



The MorningStar *Chronicle*

FALL 2023

MorningStarMission.org

THANKSGIVING IN ACTION



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES



A Little Time, A Little Trust and a Lot of Thanks!

Dear Friend,

Thankfulness seems to come easily to most of the men and women at MorningStar Mission. It's a natural reaction to having food, shelter and care after being without. Trust, however, can be a little harder to come by. Trust takes time. It's not hard to see why.

Some of our guests were out on the streets before coming to us, always on their guard, fearful of harm. Many suffered abuse at the hands of people who should have offered only love. They feel rejected and betrayed by employers, friends, family ... even by God.

Here, you faithfully provide for their needs, building their trust in MorningStar Mission. You also give them time to know and trust our God who loves them and provides for them. They come to know He will walk with them every step of the way — and carry them when the road gets rough. That is truly something to be thankful for!

This Thanksgiving at MorningStar Mission, our tables will be full of food as we look back on our blessings and give thanks to God. It is a beautiful moment when we join our guests in gratitude for God's great providence.

And when we look back with thanks, we also look ahead with trust. Trust that next year, we will still have much — maybe even more — to give thanks for.

Thank you for giving Luis and so many others the gifts of time, thankfulness and trust. I am thankful for you and trust in your continued partnership in the months and years ahead. May God bless you and yours this Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Kevin Watson
Executive Director



Please join us for a night of awareness!

The Annual Box City Event is on September 8th-9th, and if you have not signed up already, I encourage you to do so! The night will be spent sleeping in a box or tent to raise awareness of homelessness in our community. The event is in a safe and secure environment that will include fellowship, music and time to reflect and pray for our neighbors in need.



It is not too late to join us! If you would like to participate or become a sponsor, please contact Kelsey Teegen at 815-722-5780 x226 directorofdevelopment@morningstarmission.org. The event will be held behind 1350 S. Briggs, Joliet, IL.

Stay tuned for more information about our Radio Event to discuss raising money for our Hope to the Hungry campaign.

Let's make this
Thanksgiving one
to remember for our
neighbors going
through hard times.



Thanksgiving will be here before you know it, so mark your calendar now for these upcoming events!

October 2 - 4: Registration for the Thanksgiving Distribution event. This lets us know how many boxes to prepare to serve as many guests as possible.

November 18: A Thanksgiving Banquet will be held at MorningStar Mission to serve a wonderful meal to our guests. Last year, we served 200 meals, and this year we expect to serve many more!

November 21: Thanksgiving Distribution day! This is the day when individuals and families can receive the prepared boxes of food to help make ends meet.



A father searches for shelter and learns a valuable lesson.

On Sunday mornings, you are likely to find Luis in church with his children. There was one Sunday that ended up being particularly important ... he just didn't know it at the time.

During the service, a video played showing MorningStar Mission and the services they offer. "That seems like a nice place," he thought. Even though Luis was comfortable then, he knew tough times in the past. When his children were young, he gained custody of them and moved away from a failing partnership. With no family or friends to turn to, he took his small family to a homeless shelter until he was able to find housing.

Happy those days were over, Luis finished the church service and went about his day. Unfortunately, it wasn't long before his relationship with his girlfriend ended. Once again, Luis was looking for a place to live. He did not look forward to being in a shelter again as he had unpleasant memories from the past. But he then remembered the video for MorningStar Mission. Luis quickly found the front doors and asked for an interview.



"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."

Luis began the program and is now learning valuable tools for a sustainable life. Budgeting and time management classes are extremely helpful. He is also learning to leave his problems, his worries — everything — to God. The staff helps Luis make the daily steps through the program, and when he becomes impatient, he feels

God speaking to him. 2 Peter 3:8 is a verse he focuses on when the days become too hard.

Luis came to MorningStar Mission hoping for a safe place for his family, but he did not realize how much the Lord still wants to teach him. **"God allowed me to go through this situation so I will remember that He is always there for me."**

Today, Luis is working and saving his money for a home he can call his own. Until then, he continues his classes and prays for the Lord to lead his life. He is also thankful for you. "People here are in a bad situation, and I am so glad God has touched your hearts to help us. I am so grateful for the help you provide!"