

# EXPECTATIONS

Serving the Homeless in Jesus' Name Since 1892

## You're Making this an *Unforgettable* Thanksgiving!

*"Through God's grace and His love, I've had a life-changing experience." —Anthony*

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*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." —Ephesians 2:8a, 10 NIV*





**Ronald Willoughby**  
Executive Director/CEO

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# Giving Grace at Thanksgiving

Dear Friend,

It's autumn in New England—one of the highlights of my year, as I'm sure it is yours.

And as we look ahead to sitting down and saying grace for God's bounty this Thanksgiving, I'm filled with anticipation at how many lives God will bless at the Rescue Mission . . .

**And I want you to know that's because of the partnership and prayers from faithful friends like you who help make this such an unforgettable season of changing lives in Christ's name.**

The need is still great, as hundreds of men and women continue to come to us for food, for hope and for a fresh start.

And since this ministry receives no government support, it's *your* generosity that makes possible all the stocked shelves in our Give Away Center, wholesome meals, warm beds, emergency care, and the second chances offered through our Men's New Life Transformation/Rehabilitation Program.

You'll see the faces and stories of the men and women blessed by your support up-close and personal in this special Thanksgiving issue of

*EXPECTATIONS*. Changed men like Anthony, who you can read about on page 3. Angel, Charlene and Maurice, who share their gratitude with you over breakfast on page 4. And Gerrod on the back page, whose thanks goes out to you this Thanksgiving for perhaps *the best holiday he's ever had*.

***Theirs is the kind of life-change you make possible with every \$2.32 meal you share, so I urge you to seek God's leading in sending a Thanksgiving gift with your enclosed reply slip today.***

Thank you for praying and giving generously, as we provide over 36,000 hot, wholesome meals this special season, as many as 1,600 shelter beds and countless opportunities for the future.

Thanking God for you,

*Ronald Willoughby*

**P.S. Remember, the grace you provide through your gift right now can make this an unforgettable Thanksgiving for your neighbors most in need: *hungry, hurting, homeless people coming to you and me for a hot meal—and hope at the holidays!***

*I look forward to hearing from you today.*

**"Through God's grace and His love, I've had a life-changing experience."** —Anthony



**A**nthony went from desperation and loss to total transformation thanks to your support for men like him, whom God loves and brings here to save and change!

"I was a complete disaster," Anthony says, shaking his head at the memory of how far he'd fallen, how low he'd landed. "I lost everything. I lost my home, I lost my family."

*Drugs had replaced them all.* "It was a nightmare," he admits. "And it makes me feel disgusted. I didn't realize how many people I affected while I was on drugs, until I saw my sister crying or my younger brother crying, or my stepfather, seeing him cry for me. I was like, 'Wow. I really hurt people. Look what I've done,'" as tears spring into his eyes at the suffering he'd caused.

"But you don't realize any of that when you're caught up on the drugs," Anthony says. "It was rough. It was hard." And like so many others who hit rock bottom after burning all their bridges, there was nowhere left to turn for help but here.

"I was in a car accident, and my sister told me, 'your season is almost up. You have to get out of this.' And my mother said she'd heard about this place—the Springfield Rescue Mission . . ."

"That was when I said, 'I have nothing more to lose,' so I came in," and the Lord transformed him.

Amazed, Anthony says, "Through God's grace and His love, I've had a life-changing experience!" **That is the point and purpose of this ministry, especially at the holidays, when suffering and struggle are felt even more intensely—and hope is most longed for.**

"The holidays here? It was so great!" Anthony smiles in gratitude. "They had a big dinner at Thanksgiving for everybody—for the homeless, and even for us in the Men's New Life Program. For Christmas too!" he beams.

**And it's all thanks to the commitment and care you express through your gifts and prayers.**

"My mom is so proud of me now," Anthony says, wiping the tears away. "She never thought she'd see this day, and that can be a little overwhelming. I'll say, 'All right, mom?' and she'll stare at me and say, 'Oh, my God. I can't believe it.'" **Today, Anthony smiles and praises God in his heart for making transformation possible through this ministry we share in Springfield.**

**Thanksgiving is a time for family, a time for sharing, a time for expressing in thoughts, prayers and actions just how grateful we are for God's blessings. Anthony knows that same joy and gratitude now too, and it's all thanks to your faithfulness at the holidays, and all year long!**



# CELEBRATING YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION!

*"This blessing goes out to everyone!"—Maurice*

Since 1892, coming in out of the cold—physically, spiritually—to a hot, wholesome meal has been at the heart of the Rescue Mission's ministry to Springfield's hungry, hurting and homeless. In fact, all year long, summer or winter, every weekday morning a hearty Public Breakfast is lovingly served to anyone who comes to us hungry from across our community.

Just ask how much that means to someone sitting down gratefully to breakfast at the Rescue Mission—like Angel, Maurice and Charlene—who know the hopelessness of the streets . . . and the saving grace of a meal this Thanksgiving season.

"I feel blessed that I'm here—this keeps me going," Angel smiles. "It makes me feel ready, welcome—good!" And feeling good has been a long time coming for Angel. Charlene too. "All that I was going through?" she sighs, remembering her fear and hunger as a woman alone on the streets, "And I didn't have anyone," she says. "Without a place like this, I'd be lost. But God opened His door!"

And Maurice adds his thankfulness to friends like you who make this first meal of the day—and everything else we provide—possible! "Thank you, God bless you and I'll help make sure this blessing goes out to everyone!"



## Give a Meal & Holiday Hope this Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a terrible time to feel helpless and hungry! That's why the hot, wholesome meals you provide this special season are feeding those in need—body and soul.

Annually, hundreds sit down to breakfast at the Rescue Mission, and at our Thanksgiving Celebration this year, we'll serve close to 400 more hungry men, women and children! These thankful neighbors will also receive the love and care in Christ they need from friends like you. For special ways you can serve those who need you most this holiday season, see pages 6 & 7!





## Serving Springfield with Operation SONshine!

Throughout the year, our dependable mobile Operation SONshine ministry crisscrosses Greater Springfield to help reach hundreds of our most vulnerable neighbors right in their areas. Your support keeps us on the road and meeting needs—right up to and including 250 meals a week to hungry, hurting souls. *And at the holidays, your compassion in action means even more!*



## Giving Help & Hope at our Give Away Center!

One of the Rescue Mission's biggest successes has been through our busy Give Away Center, where neighbors in need of gently used clothing, shoes and winter coats can come and find what they require for themselves and their families. *The Give Away Center is open by appointment and in nearly constant demand, which is why your donations matter so much to serve as many as possible at the holidays and all year long!*

## THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU'LL EVER SAY



Updating your will can make sure your legacy is ensured, with those you love and the organizations you support, like the Springfield Rescue Mission. An excellent addition is a Legacy Love Letter—a video or written record that's not a legal document, so you can add it to your estate plan personally, and can include:

1. *Beliefs and values*—including the causes and ministries you're supporting.
2. *Life lessons*—defining moments, particularly those that developed your Christlike character.
3. *Encouraging words*—Saying "I love you" and letting family and friends know what you value most!

**As you consider your Legacy Love Letter, remember how many lives you're touching through the Rescue Mission, in Jesus' name! Contact Greg Clark at (413) 732-0808 ext. 219 or [gclark@springfieldrescuemission.org](mailto:gclark@springfieldrescuemission.org) to learn more about including the Rescue Mission in your will or to receive your sample copy of a Legacy Love Letter.**



# It's the Holidays! Save the Dates...

For Thanks, Giving and Celebrations at the Rescue Mission!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

## Feed the Need Radiothon Fundraiser with The Q 99.7

Be sure to tune in!

Radiothon: 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Tune in to The Q alongside your family of friends supporting the Rescue Mission for this year's exciting *Feed the Need* radiothon fundraiser. This is your chance to hear the life-changing transformations that are happening at the Rescue Mission because of you, and to call in your support to help us *Feed the Need* for your most vulnerable neighbors this Thanksgiving season!



*I AM the bread of life...*



OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 15

## Undie Sunday/Monday

What to Bring: new underwear, t-shirts, socks

The holidays are nearly here—and cold winter is blowing our way, so for the most vulnerable men, women and children in our community, it's crucial we make available the very basic necessities they need, like clean underclothes, t-shirts and warm socks (Especially all sizes of men's undergarments)! So stop by 10 Mill Street, Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., with your donations, and thank you for thinking of "the least of these!"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

## Thanksgiving Celebration at the Rescue Mission

Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

Meal Deliveries: 11:00 a.m.

Dinner: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

There's no time of year that's more welcome—and more festive!—than our annual Great Thanksgiving Banquet, serving hundreds in need at this special time of year. So make your plans to join us for food, fun and fellowship this year, because volunteers to serve and deliver are both welcome and needed! **Sign up today at [springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer](http://springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer)—and see you there!**

## THANKSGIVING GROCERY LIST: Your HELP is needed!

### BREAKFAST

- ☐ Eggs
- ☐ Sausage
- ☐ Bacon
- ☐ Juice
- ☐ Milk
- ☐ Hot chocolate
- ☐ Coffee
- ☐ Potatoes
- ☐ Fresh fruit
- ☐ Pastries

### DINNER & MEAL DELIVERY

- ☐ Turkeys
- ☐ Potatoes
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Fruits
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Stuffing
- ☐ Soups
- ☐ Dinner rolls
- ☐ Butter
- ☐ Cheese
- ☐ Pies
- ☐ Cranberry sauce
- ☐ Hot chocolate
- ☐ Coffee

Volunteers & food donations are crucial in serving all those coming to us for a meal, help and hope this Thanksgiving! Email or call Bob Hanson at [bhanson@springfieldrescuemission.org](mailto:bhanson@springfieldrescuemission.org) or call 413-732-0808 ext. 117. **Thank you!**



whoever comes to Me will never go hungry



MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

### Christmas at the Rescue Mission

Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.  
Meal Deliveries: 11:00 a.m.  
Dinner: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Keeping Christ in Christmas can start this year by sharing Christmas with your hungry, hurting neighbors! For more on how you can make a difference as a volunteer this Christmas, email or call Lenore Brooks at [lb Brooks@springfieldrescuemission.org](mailto:lb Brooks@springfieldrescuemission.org), 413-732-0808 ext. 220. **Thank you!**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

### It's the 2020 Coldest Day 5K!

**Walk, Run and Stand Together  
for Those in Need!**

Race Event: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Registration begins in December for our annual opportunity to make strides across the community to raise awareness of our most vulnerable neighbors suffering hurt and homelessness. See you there!

Your support during this  
blessed season of thanksgiving  
means everything to those most  
in need across our community.

### I WANT TO MAKE THIS AN UNFORGETTABLE THANKSGIVING!

Yes, Ron, here's my help to share meals, care and hope in Christ with my neighbors most in need this special season. I'm enclosing my best Thanksgiving gift today of:

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to bless as many as I can with God's grace!  
☐ Please charge my credit card. (See back of form.)>>

☐ I'd like to give \_\_\_\_\_ monthly as a faithful Sustainer of Hope partner.

John Smith  
1234 Main Street  
Anytown, ST 98765



**SPRINGFIELD  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

P.O. Box 9045 • Springfield, MA 01102-9045  
[springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org)  
Donate securely online!

For more information, please call 413-732-0808  
or visit [www.springfieldrescuemission.org](http://www.springfieldrescuemission.org).

☐ I'd like to receive more information on how  
to include the Rescue Mission in my Will.

The Springfield Rescue Mission does not  
sell, rent or exchange its mailing list.



Please look to  
God's leading  
and return your  
enclosed reply  
slip with your  
best gift today  
to help save and  
change lives at  
Thanksgiving  
in Greater  
Springfield!



# GERROD: A LIFE CHANGED—FOR GOOD!

“I’ve been a really troubled person—since I was 16 years old,” Gerrod says, his voice dropping to almost a whisper as he looks back on a life of turmoil and desperation.

“My father passed away from drinking,” he admits. “And my problem is mostly drinking—imagine,” he shakes his head. “I mean, it’s crazy, just to realize I was an alcoholic son.

“The alcohol plays tricks on you. You’re thinking you’re okay, then the next thing you know, you’re stumbling down the street.” Then Gerrod looks up and says, “Alcohol also tells you that *nobody cares*.”

**But with God’s grace, Gerrod found caring, hope and freedom from his addiction at the Rescue Mission.**

“If I hadn’t, I don’t know where I’d be now,” he says. “Just . . . drinking.” This is why Gerrod is so grateful for the new life he’s finally experienced, thanks to your Christ-centered support.

“It’s such a blessing, knowing I don’t have to worry about a drink. It gives me chills!” he says. And it is his newfound faith that has made that possible. “I got baptized and I was shedding tears—tears of joy! It’s a powerful, overwhelming feeling.”

And it’s a feeling that runs even deeper at this time of year filled with such hope and promise.



*“God is so beautiful,” he says. “God is so powerful, God loves us and I like to draw, so I draw hearts like these . . . because He is so amazing!”*

“Here they have Thanksgiving, people come in, bringing families and kids, turkey is served and we’re helping!” he smiles.

And Christmas? “I was here at Christmas, sitting there enjoying myself like a kid all over again because when I was young, I didn’t.” Imagine: a childhood without Christmas—the holidays with no place to lay your head, no kind words to hear, no hot meals served . . . and no hope in anything.

**But your help provides for all that and more this holiday season, and Gerrod’s thanks go out to you for sharing God’s grace with hundreds just like him . . .**



**SPRINGFIELD  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

10 Mill Street | P.O. Box 9045  
Springfield, MA 01102-9045  
PHONE: 413-732-0808 | FAX: 413-732-5512  
WEB: [www.springfieldrescuemission.org](http://www.springfieldrescuemission.org)

Give today at [springfieldrescuemission.org/donate](http://springfieldrescuemission.org/donate)

Connect with us at [info@springfieldrescuemission.org](mailto:info@springfieldrescuemission.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Springfield Rescue Mission since 1892 is 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.

The Springfield Rescue Mission is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.



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