

The MorningStar *Chronicle*

CHRISTMAS 2025

MorningStarMission.org



Comfort
and
JOY
for
Everyone!

From Kevin to You

You Bring Comfort and Joy at Christmas



Dear Friend,

Very likely, your Christmas will bring family gatherings, joyful worship and delicious food. It will be a time of light and warmth during a dark and cold season.

However, for many people in all of Will County, Christmas is much like any other day. They struggle to get by, with no money left for presents or a tree. Some have no home at all. Others haven't seen their family in months or even years. I hate to think of anyone spending the holidays in such hardship.

The good news is that MorningStar Mission is here to help those same men, women and children. We have the resources and care they need to heal, recover and transform their lives, like Mianna in this issue of *The MorningStar Chronicle*.

A gift this holiday season will bless more guests with the vital services and support they need to recover from addiction, abuse or homelessness. That often starts with a good night's sleep in a safe, warm place. When you give online, please check the box to Sponsor a Bed for a guest in need. It's a wonderful gift!

Thank you for your support. Your generosity brings comfort and joy to those who need it most. May God bless you this Christmas!

In His Love,

Kevin Watson

Kevin Watson
Executive Director
MorningStar Mission

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace as you trust in Him, so that you may
overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

— Romans 15:13, NIV



Shop with a Cop is Fun for All

Every year, the New Lenox Police Department teams up with MorningStar Mission to take children in our community on a Christmas shopping trip. It's a day the NLPD looks forward to as much as the children do — maybe more!

Police officers and department employees volunteer to shop with 50 boys and girls. Donated gift

certificates allow the children to choose Christmas gifts for siblings, parents and other loved ones. The shopping is followed by lunch and gift wrapping.

Like Shop with a Sheriff, this joy-filled event also forges a positive bond between young people and law enforcement.

Shop with a Sheriff Brightens Kids' Christmas

Christmas can be tough for kids whose families struggle with poverty. For more than 20 years, the Will County Sheriff's Department has teamed up with MorningStar Mission to bring some cheer into their holidays.

Every first Saturday of December, Will County Sheriff's deputies take 50 boys and girls shopping at the New Lenox Walmart to buy presents for their families. Each child has a donated \$100 gift certificate to spend. Before returning home, they enjoy lunch at the Mission and wrap their gifts with help from volunteers.

Correctional Deputy Erin Vascik says, "I get way more out of it than the kids do. Every year, something humbles me."



In Memory Of

Pastor John and Mrs. Laura Pohlars

Anonymous
Karen Mariscal
Pohlars

Matt Fisch

Anonymous
Murphy Fisch

Wilburn, Mabel & Sherry Huckaba, &

of John, Nora & Tom Hoerner.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoerner

Rita Ann Miller

Mr. James Miller

Homer Warren

Ms. Susan Munguia

Charlie Kirk

Mr. Bill Cales

Cindy M. Ziller

Mr. Mark D. Payne

Pete Viehweg

Joyce M Smyth

Edward Nolan

Dorie Dorie

Carol Gorski

Robert Gorski

In Honor Of

Jeremy Cointin

Anonymous
Jeremy Cointin

Jace Richardson

Jeff Richardson

Kevin Calegan

Calegan

You Gave Mianna's Family Stability and Hope

"My life was a struggle," says Mianna. Raised in a single-parent household, she finished high school and attended college for a semester before working as a massage therapist. Then Mianna became a single mom herself. Moving back home was not part of her plan, but she had no other choice. "My mom and I didn't see eye to eye," she says. "I had to leave there and figure things out on my own."

In the following years, Mianna's struggle intensified. She tried to support herself and her growing family, but she just couldn't make ends meet. Staying with friends and family members helped, but by the time Mianna had her sixth child, her options were running out.

"There were a couple times I lived in my car," Mianna tells us. "The kids were able to stay with their father." Finally, Mianna moved in with her sister. The two women had nine children between them, living in a two-bedroom apartment. Fearing that her sister would be evicted, Mianna looked for a solution — and found MorningStar Mission.

"It feels good to be surrounded by people who believe in God."

"I believe this is a place where I can keep it together and not have to worry about somebody telling me, 'You have to go. Things are not working out. You have kids. I can get myself stable for my children,'" Mianna says. Enrolled in our two-year program, she has been taking classes in parenting, interpersonal and social skills, emotional awareness and more. "I'm learning to make clear, sound decisions," she tells us.

Mianna is also learning to rely on God as she moves forward. "I hadn't set foot in a church for 13 years before I got here," she admits. "Now I go every



Sunday. It feels good to be surrounded by people who believe in God." Her children are involved in the choir, vacation Bible school and other activities.

"Hopefully, by the time I leave here, I'll have a job, a car and money saved up so I can get my own place and continue to be stable," Mianna says. "I'm grateful."

Thanks to you, Mianna can put her struggles behind her and look forward to a bright future for her family.