

HOW YOUR COMPASSION BRINGS HOPE TO LIFE

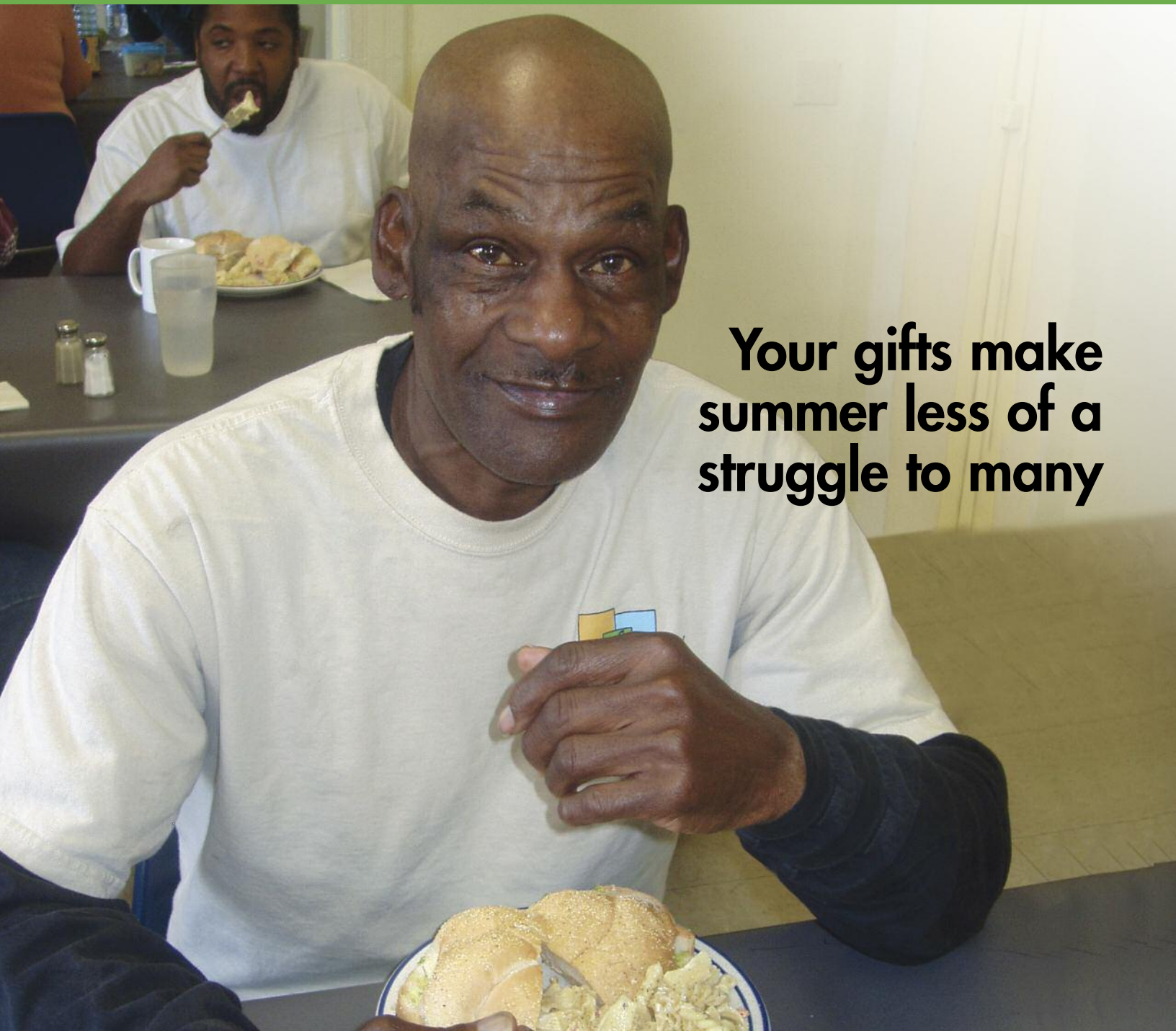
SPRINGFIELD RESCUE MISSION

EXPECTATIONS



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1892

SUMMER 2009 | VOL. 22, ISSUE 2



**Your gifts make
summer less of a
struggle to many**

WWW.SPRINGFIELDRESCUEMISSION.ORG



**“A generous man will prosper;
he who refreshes others will
himself be refreshed.”**

PROVERBS 11:25 NIV

A Summer of Sacrifice—and **HOPE**

Dear Friend,

One of our Men’s New Life Program residents, Rudy, said about his life today: “I’ve seen the men who come and stand in the food lines and realize I’ve been there and don’t want to be there again.” You can read more of his story on page 8. Rudy’s comment says a lot about how lives change here at the Springfield Rescue Mission.

And it’s all thanks to caring friends like you who make it possible for God’s work to continue here—even in the midst of an economic crisis.

I’m not talking only about what our community and our country is going through. We just learned that the City of Springfield’s building codes require the Mission to install sprinkler systems costing approximately \$500,000 by 2011. Because we don’t receive any government “bailout” money, we’re making sacrifices now so we won’t be forced to close our doors permanently.

The main sacrifice was to make budget cuts for the summer in order to maintain the Rehabilitation Center, Transitional Living Ministry, Clothing and Give Away Center, and public breakfasts. However, we are stepping up Operation Sunshine activities to ensure that our poor and homeless neighbors continue to be fed physically and spiritually.

I have great hope that with your help and God’s grace, the men in the New Life Program will move toward becoming productive members of our community and that come fall, the Springfield Rescue Mission will be ready to fully serve everyone who needs care and the message of Good News.

Thanking God for you,

Ronald Willoughby
Executive Director/CEO



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A New Philosophy on LIFE



“Life was just something to have fun with...a game...to do as little as possible.” That was Russell’s philosophy since he’d started drinking at the age of nine. “I’d sneak (alcohol) just because I liked it,” he remembers. “Little did I know what it would do to my life.”

The consequences—including a break with his family—didn’t catch up with Russell for many years. Despite his addiction, he made it through high school as an all-star baseball player, champion gymnast, and captain of his soccer team. Later, he had his own business with eight employees. Still, during all that time, he says, “My life jump-started each day with alcohol.”

Russell tried several programs—including our own rehabilitation program—to stop drinking, but sobriety never lasted longer than 18 months. Finally last spring, depressed

and desperate, Russell returned to the Mission.

“I knew I needed help,” he admits. “Things were getting dangerous for me out there. I had been fighting coming to the Mission, because I’d

**“...the Lord tugged
at my heart because
He knew that the
Mission was where
I was supposed
to be...”**

been here in 1996. I knew that it would be a structured environment, and looked for another alternative, like a halfway house. But the Lord tugged at my heart because He knew

that the Mission was where I was supposed to be again.”

Today, Russell is a graduate of our Men’s New Life Program and living in our Taylor Street Transitional Living Program. He’s thinking about what the future holds for him—college or possibly a maintenance job. “There’s so much I can accomplish at my age,” he says. Whatever path he chooses, he won’t be alone. His family sees the change in him, and they’re working towards reconciliation.

And he has a very special message to friends like you: “No matter the size of the gift, it goes to those who need it. You help many people whether you know it or not. Many of my needs are cared for by the Lord through you.” Thank you for helping Russell and many other men find that life holds so much more for them than they dreamt of!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV



Your Summer Gifts at Work!

Though we've temporarily scaled back the Emergency Shelter for the summer, the Mission's outreach continues during these busy months. Your gifts touch the lives of men in the Men's New Life Program and make every day a little brighter for the needy men, women, and children in our community. Thank you for giving so generously



Left Your generosity provides hearty meals at the Mission, all summer long. Each plate is served with a friendly smile and a warm greeting. Often, a meal is the first step towards a new life in Christ.

Below Summer allows us greater opportunities to go out into the community with Operation Sunshine. Your gifts help provide food, toiletries, and other basics to needy families in Greater Springfield.



Left You might remember Tyrone from previous issues of *Expectations*. He graduated from our Men's New Life Program on May 18th and is currently serving at the Mission as a Food Services staff member. Tyrone represents many men at the Mission who are grateful for all your help!



A Family Affair

For the second year, the Springfield Rescue Mission has made it our priority to recognize the importance of family by honoring Moms and Dads with a small gift on their special days. Each hand-wrapped gift contained a sweet treat and an encouraging Bible message.



Above Men staying at the Mission and in our Men's New Life Program have a wonderful opportunity to continue their education and learn valuable job skills in our Learning Center. It's key to preparing them to move back into the community!

Above left Donations of gently used clothing are always welcome at the Mission—and they're genuinely appreciated by the men, women, and children who receive them!

Left Because of friends like you, many children in our community have the chance to start the school year with a brand-new backpack filled with school supplies. What a great gift to give a needy boy or girl!



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.

Memorials



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of those remembered below. These gifts are a special legacy offering hope to those in need.

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(gifts received November 21, 2008, through May 15, 2009)

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Sherril Vishaway
- Laurie & John Vogt**
Keithley Wilkinson
- Beverly Wolowicz**
Catherine Wolowicz
- Joe Wood**
Nancy Majka

Rudy's Ready to Begin Again!

At 17, when most kids his age were thinking about cars and proms, alcohol took control of Rudy's life. He managed to live with his addiction for 34 years, until his mother passed away in 2005. "That put me over the edge," he says softly. "She was not just my mom but my best friend."

From that point on, Rudy's drinking increased. Knowing he was in trouble, he tried various detox and rehabilitation programs, but nothing seemed to work. Finally last summer, Rudy, a Native American, was referred to the Springfield Rescue Mission by a fellow member of the Narragansett Tribe.

Rudy is still grateful for that referral today! "I was at the point of wanting to try anything that would help. The way I was going, I could have ended up dead." Since coming here, he says, "This is the longest I've been sober for several years and that's awesome! I'm happy, content, and in the best physical shape I've been in for a long time."

Although he lost his beloved mother, Rudy feels blessed to have other family members who are supportive of his



efforts and who will welcome him home when he graduates from our Men's New Life Program. He's also considering our Transitional Living Program. Whichever option he chooses, he says, "I need to stay with God and to be involved with a church."

To friends like you, Rudy says enthusiastically, "Thank you very much! Thank God I'm alive! I thank God for the Springfield Rescue Mission. I'm going to do my best. I'm ready to begin my life again."

Mark Your Calendar!

AUGUST

Back to School Supply Drive:

We're still collecting school supplies for needy Springfield children! Bring your donations of backpacks, glue sticks, calculators, pencils and pens with cases, highlighters, erasers, plastic rulers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, binders, notebooks, assignment pads, paper, and pocket folders to the Mission by August 22.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Undie Monday: Churches, businesses, and individuals are invited to collect new men's, women's, and children's underwear, socks, and t-shirts for Greater Springfield's homeless and needy neighbors. Please bring donations to the Mission by November 7.



For more information about any of these events or to sign up as a volunteer, please call the Mission at 413-732-0808 ext. 114 and ask for Julie.



Springfield Rescue Mission

19 Bliss Street | P.O. Box 2435
Springfield, MA 01102-2435

413-732-0808

FAX: 413-732-5512

Visit us on the web at:

www.springfieldrescuemission.org

Email us at:

srm@springfieldrescuemission.org

To DOUBLE Your Donation:

Ask if your employer matches charitable gifts and...

- Ask Human Resources for a matching gift form
- Complete the employee portion of the form
- Mail the form along with your gift to:

Springfield Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 2435
Springfield, MA 01102-2435

- United Way of Pioneer Valley donors can give through the donor choice program #6012

Please donate **USED INK CARTRIDGES** and **CELL PHONES** to the Mission. We recycle them and use the proceeds to provide food and care for those who are hungry and in need in our community!

