



SPRINGFIELD RESCUE MISSION EXPECTATIONS

SERVING GREATER SPRINGFIELD SINCE 1892

FALL 2010 | VOL. 23, ISSUE 3



Thanking
God
for Daily
Bread...
and for
You!

YOUR COMPASSION
BRINGS HOPE TO LIFE

WWW.HOPE4SPRINGFIELD.COM



**“Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.”**

PSALM 100:4, NIV

BLESSINGS that Last

Dear Friend,

The homeless man asking me for shelter was quite drunk. More alcohol sloshed in the bottle he held. I told him we'd be glad to give him a safe bed...but the bottle had to stay outside. As we talked, the man revealed a sad story. He was neglected as a child, and his father never said “I love you” or gave him a hug.

I decided to take a risk. I told the man I would give him a hug...if he would give me the bottle. He was upset as I poured out the alcohol! But my warm hug reassured him, and so did the clean bed where he spent the night.

Such small gestures can go a long way. The poor and homeless need more than a meal and a bed. They need caring attention and the hope Jesus Christ can give. That's especially true during the holidays, which can be bitter for lonely souls like that man as they desire the blessings others are celebrating.

This Thanksgiving season we expect to serve more people than ever before, at a time when our financial resources are very low. Will you bless them with your continued generous support, to meet both their physical and spiritual needs? The hope you give now can last a lifetime.

Your impact is easy to see throughout this issue of Expectations—families encouraged by back-to-school supplies, men given a fresh start, nourishing meals for the poor, and more. And I hope you'll take special note of all the activities planned for this holiday season. If you've ever wanted to volunteer, this is the perfect time!

Thanking God for you,

Ronald Willoughby
Executive Director/CEO

One year and a **LIFETIME OF CHANGE** for Kevin

Kevin fully intended to jump off a bridge and end his life. “I just wanted to go home to be with the Lord,” he remembers. God had other plans!

Already struggling with bi-polar disorder, Kevin was overwhelmed by despair when his engagement fell apart, and he stopped taking his medications. Instead, he began “self-medicating” with alcohol, clouding his thinking.

But on his way to the bridge, Kevin met a man who urged him to reconsider. So instead of the bridge, Kevin went to a hospital for help.

A Re-kindled Spirit

Kevin learned about the Springfield Rescue Mission through a hospital brochure. Serious about starting over, he enrolled in the Men’s New Life Program. “I immediately went to chapel,” he says.

Kevin had accepted Christ in 1994, and he explains, “As I look back, I see God had never given up on me.” But before his involvement in the biblical studies program

you support here, he never had any help developing his faith. “The biggest change in me is the re-kindling of my spirit to follow God and see what He wants me to do. I’m not trying to make the calls anymore, but letting God lead.”

His favorite part of the day now is chapel. “We hear different pastors talk about different subjects, and it seems like it’s just the topic I need to hear at that time. It builds on what I’m learning through my classes.”

“The biggest change in me is the re-kindling of my spirit to follow God and see what He wants me to do.”

A Renewed Hope

In addition to spiritual growth, Kevin has learned computer skills and brushed up on his general education at the Learning Center. “Just because we are homeless doesn’t mean we are useless!” he says.

With his bi-polar disorder under control, his relationship with Christ growing, and lots of support from his church, Kevin is finally ready to plan for the future. “I hope to pursue part-time work and part-time pastoral studies to get into some aspect of ministry,” he enthuses.

It’s been over a year since God stopped Kevin in his tracks on the way to the bridge. But with your compassionate support, that year has made a lifetime of difference. “Allow yourself to be led by the Spirit,” is his motto now and, “Keep moving forward and see what happens.” Thank you for helping Kevin, and men like him, move forward into a future filled with hope!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —JEREMIAH 29:11, NIV



A Reason for Thanksgiving...

Thanks to You!

When every day is a struggle, Thanksgiving can leave the poor and homeless wondering, “What blessings?” But with your generous help to provide food, shelter, clothing, and the message of God’s abiding love, they will have reasons to feel hopeful this Thanksgiving. Thank you for reaching out with compassion!



With Springfield’s unemployment rate the highest in the state today, your support for Operation Sunshine is helping provide 15% more urgently needed food in some of our poorest neighborhoods.

This holiday season, hundreds of homeless and working poor families will rely on friends like you for their only Thanksgiving celebration—and their daily meals. We expect to serve 15,000 meals in October and November, but we can’t do it without you!





You can see how grateful Men's New Life Program members are, by the way they give back. Lamont, an expert tailor, used his skills to make our men's lavatory at 19 Bliss Street more home-like.

Dedicated volunteers are essential to Thanksgiving at the Springfield Rescue Mission! Not only do they help prepare and serve hundreds of meals, they make each guest feel special with their welcoming care. If you'd like to volunteer this year, call Julie ASAP at 413-732-0808, ext. 114 or email srm@springfieldrescuemission.org.

Many families in our community can't afford all the school supplies their children need to succeed this school year. But your support helped fill 668 backpacks and sent those elementary students back to school, ready to take on the world!



URGENT HOLIDAY NEEDS

To make their holidays bright, the men, women, and children served by the Springfield Rescue Mission rely on an outpouring of generosity from people like you every year. How many of the following items can you donate to touch the life of someone in need? Donation drives make a great church or office activity! Drop off your donations at 19 Bliss Street between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. Thank you!

Thanksgiving/ Christmas Dinners

- Turkeys/hams
- Butter
- Juice
- Milk
- Cheese
- Cranberry sauce
- Hot chocolate
- Plastic utensils
- Plastic holiday tablecloths/
napkins/cups

Christmas Food Boxes

- Turkeys
- 5 lb. bags of potatoes
- Rice
- Fruits/vegetables
- Stuffing
- Soups
- Pasta
- Dinner rolls
- Gift certificates

Christmas Gift Boxes (new items only, please)

- Gloves (men's and women's)
- Mittens, hats, scarves
- Sweaters and sweatshirts
- T-Shirts (men's, women's,
and children's)
- Flannel shirts (M-4X)
- Socks
- Boots
- Pajamas and slippers
- Toys and games
- Children's videos
and books
- Gift certificates



MISSION STATEMENT

The goal 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.



In Memory Of

(gifts received July 1 through August 26, 2010)

Felipe Augusto Artur

Deoclecio Artur

Rose Basile

Elaine Christian

William A. Batchelder, II

Anne-Marie Batchelder

William A. Batchelder, Sr.

Anne-Marie Batchelder

Marie Blascak

M/M Robert Simpson

Ron Bouyea

George Atkins

Sean Brennan

Marguerite Weston

Marion C. Brodie

Obie Brodie

Homer Brunelle

Ernest Brunelle

Mae Carlson

June Germain

Joseph & Marie Carrier
Rev. Joseph Carrier

Jason Cerri

Tom & Georgia Briggs

Margaret Collins

Constance Haley

Gentle Exercise Group

Joan & James Carlton

Laurette Lynch

Louise Brochu

Marilyn Erickson

Mary Anne Downey

Mary McAleer

Maryellen McEleney

Richard & Elizabeth Collins

William & Kathleen Grimes

Maxine Collins

Carolyn Harrington

Thomas Courtney

Kathleen Rohr

Patrick Courtney

Andrew Czarnecki

Tom & Georgia Briggs

Albert L. D'Amours, Jr.

David & Arden D'Amours

Florence

John Burakowski, Jr.

Beverly Jean Gray

Marion Gray Persons

Louis Gray

Lois Gray

Zachary Hardaker

Laura Noddin

Helen

Theodore Arnold

Chas. & Josephine Hoyt

Eugene Hoyt

Ron Huot

Alex Shinkevich

Irene Kaleel

Charles & Marilyn Casineau

Loved Ones

M/M Duong Hoang

Jeanett Martell

Elaine Martell

Grace Mathews

Donna Corridan

James Patrick McCauley

Florence McCauley

Kathleen Mary McCauley

Florence McCauley

Merae & Pipire

Yvette LeGrande

Abraham Miller

Barbara Pantuosco

Mother

Chrystal Rosinski

Joseph O'Brien

Bill & Karen Kennedy

Donald Provencal

Jane Berger

John Radziewski

Richard Johnston, III

Luanne Reynolds

Noella Loiselle

Edward Roberge

Norman & Gloria Strader

John Rourke

Laurette Rourke

Linda Russell

Barbara McFarland

Dorothy Sokolowski

Raymond Sokolowski

Barbara Storey

David Storey

Thomas Talbot

Claire Talbot

Matthew Thompson

Edith Thompson

Stephen A. Twining, Jr.

Raymond & Wendy Young

Mary H. Watson

Edward Watson

Charles Weston

Marguerite Weston

Maria & Stanley Zyczkiewicz

Diane Zyczkiewicz

Do you have a relative or friend you would like to honor? A gift to the Springfield Rescue Mission is an ideal way to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, or to acknowledge a loved one while at the same time helping those in need.

In Honor Of

(gifts received July 1 through August 26, 2010)

Archidiacono Family

Richard & Franca Gaudet

Family

Joseph Orszulak

Father

Ersilia & Sid Sarno

Serge & Kathleen

MacKechnie

Lisa MacKechnie

William Maitland

Richard Johnston, III

My Family

Ersilia & Sid Sarno

Dr. Daniel Thomas

Sisters of St. Joseph

Helen Perry, SSJ

When you send your memorial or in honor of gift to the Springfield Rescue Mission, you will receive a tax-deductible acknowledgement, and a card will be mailed promptly to the bereaved family or the friend being honored, telling them of your gift. Please mail your memorial and in honor of gifts to:

Springfield Rescue Mission

P.O. Box 9045, Springfield, MA 01102-9045

Mark Your Calendar!

NOVEMBER Volunteers Needed!

Radio-thon at The Q 99.7FM: Thursday, November 18, 6:00 AM–6:00 PM.

Can you help? Volunteers, who answer phones in 2-hour shifts, are urgently needed to make the Radio-thon a success! Call 413-732-0808, ext. 114 to learn more or be placed on the volunteer list.



Open House/Pie Contest:

Sunday, November 21, Emergency Shelter (148 Taylor St, Springfield), 12:00 PM–3:00 PM. Bake a pie and donate it to the Mission. Drop off your pie by 12:30 PM and take a tour of our Emergency Shelter. Judging starts at 1:00 PM. First, second & third place prizes awarded—but come early because only the first 25 pies will be judged. Open House guests will be able to sample the pies, so bring an extra to donate to our Thanksgiving Banquet!

Thanksgiving Meal Delivery:

Wednesday, November 24, 3:00 PM.

Drivers are needed to deliver meals to the elderly, shut ins, and disabled.

Thanksgiving Dinner:

Wednesday, November 24, 4:00 PM.

Food items needed! We need volunteers to serve meals, and please consider a food donation or baking a pie for the contest.

Thanksgiving Breakfast:

Thursday, November 25, 7:00 AM.

Food items needed! We also need volunteers to serve meals.



Last year's pie contest winner was Christine Pietrowski with a cranberry apple pie.

GIVING BACK

Giving back to the community is a way of life for our compassionate ministry partners like you. Two touching notes we received recently from generous friends, share the extra meaning behind their own gifts.

Here is my Early Bird Thanksgiving gift!

I want to help provide more than 25,300 meals and other vital care to homeless neighbors this fall season.

\$11.52 to help 6 people
 \$23.04 to help 12 people
 \$100.00 to help as many people as possible
 Please charge my credit card. (See back of form.)

\$38.40 to help 20 people
 \$57.50 to help 30 people

To charge by phone, call (413) 732-0808. If you would like to give a gift online, please go to www.springfieldrescuemission.org

Mr. Donald [redacted] *J*
VA 01089-1820

Please make your check payable to Springfield Rescue Mission

Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send you a receipt for your records.

100

Note: I know what it's like to not have a Thanksgiving meal. I started my life @ 15 yrs old at Brightside. Hope this donation helps someone needy. Donald.

12/19/09

Dear Ron,

During the Depression my Mom was a member of a family of 14 + things were really hard. She told us about having to go down to the Mission on a number of occasions. She never forgot! She's almost 90 + the doctors give her a month or two to live, She is on comfort care at present. I know that with what little she has left she would not want to forget the Mission.

God Bless.
Mike

Thank you for remembering Greater Springfield's poorest men, women, and children this holiday season!

DECEMBER Donations Needed!



Gift Distribution: Fri & Sat, December 17 & 18. New gift items given to needy families. We need new item donations such as games, children's books, mittens, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves, flannel shirts, and sweaters for men and women. Please bring new, unwrapped gifts to the Mission by December 3rd. *Volunteers are also needed to distribute gift packs.*

Christmas Meal Delivery: Friday, December 24, 3:00 PM. Drivers are needed to deliver meals to the elderly, shut ins, and disabled.

Christmas Dinner: Friday, December 24 at 4:00 PM. Food items needed! We also need volunteers to serve people.

Christmas Breakfast: Saturday, December 25 at 7:00 AM. Food items needed! We need volunteers to serve our guests.

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, or email at srm@springfieldrescuemission.org.



NEW HOPE for William, THANKS TO YOU!

Once, William was the picture of success. Home, family, career, respect, money...he had it all. Except the strength to make it through the day without alcohol.

Like water on stone, William's drinking eroded his life, taking his career and family. When his 29-year marriage ended in divorce, William didn't know what to do.

A Lesson in Humility

He had tried rehabilitation before, but 30-day programs never helped. Then he heard about the year-long Men's New Life Program and decided to try again—but it wasn't easy. "I was an arrogant, successful business person when I came, who was expected to do some menial tasks around the Mission," he admits with a smile. "Two years ago I wouldn't even have considered doing those." But now, committed to change, "I swallowed my pride."

William's next big step was spiritual. "The New Life Class has helped me



strengthen my relationship with Christ, from nothing to the righteousness [of Christ] I enjoy today." The impact on his alcoholism has been dramatic. "I have never been sober for 10½ months before. I don't even desire a drink. There must be God at work in this building. There is no other explanation."

The Truly Good Life

William's sons are thrilled with his progress. And through them, he hopes to reconcile with his wife. Thinking about the difference you've made to his life and his family, William says, "The Springfield Rescue Mission is your best investment, dollar for dollar. The proof is here!" Thank you for helping William see what the "good life" really is!



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.com

Email us at:

srm@springfieldrescuemission.org

No person is denied services based on race, creed, gender or nationality.

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!



Your Gift Can Go **Twice** as Far!

Last May, a loyal group of friends challenged supporters like you to match every dollar of their \$25,000 gift. Matching funds are still available today to make your gift go twice as far!

Matched funds will provide shelter, meals, long-term care, and the

outreach of Operation Sunshine to Greater Springfield's poorest people. Heading into the busiest season of the year, and with income running behind budget, we can't afford to miss this opportunity. Will you give today to make sure we can match all \$25,000? Thank you!