The MorningStar
Chronicle
November 2026
www.MorningStarMission.org

Hope For the Holidays

How Your Kindness Helps Change Lives

MorningStar Mission™

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

—2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV

Hope For the Holidays

Dear Friend,

Christmas may look a little different here at MorningStar Mission than it does in homes across Will County. But because of friends like you, it feels special for the men, women and children we serve.

Thanks to your generosity, our guests can sit down to a traditional Christmas meal and have somewhere safe to sleep on Christmas night. Perhaps most importantly, they will have an opportunity to hear the message of hope found in Jesus Christ.

This has been a year of great need in our community, and Christmas brings that need into sharper focus. Through it all — as always — God has been faithful. He has provided abundantly all we need through the compassion of friends like you.

As 2026 draws to a close, I hope you'll prayerfully consider making a year-end gift. Your continued generosity will help provide warm shelter, nourishing meals and abundant hope in the year ahead.

Thank you for all of the ways you bless our neighbors in need. From all of us here at the Mission — Merry Christmas! May God bless you and your family richly this holiday season and always.

In His Love,

Kevin Watson

Kevin Watson
Executive Director

Year-End Giving

There is still time to make a tax-deductible gift before 2026 comes to an end! Please visit **morningstarmission.org/donate** or call **(815) 722-5780** to learn how your support helps change lives.

Christmas Time is Here

Fun and festive ways to give back this holiday season.

We welcome volunteers all year long — but the more helping hands at the holidays, the better! Here are a few ways you can get involved with MorningStar Mission this Christmas.

Christmas Mart

November 24, 2026

For the second year in a row, Parkview Church in New Lenox and MorningStar Mission are partnering together to provide a Christmas Shopping experience for families in need. For a small registration fee, families can shop for new Christmas gifts for each child. Hats, gloves, wrapping paper, tape and Bibles are included in the experience.

Contact MorningStar Mission to volunteer, donate new gifts, or register your child(ren).

Shop With a Sheriff

December 5, 2026

Our Shop with a Sheriff program in Will County and Shop with a Cop in New Lenox have become beloved holida traditions in our community. Children from low-income families are matched with police officers from Will County or New Lenox and given a gift card to go shopping for gifts for their family members. After a busy day of Christmas shopping, everyone enjoys a pizza party!

Volunteers are needed for multiple activities such as leading games, supervision, handing out breakfast or lunch and more!

To learn how you can be a part of these or other Christmas events, please contact MorningStar Mission at (815) 722-5780 or visit www.MorningStarMission.org/get-involved.

From Resident to Role Model

How your generosity helped Nick find faith, family and forgiveness.

Nick struggled with grief and began drinking heavily after the sudden death of the grandfather who raised him. He became estranged from his family and eventually became unhoused.

"My immediate need was a place to stay, a place to eat and just somewhere I could go until I could figure it out," he says. That's when Nick came to MorningStar Mission.

At the Mission, he discovered more than shelter. With the encouragement of staff, he connected with outpatient care and completed a 30-day inpatient recovery program. Nick went on to complete the Mission's nine-month program.

Along the way, he found faith and community. Nick developed a relationship with God that helped him surrender his need to control everything and trust a new path forward.

The changes in his life influenced his relationships as well. "I reconnected with my family," he says. "Before, I felt all alone in the world, but now they're back in my corner." Nick is now on group texts and enjoys spending Sunday dinners with his family.

One of the most meaningful parts of this time at MorningStar Mission was our vocational training. Nick had never cooked before, but working in the Mission's kitchen helped him discover a talent and passion he never expected. Today, he works full time as a chef at a local restaurant.

Nick has also moved into his own fully furnished apartment, but he still finds time to help at the Mission, volunteering in the clothing room, driving donation trucks and helping serve meals. He especially enjoys encouraging men who are still facing homelessness and working on recovery.

"My whole life, I never really knew my purpose," Nick says. "While I'm here and giving back to the guys in need, it makes me feel that purpose. It brings me joy to help people who were in the same situation as me."

This Christmas, Nick is grateful for his new start and for friends like you who made it possible. Thank you for blessing others with your generosity!

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