

# CHRONICLE

**Good News About Changing Lives**

**SUMMER 2021**

## **"Alcohol Is a Destroyer"**

*How your kindness helped Darryl finally find victory over the bottle.*

**W**hat comes to mind when you think of an alcoholic living in a homeless shelter?

It's likely not a man like Darryl — clean cut, neatly dressed and an articulate corporate executive who has held high positions with the likes of IBM and Hewlett-Packard.

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***"MorningStar helps us do more than recover. They give us the tools to live the rest of our lives."***

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"Very respectable jobs," Darryl says, "jobs that people would die for."

But Darryl couldn't keep any of those jobs. He couldn't hold onto his family either. Because alcohol had a stronger hold on him than he had on the things that mattered most.

"Alcohol is a destroyer," Darryl says today. "Now I look back at all the years that alcohol stole from me."

Indeed, alcohol destroyed Darryl's marriage and strained his relationship with his four children, now ranging in age from 26 to 32. He also has eight grandchildren.

"The drinking," says Darryl, "led me to make a lot of bad decisions."



*Darryl is grateful for friends like you:  
"Your giving makes a difference!"*

## **What Triggered His Drinking**

Darryl was away at college — on a football scholarship, studying communications — when he heard that his mother, just 36, had died on the operating table during a coronary bypass.

"We were very close," says Darryl. "My mom was my biggest fan, and her death took a lot out of me. That's when things really took off as far as the alcohol."

Darryl eventually sobered up long enough to get married and have a family. He was even a deacon at his church. "We were living the good life," he says. "But then something happened."

*Continues on page 3*

### **What's Inside:**

**She Loves to Give** ..... **Page 2**

**"I Never Dealt With My Baggage"** ..... **Page 3**



## A Note From Sandi

### What is the MorningStar Mission?

A homeless shelter? A place that feeds the hungry? A recovery program? A safe haven for abuse victims? A counseling center? A life-skills training facility? A refuge where lost souls can find God?

The answers are yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, and yes. We are *all* of those things, and more.

Struggling neighbors come to the Mission seeking help in one or more of those areas — and occasionally even *all* of them.

I'm proud that our Mission is equipped to meet all kinds of needs ... and I am humbled that it's made possible only because of your compassion and generosity.

Rescue happens because of you.

Please don't ever forget that. I know I won't. That's why I'm eternally grateful for you.

In His service,

Sandi Perzee  
Executive Director



*Millie says that without MorningStar, more people would be on the streets.*

## She Loves to Give

*A regular at our food pantry, Millie takes food to those in need*

**M**illie's love language appears to be food. More specifically, feeding those in need.

Three days a week, she works part-time in a retirement home, helping to serve meals. And every Friday, she visits MorningStar's food pantry, picking up groceries for others in her neighborhood.

"I don't need it for myself," she says. "I give it to others." She smiles: "Sometimes I'll keep a few of the sweets for myself."

One of the families Millie helps is a friend of her daughter's. The woman takes care of her bedridden sister and grandchildren after school. The woman works the night shift, so Millie is often with the family, including those grandchildren, as their only caregiver.

Millie says many in our community would be on the streets without MorningStar's services. "They'd be sleeping on the streets and eating out of garbage cans. There would be no place for them to get free shelter and food.

*"MorningStar is there for the benefit of the homeless and others who need it. It's good that we have it in our community."*



## Save the Dates!

### ANNUAL HOP ON THE BUS DINNER Event Date: July 28

Local celebrities will chaperone guests on bus rides to four local restaurants — Heroes West, Cemeno's Pizza, Merichka's and the Mansion. Enjoy signature food and drinks at each location, a silent auction, a 50/50 Split the Pot Raffle and more! The evening will conclude with dessert, coffee and a cash bar at the Mansion. All proceeds will support the programs and services at MorningStar.

### JUMP ON THE BUS Event Date: August 10

Jump on the Bus ensures that hundreds of local children will have every school supply they need — from pencils to tennis shoes. You can support Jump on the Bus by donating backpacks, school supplies and clothing. Simply drop your items off at our receiving center located at 350 East Washington Street, Joliet, IL.

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





# "I Never Dealt With My Baggage"

*How you helped Ronald deal with the pain of his past*

**B**y the time he was 12, Ronald had learned that certain things could make him escape his pain and fear.

"I found out that when I got afraid, I could smoke weed or drink," he says. "And then I felt invincible."

It was an illusion, of course. Because the pain was coming from inside his own home.

"My father was a violent man," Ronald says. "I don't know why he was, but I just know that when I ran afoul with him, I ended up on the wrong end of his anger. He didn't spare the rod, let's just say that."

Ronald ran away from home for the first time at age 10. He says he was addicted to drugs and alcohol by 13. He says a friend's uncle sexually assaulted him at 14. With every traumatic incident, Ronald just went deeper into substance abuse.

For the next three decades, Ronald lived a rough life on the streets, often getting in trouble with the law. "I've been stabbed, shot, and locked up," he says. "You name it, it's happened to me."

He tried the army, but got kicked out. He tried marriage, but that fell apart. He tried various jobs, but never could hold one for long.

"I had never dealt with my baggage," he says. "There was so much pain from my childhood, I never figured out what to do with it."



**Ronald says his turnaround at MorningStar is a miracle.**

## An Autumn Epiphany

Ronald had been to MorningStar Mission a number of times, but always fell back into his old ways.

But one October afternoon, while sitting outside the Mission, he started thinking. He decided that he could go in one of two directions. He could either keep messing up and go back to jail. Or he could get help — and really *mean* it this time.

He chose the latter, and walked through the door at MorningStar. He told a staff member about his decision, "and I've been here ever since."

Ronald says that with therapy, he has been able to "look at my past. I could cry and grieve, and I felt safe. They've held my hand as I've walked through the minefield of my past.

"God started to open things up in me. It's a miracle that God can take a man like me and fix me. And I'm so thankful."

**Ronald's miracle story wouldn't be possible without friends like you!**

*Continued from page 1*

## "Alcohol Is a Destroyer"

His wife left the church. "I'm not going to get into the particulars. But it was like a knife being stuck in my heart. Long story short: I turned away from Jesus and I started drinking again," he says.

His marriage ended in divorce. Still, Darryl later sobered up for 17 months, but says he still hadn't really dealt with the root of his problem. When he was overwhelmed with stress, he turned to the bottle again.

Eventually, Darryl turned to MorningStar. Six months after his arrival, he says he's a new man — sober and with a renewed faith in God.

Darryl attributes the turnaround not just to the

*programming* — MorningStar's 180 Recovery program is excellent — but mainly to the *people* behind it.

"It's like a family here," he says. "The counselors are wonderful.

"My faith is now the foundation of my recovery. MorningStar helps us do more than recover. They give us the tools to live the rest of our lives. Alcohol is not an option anymore. I want to live the abundant life."

**Friends like you make it possible for people like Darryl to live the abundant life. Your love, compassion and generosity help struggling neighbors find a fresh start. Thank you.**



## ✝ IN HONOR OF ✝

Anthony & Jennifer Arambulo – *Mike Richardson*  
 Ali Atieh – *Lauren Walsh*  
 Lee Ann Banas – *Sarah & Danielle Hooks*  
 Brian Bottomly – *Ken Bottomly*  
 Shulin Cheng – *Irene Cheng*  
 Gloria Dean – *Regina Zymantas*  
 Mike & Alice Dehm – *Lucenda Maver*  
 Alicemaude Hernandez – *Amanda Orlick*  
 Tom Hounihan – *John Hounihan*  
 Tom Hounihan – *Mary Pollard*

Shirley Jackson – *Monica Berard*  
 William & Valerie Jacques – *Joan Schultz*  
 Andrew & Joanne Janiak – *Deborah Lillwitz*  
 John & Marlene Jones – *Denise Conklin*  
 Audrey Kaufman – *Barbara, Gordon, Tre & Caleb Kaufman*  
 Pam Kaumeyer – *Ronald Johnson*  
 Brunch & Carol Lehman – *Thomas Sterr*  
 Joseph Leigh – *Andrea Lublink*  
 Mary Murphy – *Jim Mohler*

Wade & Bettye Nowlin – *Martha Jorden*  
 Lazarus & Rachel Phiri – *Taryn Seemann*  
 Donald Pierce – *John Ruether*  
 Jim Richardson – *Mike Richardson*  
 Carl Richardson – *Mike Richardson*  
 Pam Richardson – *Mike Richardson*  
 Janet Sandford – *Sharon Richardson*  
 Paul Sandford – *Sharon Richardson*  
 Kim Gordon & Sarah Farej – *Woodland School Staff*  
 Alma Shepard – *Bernard McGrath*

Bernie & Mike Sonoma Underground – *Jana Ford*  
 James Stadler – *Paul Thompson*  
 Ed & Karen Stapleton – *Amy, Dave, Nathan & Aaron Stettner*  
 Joe Waldvogel – *Haley Waldvogel*  
 Leonard Wettergren – *John Wettergren*  
 Bob & Prescilla Wood – *Caresa Ward*  
 Katie – *Larry Geis*  
 Pat, Debbie, Patrick & Marilyn – *Sarah Oberholz*

## ✝ IN MEMORY OF ✝

George & Marilyn Baar – *Keith Baar*  
 Paul Baio – *Bridgett Hillstrom*  
 Jessica Bennett – *Mary Korthauer*  
 Frederick Bernard Sr. – *Frederick Bernard Jr.*  
 Glenn Bowden – *Burke Bowden*  
 Bob Brown – *Marilee Melvin*  
 Richard Consalvo – *Bonnie Consalvo*  
 Anthony Contreras – *Linda Contreras*  
 Lydia Corradetti – *Sherry Brown*  
 Jennifer Craft – *Theresa Delgado*  
 Gary Damiani – *Kathie Suggs*  
 David & Mary Davisson – *Martha Eaheart*  
 Mary Davisson – *Mary Fulmer*  
 Mary Davisson – *The Morrow Family*  
 Mary Davisson – *Michelle Osinski*  
 Dave & Mary Davisson – *Melanie Shakarian & Peter Kvidera*  
 Mary Davisson – *Mr & Mrs. Robert Tucker*  
 Mary Davisson – *Joliet Quilters Guild*  
 Jim Ebersole – *Philip Ebersole*  
 Earl Rowan & Elmer Dole – *Greg & Deborah Dole*  
 June Fanella – *Judy Greco*  
 George Faris Sr. – *Denise Faris*  
 Tom Floyd – *Mary Ann Cronin*  
 Vivian Gargano – *Norma Thompson*

Ginny Gawthrop – *Karen & Gary Skiba*  
 Elmer Geissler – *Theresa Arneson*  
 Elmer Geissler – *Gary & Daylene Lichtenwalter*  
 Elmer Geissler – *John Stoner*  
 Elmer Geissler – *Greg & Alice Watrobka*  
 Marlea Gerfen – *Marsha Bell*  
 Msgr James Harper – *John & Deborah Fair*  
 Bob Hartley – *Michelle Hedden*  
 Eugene House – *Connie Hermes*  
 Elvin Huang – *Jie Lin*  
 John Huber – *Steven Huber*  
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 Wilburn Huckaba – *Emma Manzi*  
 Dorothy Hutson – *Karen Evans*  
 Shirley Jacksa – *Monica Berard*  
 Judy Johnson – *Maryleah Fleener*  
 Joan Kaim – *Elizabeth Hunter*  
 Daniel Kidd – *Jean Kidd*  
 Jerry Kidd – *Julie Lotarski*  
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 Melissa Messmer – *Catherine Nemmers*  
 Terry Micetich – *Robert & Cynthia Schwartz*  
 Michael Miller – *Crystal Dodd*  
 Adene Morgan – *Sheila Holloway*  
 Joseph Mostyn – *James Triner*  
 Joe Mostyn – *Michael*  
 Hans Mueller – *Holly Cravens*  
 Robert O Malley – *Amy Bertoletti*  
 Marjorie O'Connell – *Joseph O'Connell*  
 Joseph O'Connell Sr – *Joseph O'Connell*  
 Wanda Onstad – *Dianma Gliwa*  
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 Shirley Pawlak – *Melanie Czerwinski*  
 Betty Perry – *Jodi Beci*  
 Jack Pichon – *Becky Pichon*  
 Paul & Gail Pisha – *Annette Donisch*  
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 Ralph Radley – *Gina Sakiewicz*  
 Harold Relyea – *Dale Relyea*  
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 Mary Stokes – *Jesse Downen*  
 Mary Stokes – *David Duracka*

Mary Stokes – *Henry & Kristine Eubanks*  
 Mary Stokes – *Shelvy Norwood*  
 Mary Stokes – *Paul & Joan Pocius*  
 Mary Stokes – *Srisuda Strobel*  
 Mary Stokes – *Allen & Nicolette Youngren*  
 Kathleen Szeplak – *Robert Baish*  
 Kathleen Szeplak – *Mark Goodwin*  
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 Melvin Walker – *Juanita Carr*  
 Homer Warren – *Susan Munguia*  
 Mary E. Washington – *Williamae Olugbade*  
 Paula Waxweller – *Jack Waxweller*  
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 John Wiersema – *Kristyn Oldendorf*  
 John Wiersema – *Lynn Richman*  
 Kevin Wiesbrook – *Loretta Spesia*  
 Marilyn Williams – *Carson Cook*  
 Olivia Wolgemuth – *AMITA Pharmacy Dept*  
 Olivia "Lulu" Wolgemuth – *Mary & Chris Docherty*  
 Olivia Wolgemuth – *Bruce Darin*  
 Olivia "Lulu" Wolgemuth – *Gene DiVecchio*  
 Lulu Wolgemuth – *Rich & Mary Plese*  
 Britney Zeinert – *Cynthia Zeinert*  
 My Dad – *Carol Jaros*

## I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS SUMMER

**Yes!** I want to bring help and hope to neighbors in need this summer and all year long. Enclosed is my heartfelt gift of:

- ☐ \$19.84 to provide 8 meals and other assistance.  
☐ \$32.24 to provide 13 meals and other assistance.  
☐ \$64.48 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.

  
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