

2019 Highlights



174,949
Meals Served



8,624
Christmas Gifts



29,627
Volunteer Hours



28,571
Nights of Stay



409
Counseling Sessions



DJ says MorningStar helps him “fix the problems of my past.”

“They Gave Me a Chance”

Your kindness put DJ on a journey to hope and healing.

DJ, a man of few words, sums up his life before MorningStar like this:

“My story is pretty simple. I’ve been on my own since I was 13, after my mother passed away. I’m just a guy who went through a lot of ups and downs — on the streets, using drugs, alcohol, and stuff like that. And then I decided to do something about it.”

He says he researched some options and decided to come to MorningStar. “And they gave me a chance,” he says.

DJ, 33, is making the most of it.

“It’s a great program,” he says. “They give me a roof over my head. They give me resources to fix up the problems

of my past. They provide services to meet whatever your needs may be.”

He is grateful for supporters like you who so faithfully support MorningStar Mission, giving men like him an opportunity to turn things around.

DJ says he’s not yet sure what his life will look like once he finishes the program at the Mission.

“I’ve got some goals, but I’m going to just take it day by day, one step at a time,” he says. “Right now, I worry more about the journey than the destination. But I’ll get there.”

And he will get there, thanks to the goodness of friends like you!



“You Changed My Life”

A heartfelt note of gratitude from one of our graduates.

You already know that your support of MorningStar helps people turn their lives around. And during this season of Thanksgiving, we also wanted you to know just how grateful those people are ... as you can see in this remarkable thank-you note to Kevin Watson, director of our Men’s 180 Residential Recovery Program. ►►►►►

Dear Mr. Kevin,

I just wanted to say thank you for everything! Thank you for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime, for giving me the chance to better myself. This means so much to me, and I couldn’t have done it without this program.

If you hadn’t allowed me into the program, I would have never been able to get my life in order. Thank you for believing in me, for being open-minded and compassionate. People like you make the world a better place.

You are changing lives and doing God’s work. Thank you and God bless you!

Yours truly,
Reginald

Help Make the Holidays Brighter



Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, we provide hundreds of food baskets to families in need. The holidays are especially difficult for people facing hard times and homelessness.

With your support, we can help ease the burden by providing some sustenance and hope, sharing God's love along with good food and even gifts for children.

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

Thanksgiving Supplies Needed

Here's how we try to fill each food basket we provide. If you can donate any of these items, they'll go a long way to help our neighbors this Thanksgiving!

- 1 15-17LB. TURKEY, AND STUFFING
- 1 JAR OR PACKAGE OF GRAVY
- 1 CAN OF CRANBERRY SAUCE
- 1 PACKAGE OF DINNER ROLLS/BREAD
- 2 CANS OF VEGETABLES
- 1 BOTTLE OF SALAD DRESSING
- 1 LB. BOX OF BUTTER OR MARGARINE
- 1 BAG OF POTATOES
- 2 CANS OF SOUP

- 1 BOX OF SPAGHETTI
- 1 JAR OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- 1 BAG OF FLOUR
- 1 BAG OF SUGAR
- 1 GAL OF MILK
- 1 JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER
- 1 JAR OF JELLY
- 2 BOXES OF JELL-O
- 1 BOX OF PANCAKE MIX
- 1 BOTTLE OF MAPLE SYRUP
- 1 BOX OF CEREAL
- 1 BAG OF CANDY
- 1 DESSERT OPTION
- PLUS OTHER VARIOUS ITEMS



▼ 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 holiday season. Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$19.84 to provide 8 meals and other assistance.
- \$32.24 to provide 13 meals and other assistance.
- \$62.00 to provide 25 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.



350 East Washington St.
Joliet, IL 60433-1150
MorningStarMission.org

IN HONOR OF

The Augustinian Priests – *Mark Giovanazzi*
Ronnie C. – *Maria Cernauskas*
Donald Tillman – *MorningStar Mission*

IN MEMORY OF

Anthony Contreras – *Linda Contreras*
Walter & Genevieve Diederich – *Clare Risky*
John Gow – *Anne Rodda*
Wilbur, Mabel, & Sherry Huckaba – *Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner*
Nella Isabelli – *Joseph & Rochel Isabelli*
Peyton Labus – *Carl Labus*
Robert & Mary Larkin – *Katie Larkin-Nelson*
Carol Mankowski – *Charles & Tina Benson*
Carol Mankowski – *Karen Henricksen*
Carol Mankowski – *Virginia Shelton*
Carol Mankowski – *Daniel & Janice Staniszewski*
Carol Mankowski – *John & Sherry Theolbald*
Thomas McKay – *Joe, Fenia & Penelope Battersby*
Thomas McKay – *Thomas Giblin*
Thomas McKay – *Charles & Marilyn Krezwick*
Thomas McKay – *Sarah Petzel & Juan Hernandez*
Thomas McKay – *Faye, Ari, Christina & Stefan Valavanidis*
Jeanne O'Connell – *Marjorie O'Connell*
Mrs. Josie Poston – *Darlene Poston*
Carole Preiss – *Mary Ewenson*
Michael Prokopeak – *Duane Stonich*
Harold Relyea – *Dale Relyea*
Gladys Salerno – *Vincent Salerno*
Mrs. Helen Spencer – *John Wettergren*
Homer Warren – *Susan Mungua*

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 _____