



The MorningStar •
Chronicle

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MorningStarMission.org

Merry Christmas!
Celebrating with Joyful Hearts



MorningStar
Mission™

Grateful for your Giving



From Kevin to You

Much to Celebrate This Christmas

Dear Friend,

Through this year we have seen the Lord work through you to give hope to people here at MorningStar Mission.

We have seen men and women, boys and girls, turn to God and be filled with His Spirit of love, joy, peace and hope. Once they had no connection with God. They were on their own and suffering through life. Few people, if any, cared for their well-being. Thanks to compassionate friends like you, blessings now flow for them.

Christmas is a wonderful time here at the Mission, and full of the blessings you provide. The staff goes to great lengths to provide a “home away from home” for our guests. A delicious Christmas dinner is served, and children receive gifts through Stars of Hope, the Shop with a Sheriff and Shop with a Cop events.

Your kind support and generosity truly lift spirits and encourage men and women to continue their journey in faith. Our dedicated volunteers offer a listening ear and a supportive hand. Through all these gifts, we see how it is truly better to give than to receive.

When a person relies on Jesus Christ for all the blessings they will need on earth and in heaven, there is every reason for us all to celebrate. That’s why this Christmas will be a time for celebration. There will be food and gatherings with singing. Children will run around happily, and their parents will look on with a smile, knowing that they are safe and have a bright future.

Thank you so much for providing this wonderful place to welcome and care for those who are hurting. Thank you for caring. You are changing lives. May God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas.

In His Love,

Kevin Watson
Executive Director

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” — Acts 20:35, NIV

At last, a Warm and Joyful Christmas

Coming to MorningStar Mission can feel like entering a world where everything is brighter. The harsh times are left behind and God seems close. People talk about Him easily and personally.

Guests gradually feel they belong to this community and feel at home here. Instead of being put down, they are built up. Staff and volunteers know their names. Friends pray for one another. Christmas becomes a day of joy and hope for a brighter future.

You help build this community of family and togetherness. A traditional Christmas meal you help provide is served for all to enjoy and is a grand time. Children delight in the gifts they receive. Many have not received presents for quite some time, making this year truly special.

By supporting the New Lenox Cares Shop with a Cop and Shop with a Sheriff programs, you can be a part of making this Christmas wonderful for a child. Gift cards are given to youth in need and paired with a Police Officer or a Sheriff to shop for Christmas gifts. Not only does this create Christmas cheer, but it also gives young boys and girls the opportunity to engage in a positive experience with an officer.

To learn more about ways to give this Christmas, contact Peggy Sue at 815-722-5780. Thank you. Merry Christmas!



By supporting the Shop with a Cop and Shop with a Sheriff programs, you can be a part of making this Christmas wonderful for a child.



Stars of Hope



You can provide a special, much-appreciated Christmas gift for a qualifying family at MorningStar Mission! By joining the Stars of Hope program, you will truly brighten Christmas with a food basket, including a turkey or ham, as well as presents for the children. Each year, over 400 families receive food baskets and presents.

If you would like to bless a family at MorningStar Mission and take part in Stars of Hope, please contact Lori Taylor-Esposito at 815-722-5780 x 222 to receive your Christmas needs or wish list. Your donations will surely bring big smiles!

Hard Times Left a Mother Homeless.

You helped transform her life!

Inflation. It hits everyone. You see it on the news, and you see it hit your wallet. We all tighten the proverbial belt and do what we need to do to keep our finances in order.

In Melinda's case, it went further. She is among the many in our area who lost her home to rising rent costs. As a working mom of a three-year-old daughter, money was tight. With no savings for a new place, she was left homeless. A friend suggested MorningStar Mission, which Melinda accepted as the best option.

"Coming to MorningStar Mission was both an easy and hard decision," Melinda says. "I lived in a shelter before so I knew what to expect, but at the same time, it was a hard reality check to be back at a shelter again. This time with a child."

Melinda began the two-year program where she learned how to budget her money, save for the future and to rebuild her credit. "I also began attending church," she says. "I started focusing on God and learning to rely on Him. I used to rely on others, but now, I lean on God for everything."

As Melinda trusted God to lead her, doors began to open for her. "I began to take the program seriously and focus on what was best for me and my daughter. MorningStar helped me prepare me for



real-life problems, bills and living on my own," she says. "When I graduated, I hugged my daughter and rang the bell! It was a beautiful moment!"

Today, Melinda lives in her own apartment where she enjoys cooking and starting new traditions. "This Christmas will be very special for us," she explains. "We will celebrate Jesus' birth and are

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signing up to be a possible family chosen for the Stars of Hope gift program. A special Christmas gift would absolutely brighten my daughter's day!"

As her new life begins, Melinda is grateful for your support. "To think of the kindness it takes for you to give to MorningStar overwhelms me. Everything you send is so appreciated and it all goes to good use. Thank you!"