



Springfield Rescue Mission
Your Gifts at Work in Greater Springfield

MINISTRY UPDATE 2010



365 Days
of **Hope** for
Those who
Struggle

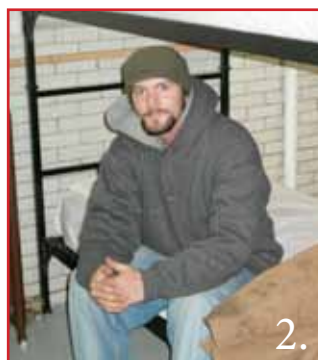
“The LORD helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads. The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.”

Psalm 145:14-16, NLT

Hope for Today!

These words quickly communicate welcome, friendship, and abundance. And thanks to the generosity of many caring and committed friends, this is the message the Springfield Rescue Mission is able to extend to those in our community who are hungry, homeless, struggling, and losing hope.

God has promised to never forsake us. And in Greater Springfield, He uses men and women with open hands and big hearts, like you, to keep His promise and to provide for those who are struggling to make ends meet.



1. **Your gifts** provide ongoing comfort through hot, filling meals each day. Breakfast is served every morning at 7:00 – free to all who are hungry. On holidays, the Mission creates a family-like celebration – complete with all the traditional favorites – for those who are alone.
2. **Your gifts** offer homeless men safe shelter at night. This gift of safety and comfort can be (and often is) the positive turning point in a man's life. Conversations between staff and overnight guests lead to men opening up to the possibility of positive, lasting change.
3. **Your gifts** take compassion to the streets, serving meals to those who are homeless – four times a week. While distributing food, volunteers talk with men, women, and children, show neighborly kindness, and represent Christ's love to those who seldom experience grace.

YOUR GIFTS

IN 2010:

- FED 86,421 meals to hungry men, women, and children
- OFFERED 16,859 beds of shelter
- PROVIDED 78,345 blankets and items of clothing
- ENABLED 3,900 individuals to receive medical attention
- SUSTAINED rehabilitation programs, GED/literacy training, counseling and case management, chapel services, prison/detox ministry outreach, children's outreach, Operation SONshine.



Mayor Sarno

"I have toured the Springfield Rescue Mission and seen first hand the good they are doing in our community. Your donation makes it possible for the Mission to reach out to the hungry, homeless, addicted, and poor as over 90% of their financial support comes from individuals and business donations. Thank you for supporting the quality work they continue to do in our neighborhoods."

Transformation Tomorrow

Prior to 2000, few people would have ever believed that Angel could change his life. Angel even doubted it, at times. At 38, he had been drinking heavily for over two decades . . . since age 12.

But God had plans for Angel. And through the caring gifts of friends of Springfield Rescue Mission, Angel was able to participate in the Men's New Life Rehabilitation Program, **free of charge.**

Today . . . you wouldn't recognize the "new" Angel!

Just recently, in fact, he stood before a packed crowd at the 2010 Men's New Life graduation ceremony and challenged the graduates to support one another and remain focused.

Grateful for his new life, Angel gives back to the Mission. He visits, serving in the cafeteria and encouraging newcomers to stick with it. Angel attends church with his wife of six years and serves as both a deacon

and an usher. He also volunteers as groundskeeper.

His words to those who made his stay at the Mission possible:

"God bless you for what you do."



Angel saw himself in what he read in the Bible when he first came to the Mission. That led him to God, opening him up to a personal relationship with Him. "The Mission gave me the tools . . . I grabbed hold of them."



2010 graduates of the 12-month Men's New Life Rehabilitation Program are ready to take next steps to reconciling with loved ones, reentering the work force, and contributing to the community. Gifts from caring friends, like you, made this life-transforming experience possible.

From the Men's New Life Rehabilitation Program, many of the men move to the Taylor Street Transitional Living Program. Here they reenter the work world and prepare to move into a place of their own. Temptations to fall back into old patterns are easier to resist with the support of like-minded housemates.

Contributions from caring men and women in the community keep these vital programs going. As you reach out in kindness to those struggling with addictions, individuals and entire families are being transformed.

YOU GIVE HOPE TO THE COMMUNITY!

Many of the poor and homeless individuals and families in our community depend on the food, clothing, blankets, toiletries, and prayer that you provided — making life a little brighter. In this past year, your gifts have also provided over 600 backpacks filled with school supplies to children, hundreds of underwear, socks, and t-shirts to the homeless, and thousands of Christmas gifts to the poor.



Serving Large Doses of Hope

Volunteers Encourage Others with their Time and Talents

You're Priceless!

There's no way the Springfield Rescue Mission could afford the many valuable services donated by our big-hearted volunteers.

Even if we were to pay minimum wage, the cost to the Mission would be \$243,248 each year. Thank you, friends, for your invaluable contributions to the Springfield Rescue Mission and to the men, women, and children you bless through your service.



The big smiles and kind words of volunteers greet guests at the special holiday dinners held each year at the Mission. The warmth of caring people eases some of the loneliness of those on the streets.



Jessie, Geri and Pat serve up dinner with a smile every Tuesday.

Changing lives together every week!

When Jessie, Geri, and Pat signed up to volunteer, they meant it. After two and one-half years, they still show up every Tuesday evening

to serve the dinner crowd at the Springfield Rescue Mission.

The three friends arrive in time to set up for dinner, serve, and then clean up after the men each night.

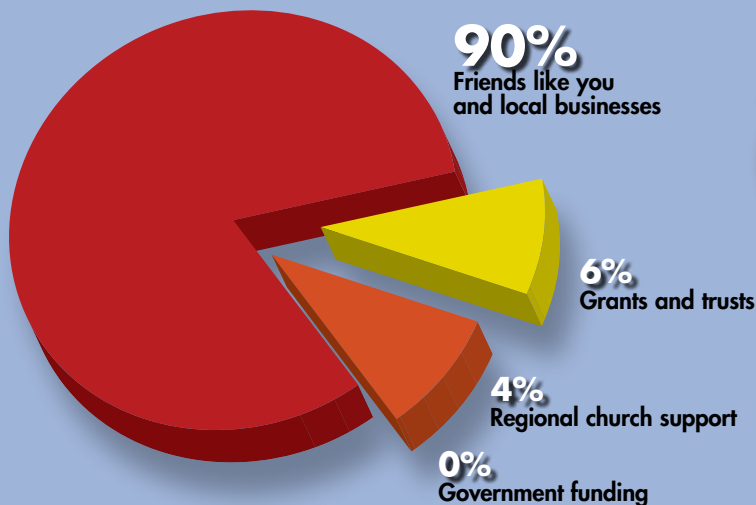
Geri had been a donor to the Mission and got the idea to get more involved. She asked her two friends to join and the rest is history. Geri works a full-time job, but her two cohorts are retired. Jessie says, "It's good to get out. It's better than sitting home alone, and volunteering has been a beautiful experience for us."

The women serve with a joke and a smile and the guests appreciate them with a round of applause almost every night.

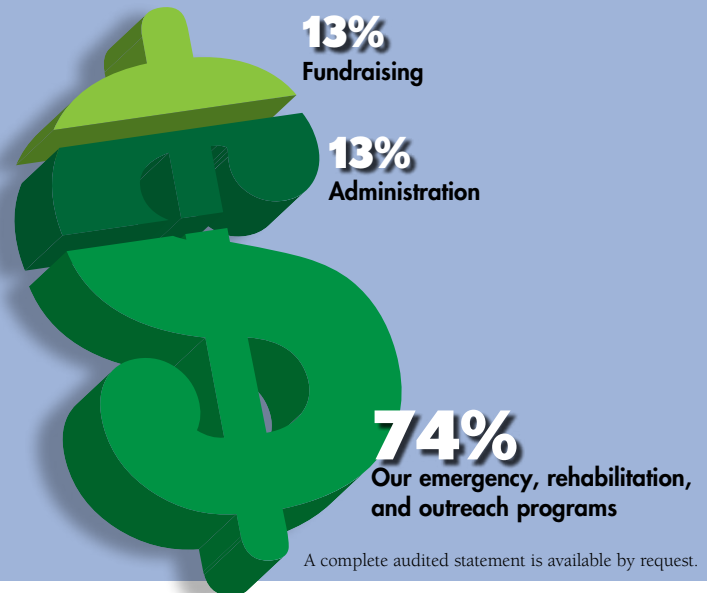
Words cannot express the gratitude of the Mission staff and guests for these three gracious women — and the many others who give so generously of their time.

FINANCIAL COMINGS & GOINGS

Coming: Where Our Support Comes From



Goings: Where Your Dollars Go



Springfield Rescue Mission

19 Bliss Street | P.O. Box 9045

Springfield, MA 01102-9045

413-732-0808 | FAX: 413-732-5512

Visit us on the web at: www.hope4springfield.org

Email us at: srm@hope4springfield.org

Serving Greater Springfield since 1892

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Springfield Rescue Mission since 1892 has been to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the hungry, homeless, addicted, and poor by introducing them to Christ and helping them apply the Word of God to every area of their lives.