

# The MorningStar *Chronicle*

MAY 2025

MorningStarMission.org

Make our Mission  
**your** mission

"Help your fellow man. Give it a try!"



MorningStar  
Mission™



# From Kevin to You

## On a mission at the Mission



Dear Friend,

If you're looking for summer travel suggestions, I have one for you. Come to MorningStar Mission. It certainly won't break the bank and I guarantee you will make some wonderful memories.

In this issue of *The MorningStar Chronicle*, you'll meet Tom Hounihan, a mentor in our men's program. Like all our staff and volunteers, he is on a mission at the Mission. He shares our goal to spread the love of Jesus Christ by meeting people where they are, creating a relationship with them and sharing the faith.

If you also share that goal, please consider a visit to MorningStar. See for yourself how your gifts help guests like Michael and Tkeyah feel loved and valued as they're going through a tough time. And pray about whether God is calling you to take a more active role in our ministry.

There are many ways to help, but we always need mentors like Tom. You don't need a degree or any special experience. You just need to love your brothers and sisters in Christ and be willing to commit your time to them. You can also sign on as an email mentor and provide encouragement on your own schedule.

Any way you choose to help, you will not be disappointed. Like Tom, you will experience great joy through bringing God's love to those in need. You will also make lasting and very rewarding friendships. Please consider joining us on a mission at the Mission!

In His Love,

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

Kevin Watson  
Executive Director  
MorningStar Mission

*Dear children, let us not love with words  
or speech but with actions and in truth.*

— 1 John 3:18, NIV

## Summer Needs

This summer, MorningStar Mission will welcome many hungry and unhoused men, women and children. We always need donations of food, including canned fruits and veggies, to prepare meals for our guests and for our food pantry. We can also use travel-sized shampoos for our guests.



Go to [morningstarmission.org](http://morningstarmission.org) or visit us on Facebook for more immediate needs.  
Thank you!

# Mentor Encourages, Inspires for 17 Years

Tom Hounihan, 82, has made MorningStar Mission his mission for 17 years. He signed on as a volunteer for the Men's 180 Residential Recovery Program, first helping our guests with job readiness. Ten years ago, he founded an open AA meeting at the Mission and began serving as a mentor to residents in the program. To date, Tom estimates that he has mentored about 40 men and sponsored even more through AA over the years.

Sober for 39 years now, Tom inspires hope in our guests. He tells us how failure led to success and lasting transformation in his own life. "I failed in jobs and became a job search trainer. I failed with pride and learned humility. And I failed with alcohol and now I'm helping others achieve sobriety."

As a mentor, Tom motivates our program residents to tap into that resilience in their own lives. "The

key thing is to listen to them," he says.

"They may have anger, fears, apprehensions. I can be there for them as a friend and guide them through the six-month program."

Asked what has kept him coming back week after week for so many years, he gives a simple answer: It makes him feel good to help people. "When I'm driving home from the Mission, I'm just in seventh heaven!" he says.

Would you like to become a mentor and make the Mission your mission? Tom has some advice for you. "If you have a problem, go help your fellow man. You can't worry about yourself when you're helping someone else. Just share your experiences and empathize with them. If you don't, who will? Give it a try!"



## Campers on Mission are Coming!

We look forward to welcoming our friends from Illinois Campers on Mission the week of July 20. Every year, these dedicated and energetic retirees travel around the state and bless organizations like MorningStar Mission with their gifts of time and talent. We promise, there will be plenty of projects for them to work on while they are with us!

## Culinary Caravan Progressive Dinner

The Joliet Culinary Caravan is **SEPTEMBER 18th**

The New Lenox Culinary Caravan is **OCTOBER 16th**

Enjoy some of the best restaurants in the Joliet and New Lenox area while you support MorningStar Mission's vital ministry in Will County. We'll handle the transportation — you enjoy the food and fellowship!

**Call Peggy Sue at (815) 722-5780 for more information, or watch our website and social media for more details.**



Save  
the Date



# Michael and Tkeyah Overcome Adversity Together

“We were just going by hope and a prayer.”

Over the last two years, Michael and Tkeyah have been through more trials than the average couple. But they have stayed strong through it all, with help from MorningStar Mission and you.



“We weren’t rich, but we had everything we needed,” Michael tells us. Then they both lost their jobs and their apartment. “I didn’t know what we were going to do,” Michael says. “We were just going by hope and a prayer.”

Michael was unable to work because of a knee injury, but Tkeyah found a job. They moved into a hotel, but Tkeyah’s income barely covered that expense. After two weeks, Michael realized, “We could not survive like this.”

When they heard about MorningStar Mission, they packed up their belongings and walked to the Mission. “We were very determined to get back on our feet,” Michael says.

---

Today, after leaving MorningStar Mission, things are looking brighter for Michael and Tkeyah.

---

After three months, they found work at a nearby hotel that included room and board. Tkeyah was hired as housekeeper, and Michael tended the grounds while holding down a second job. After two months, the couple realized they were being taken advantage of and left.

“Then I got sick and could no longer work,” Michael recalls. “We ended up back at the Mission.” As difficult as their situation was, Michael remained hopeful and motivated. “Looking around the Mission, I saw people down on their luck. This was not us. I did not want this for my life. I had to do more for us.”

During their second stay at the Mission, Michael and Tkeyah attended chapel and AA meetings. “Before all this happened, my wife and I were heavy drinkers,” Michael admits. “Now I understand why. It’s a means of escaping reality. I thought, ‘Is that us?’ Now we don’t want to be around anybody that’s drinking.”

Today, after leaving MorningStar Mission, things are looking brighter for Michael and Tkeyah. They are both working — in fact, Tkeyah was recently promoted from bakery clerk to baker at their local grocery store. Most importantly, they have each other.

“My wife is my biggest support system and I’m hers,” Michael says. “This isn’t the perfect situation, but we’re making strides. We’re safe, we’re comfortable and we’re together. That’s all that matters.”





350 E. Washington St. | Joliet, IL 60433-1150  
815.722.5780 | [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org)

Dear **Salutation**,

It is a blessing to come to MorningStar Mission every day. It's amazing to see the Lord shine His light on our guests who have been walking in darkness. In time, they begin to shed their painful pasts and look toward the future with new hope.

You help make this happen. Your gifts, given with such kindness, are the cornerstone of care given to hurting men, women and children in all of Will County.

There will always be more people in need of a meal, a safe place to sleep and help recovering from trauma. Every person, with God's blessing and your support, will receive a warm welcome and the opportunity to begin a new life.

I hope you will continue to make our Mission your mission — and come see for yourself the miracles happening every day!

In His Love,

Kevin Watson  
Executive Director  
MorningStar Mission

**P.S.** Please consider a gift today to provide men, women and children with hot meals, warm beds and the opportunity to leave their painful pasts behind. Thank you for your compassion!

19491

To send a gift please tear off the card below and mail it with your gift, or donate online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you!

## Here is my Gift.

Use it to provide meals and shelter for people in need.  
Also use my gift to offer hope to those who are discouraged and feeling hopeless.

Please correct your name and address if necessary.

Sample A. Sample  
RKD Group  
675 N Barker Rd Suite 130  
PO Box 000  
Brookfield WI 53045



12345 NMAY25

### I've enclosed:

- ☐ \$24.80 for 10 meals.
- ☐ \$37.20 for 15 meals.
- ☐ \$62.00 for 25 meals.
- ☐ \$124.00 for 50 meals.
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to feed & care  
for as many as possible.

To use your credit card or give online, please see other side. Please make checks payable to **MorningStar Mission**. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



# A Harvest for Generations

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that "whoever sows generously will also reap generously." But if the harvest comes after we have gone home to the Lord, who will reap what we have sown?

If God has blessed us in our lives, we trust He will continue to provide for our needs here. Each season, we will reap what we need from what we have sown. The best way to thank Him for His bounty is to sow seeds that will ensure a harvest of blessings for generations to come.

**Contact your financial adviser about adding MorningStar Mission to your will – and let us know!**

## Honoring Great Friends of the Mission

### In Memory Of

**Ms. Doris Kaps**  
Jack and Carleen Kaps  
Ms. Barbara Intihar

**Wilburn, Mabel & Sherry Hackaba  
and John & Nora Haesner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner

**John Kocik**  
Ms. Char Kocik

**Marilyn Farmer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren H. Lindquist

**Subbarao**  
Mrs. Varalakshmi V. Ponakala

**Homer Warren**  
Ms. Susan Munguia

**Cindy M. Ziller**  
Mr. Mark D. Payne

### In Honor Of

**Edward Nolan**  
Anonymous

**Ms. Doris Kaps**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Keca  
Christopher Bayci  
Lori O'Kain  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tea

**Richard R. Richards**  
Kathleen M. Hone

**Cheryl on behalf of her family**  
Ms. Cheryl Williams

**Ed Dollinger**  
Mr. Matthew T. Robinson

To send a gift please tear off the card below and mail it with your gift, or donate online at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org). Thank you!

## Thank you for supporting MorningStar Mission

### How to send your gift:

- BY CHECK made payable to **MorningStar Mission**
- BY DONATING ONLINE at **[www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org)**
- BY CREDIT CARD (please fill out the information below)

Charge my: ☐ VISA  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Discover 

Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Amt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email for mission updates: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Contact me about including MorningStar Mission in my will.

*Please pray for:*

---

---

---

---



**MorningStar  
Mission™**

350 E. Washington St. | Joliet, IL 60433-1150  
815.722.5780 | [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org)

The names and pictures of guests are occasionally changed to respect privacy.