

The MorningStar *Chronicle*

SUMMER 2023

MorningStarMission.org

NEW
Beginnings



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

From Kevin to You



How You Help Joliet People Through Hard Times

Dear Friend,

One of the first things I noticed when I took over leadership of MorningStar this year was the great support we receive from friends in our community, including you.

You are a vital part of the MorningStar team. When someone is homeless, hungry or going through a crisis, you have already provided help for them. Your gifts, prayers, volunteer service and participation in events bring God's light to those in need. We would be less effective without you. Thank you!

Please let me know if you want to know more about MorningStar. I love to show visitors around! Please call me to set a time to visit; there is much to see. So often guests say, "I never knew you did so much." We couldn't do it all without you. And I mean that. Many are blessed by your kindness.

Another quality I notice about MorningStar is our excellent staff. They bring joy to every project. As a team, they lift up those with heavy hearts and find suitable ways to keep them well and safe. God uses these dear people to make Himself real to those facing hard times.

As do our volunteers — wonderful people, freely giving their time and talents to help others. We love them. And we need them. More people are becoming homeless these days. Just recently we added 12 extra beds to shelter men. Rents and food costs are rising fast and many feel financial anxiety.

Perhaps you know a new way to help people in our community. If so, please call me! MorningStar began 113 years ago because Joliet friends wanted to help their neighbors through the hard times by loving them as Jesus loves. You continue that fine tradition and make a difference today, and I thank God for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Watson".

Kevin Watson
Executive Director

Generosity for Generations

When Rachel arrived at MorningStar Mission with her mom, she didn't know it would change her life ... and the lives of the children and grandchildren she could have one day. All she knew was she had a plate of hot food in front of her — with dessert! — and a warm bed to sleep in. She also had friends to play with and people to help her with her schoolwork.

On top of that, she was staying in a community where Jesus Christ is worshipped.

History tells us when Christ is honored in a kind and caring community, a person's life can change forever and influence generations to come.

I hope you will include MorningStar Mission in your will. Your thoughtfulness now will help ensure a safe Christian place for children like Rachel in the years to come.

For more information on including MorningStar Mission in your estate plans, please speak to your financial advisor or contact Kelsey Teegen at 815-722-5780 or directorofdevelopment@morningstarmission.org.



MorningStar Events for All to Enjoy!

Please mark your calendars and join us for these fun-filled days!

Introducing: First Annual Car Show: Tuesday, June 13th at the Briggs St. property. Come see a unique collection of cars and talk with their enthusiastic owners.

Progressive Dinner: Wednesday, July 26th. Join us for our Annual Hop on the Bus Progressive Dinner, silent auction and raffle. All proceeds support the programs and services of the Mission.

Jump on the Bus Distribution: Tuesday, August 8th. This event ensures hundreds of local children will have every school supply they need. You can support Jump on the Bus by donating backpacks, school supplies and clothing before July 28th. Please drop off items at 350 E. Washington St. Joliet, IL.

Box City: Friday, September 8th - Saturday, September 9th. Spend the night in a box or tent to raise awareness of homelessness in our community. Consider participating in this safe and secure event with family and friends or become a sponsor!

Interested in joining our team? We are looking for volunteers to help out at the Car Show! No experience necessary, just a warm smile and a willingness to serve.

Questions? Contact Kelsey Teegen at 815-722-5780 or directorofdevelopment@morningstarmission.org.



Once Lost and Skeptical, Paul has Found the Way

Paul came to MorningStar Mission a lost man. Without God in his life, he could make little sense of day-to-day living. A relative told him about MorningStar. It was not an easy decision to come here, as he saw no value in knowing God, but he had nowhere else to go.

He could see MorningStar wanted to help. So he set a goal, with their help, to find gainful employment and save money. He simply wanted to learn how to live day to day and be okay. While it was difficult, he persevered. He also attended Bible classes even though he didn't see how they could help him.

As time went on, Paul's attitude toward Christianity turned from indifference to curiosity. He began to pray and God became more real to him. Frequent prayers became daily, and Paul found peace coming to him as he gradually accepted that Jesus would take care of him. In time, he saw that Christ was leading his life. Faith was growing in him and fear was going away.

"I really appreciate MorningStar Mission ... Thank you for making it possible to have a place of support!"

Paul admits that not every day is easy. "Faith is like waves in the ocean. Sometimes it is peaceful, other times it is difficult, and it takes patience to get my faith instilled." Through the good days and bad, Paul continues to lean on Christ and pray.

Today, Paul is working and saving money, just as he planned. What he didn't plan on gaining was his new relationship with the Lord! Paul still prays

constantly and is learning to trust his life into God's hands. He looks forward to spending time with his son and showing him his new life.

Paul is thankful to the Lord for giving him peace and is also thankful for you! "I really appreciate MorningStar Mission and the care that is so very well organized. Thank you for making it possible to have a place of support!"

Thank you for caring about people like Paul. It is with your generosity that our doors stay open, and people find their way toward Christ.

