

"Homelessness Is a Hard Thing"

How you saved Antywone from the streets and led him to new life

Life was humming along just fine for Antywone. He had a good job, a happy marriage and a good family life. He'd never done drugs of any kind, and he pretty much stayed on the straight and narrow.

But then, three years ago, everything changed when his wife died. He fell into depression and turned to drugs to cope with the pain. He was 51.

"And it's been a rollercoaster ever since," he says.

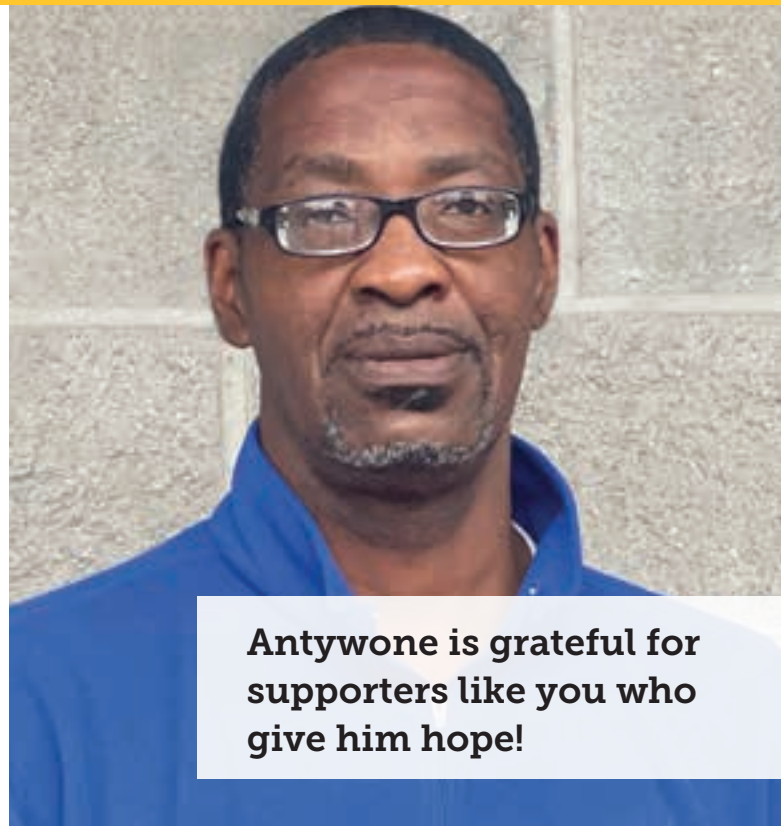
Antywone's drug use led to a job loss, which led to losing his home, which led to a life on the streets, sleeping wherever he could, scrounging to make ends meet and to sustain his drug habit.

"It's hard not knowing where I'm going to lay down my head at night."

"Homelessness is a hard thing," says Antywone. "It's hard not knowing where I'm going to lay down my head at night."

Many nights, he'd sleep in an abandoned house, alone, not knowing where he'd find his next meal . . . or his next fix. He never knew what the next day would bring . . . or even if he'd see the next morning.

Last winter, things got so cold that Antywone experienced a case



Antywone is grateful for supporters like you who give him hope!

of frostbite. He lost half of his right foot and the big toe on his left foot. He spent five months in rehab, learning to walk again; he now uses a cane.

When he completed rehab, he didn't want to go back to the streets, or to his drug use. So he came to MorningStar for help.

"And the rest," says Antywone, "was history."

"The Right Direction"

Antywone says he was a little nervous when he first arrived at the Mission, unsure of whether he could stick with the program. "But I adjusted," he says.

His time at the Mission and in the 180 Recovery

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A Note From Sandi

*Up from the grave, He arose
With a mighty triumph
o'er His foes*

Dear Friend,

So begins the chorus of “Christ Arose,” a popular Easter hymn. The tune is about the Resurrection of Jesus, but it’s a story we see frequently here at MorningStar.

Here’s how it typically goes: Someone comes to us in darkness. Maybe it’s an addiction. Maybe it’s depression. Maybe it’s abuse. Maybe it’s just one bad break after another that has left them desperate for help.

But this much is the same for all of them: They are in search of new life. They desperately need some kind of resurrection to see the light again.

That’s just what you provide with your gifts to MorningStar. You’re making it possible for a broken person to be made whole again.

On behalf of all those you’ve helped here at the Mission, I am deeply grateful. And I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter!

In His service,



Sandi Perzee
Executive Director



Mary Ann takes the cake while celebrating her 90th birthday!

She Lives to Serve

Meet Mary Ann, 90, who works five days a week in our thrift store.

If you were to drop by our Treasure Chest II thrift store in New Lenox on any weekday, you might run into a vivacious older woman wearing a Chicago Cubs jersey, ready to help you with your visit.

Meet Mary Ann, who may not be the world’s oldest Cubs fan, but at 90, she’s our oldest employee . . . but don’t let her age fool you. She’s got energy to spare.

Where does she get all that fuel?

“I pray constantly,” says Mary Ann. “In my mind, I’m always talking to Jesus. He’s the one who gives me the energy, the strength and the stamina. I hang in there every day!”

The Mission threw a party for Mary Ann’s 90th, where many staff and guests dropped by. Her biggest surprise: Ticket to a Cubs game — her first! Despite following the team closely for most of a century, she had never been to a game!

Mary Ann loves working at the thrift store because she thrives on serving others.

“I feel I can be of some service here,” says Mary Ann. “I’m retired and on a fixed income, and this helps me support the Mission. It’s a very worthwhile endeavor.”

Mary Ann has worked much of her life, raising four children. But she’s also seen more than enough tragedy: Her husband died 30 years ago, and she has lost two children. She lives with her son and his family in New Lenox.

“God has never left me alone,” she says. “He is with me constantly.”

We are so grateful for employees like Mary Ann, who live to serve others.

Baskets of Love

Your support helps to fill Easter baskets for local children

No child’s Easter is complete without an Easter basket.

But many of the families we serve can’t afford one for their kids — much less fill it with gifts.

But thanks to 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.

We anticipate giving away hundreds of baskets again this year, helping to bring the joy of the holiday to children and their families.

Thank you for blessing children in this special way, filling their baskets with goodies and, especially, with a little extra love this holiday!

Please consider participating in the Easter basket giveaway this year, and help bring the joy of Easter to local children. Thank you!



To learn more about the Easter basket giveaway, please visit MorningStarMission.org or call 815-722-5780.

Hundreds of children will go home with smiles . . . and baskets of goodies and love!



Just imagine the smiles you can put on children’s faces this Easter!

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Program has given him clarity. “I’m able to think properly. It’s pushing me in the right direction, giving me motivation. I’m starting to find myself again,” he says.

Still, he’s wrestling with health issues, and not just with his feet. He’s had three heart attacks and has high blood pressure. MorningStar is helping him focus on better health, and the Mission helped him obtain disability income.

Best of all, the Mission has helped him patch up

some family relationships which had been broken by his addictions. “Because I was always lying about things. They didn’t trust me,” he says. That trust is being restored.

“Without the Mission, I don’t think I’d still be around,” Antywone says. “But now, my outcome of life

is looking good.”

Thank YOU for helping men like Antywone find new life this Easter season!

“MorningStar is pushing me in the right direction, giving me motivation. I’m starting to find myself again.”



"I'm So Grateful"

After losing his apartment, Michael knew he could find help at the Mission

Michael has always considered himself a blue-collar worker.

"I've always done physical types of work," says Michael, who frequently worked as a handyman. "I'm not an office-type of worker. But I'm used to working, and working hard."

Unfortunately, since badly breaking a toe a couple years ago, Michael has been unable to do much work. Between that and an old shoulder injury, chronic pain has kept him from doing the types of work he likes.

He's also had on-again, off-again battles with the bottle, which brought him to MorningStar once before, in 2009, where he was able to sober up.

More recently, his financial woes resulted in losing his apartment, and with nowhere to turn, Michael wasn't sure what to do next.

But he remembered how MorningStar had helped him more than a decade ago, so he decided to give it another try.

At the Mission, Michael's health is slowly improving. Perhaps most importantly, he's now getting disability income, and he's finally able to look ahead.

In the meantime, he does odd jobs around the Mission as much as his health will allow. He can't stand for long, and he can't use one of his arms due to shoulder pain. "But I help serve meals from our kitchen," he says.

"Being unable to work has driven me crazy," says Michael, 60. "At least I've got *something* to do at MorningStar. And I'm looking forward to getting my own place again."

He's on the right track.

"I'm so grateful," he says, "for how MorningStar has helped me."

Your support helps pick up men like Michael and give them hope.



Chronic pain drove Michael out of the workplace. Now he's on the mend.

† IN HONOR OF †

Joan Peyton Dicksworth — Price & Associates

† IN MEMORY OF †

Rita Ann Miller — James Miller

Bob McDaniel — Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson

Mabel Wilburn, Sherry Huekoba and John Hoerner — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoerner

Homer Warren — Susan Munguia

Mark Corp — Margaret Corp

Carrie Lynn — Joyce Grabow

Margaret Waltman — Henrietta Lazzara

Johnny Kerr — James R. Hawken

Robert McDaniel — Edward Crobie

Alice R. Gill — Patricia K. Gill



Why We're Here:

MorningStar Mission Ministries is a non-denominational organization dedicated to relieving the spiritual and physical hunger of the poor. We do this by providing food for the hungry, clothing for the needy, shelter for the homeless and the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all.



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MISSION MINISTRIES

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- **SCAN** the **QR** code to the right with your smart phone's camera.
- **TAP** the **link** that appears to take you to our donation page.
- **GIVE** a **gift** to help your neighbors who are homeless, hurting and hungry. Thank you!



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