



SPRINGFIELD
RESCUE
MISSION

YOU Are Giving Hope
for the Holidays

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EXPECTATIONS

Serving the Homeless in Jesus' Name Since 1892

**“This is a God-given
place and can
change your life!”**

—Donny

See how you've helped
transform his life
this Thanksgiving! **p. 3**

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TO CHANGE!’”



“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” —Psalm 106:1 NIV

The Power YOU Have to Transform Lives This Season!



A Message From Ron Willoughby on the Incoming Executive Director/CEO, Kevin Ramsdell

Dear Friend,

As I humbly pass the baton to Kevin Ramsdell, the new Executive Director/CEO of the Springfield Rescue Mission, I am reaching out to you to express my thanks for all you mean to those we serve together.

The holidays are, of course, a very special time of year in New England, just as they are for communities, families and friends all across our great nation.

I see this season as a tremendous opportunity to welcome struggling neighbors in need into our Mission “home” at a time when they may be at the end of their road. It’s a chance to open our doors and arms and say, “We love you, Jesus loves you and we want to share our holiday with you—starting with a hot meal, a safe place to sleep and His hope for the holidays!”

That’s because every **\$2.32** Thanksgiving meal at the Rescue Mission, provided by a friend like you, has the power to save and change lives for a better, brighter future in the new year ahead.

Does that sound like a lot for a \$2.32 meal to accomplish? It’s incredible but true—and it’s

the power YOU have to transform lives this season of thanks and giving!

Lives of people like Donny and Willie’s, who you can read about in this special Thanksgiving issue of *EXPECTATIONS*, and so many others who are hurting and homeless in Greater Springfield this season, as the coronavirus crisis and other troubles continue to take jobs, health, homes and hope away.

Together, through your gifts and prayers, this ministry will continue to feed those who are hungry, *body and soul*, at our public breakfasts, with our Men’s New Life Rehabilitation/Transformation program, Operation SONshine—the Give Away Center—and in so many other ways to safely show there is help, *and there is hope*.

Yet, that **\$2.32** meal we’re able to offer with your help is most often the first step to a new life, which is why I’ve enclosed a special **Thanksgiving Meal Ticket** for you to return with your heartfelt gift today—a ticket to give hope at *the holidays!*

That’s the power you have this Thanksgiving, and I look forward to serving alongside you.

Blessings,

Ronald Willoughby
Ron Willoughby, Executive Director/CEO

P.S. This is a crucial time for your help sharing hot, wholesome Thanksgiving meals and hope with your neighbors who need you most! **So, remember to return your enclosed Thanksgiving Meal Ticket with your best gift this Thanksgiving season.**

And please let me hear from you soon!



A Life Transformed—Because of You!



"This is a God-given place and can change your life!" —Donny

"I grew up nearby," Donny recalls, "had a good childhood. Until my father started drinking . . ."

He sighs, shaking his head as the memories of how his home and family turned into a battlefield returned. "I used to protect my sisters," he recounts, "I kept an eye out for them. Never knew the shape dad would be in when he came home from work."

And as his childhood disappeared under the strain, Donny found himself looking for an escape, *only to turn to drinking himself.*

On and off for years, Donny would get clean and sober, only to fall back into failure, "isolating myself," he says. And it cost him everything—a home of his own. Family. Friends. Peace.

Until he knew something had to change—starting with himself. "I had this pain in my heart,"

he says. "But I knew I was done with drinking."

So, Donny stepped through the doors of the Rescue Mission for a meal, for peace in his heart. For hope . . .

And like so many others whose hearts are filled with hunger and hurt this Thanksgiving season, Donny found the peace, hope and caring he was looking for—along with a *new life* in Jesus Christ.

"It isn't easy what I went through," he says. "But I'm thankful for today—now, I've got tons of friends," Donny smiles.

"This is a God-given place and can change your life!"

Thank YOU for helping make that possible for 128 years in Greater Springfield!

This is the very best time of year to "share like family" with those who have no one else to care! Donny knows how that feels all too deeply, and his thanks are joined by hundreds more for you this Thanksgiving. **So, for these neighbors in need, remember the Rescue Mission with your gifts and in your prayers. You have the power to help save and change lives this season! Thanks and blessings.**

YOUR GIFTS IN

Action!

The power of your support is never more evident than during the holiday season, especially this year, when we're seeing so much more hunger, hurt and homelessness from across our region.

Yet, through your compassion in action, we have the opportunity to reach an even greater number of lives on the line this fall and winter through these significant outreaches . . .

Operation SONshine

Safely and securely, our mobile Operation SONshine ministry covers neighborhoods across Greater Springfield to meet the needs of vulnerable lives unable to reach the Rescue Mission. Gifts and prayers like yours keep the van on the road, serving as many as 290 meals each week!

Thanksgiving Meals & Hope

On top of the 850 meals and more provided at the Rescue Mission daily, more than 500 men, women and children will gather gratefully at our annual Thanksgiving Celebration! And because the holidays are a terrible time to be hungry, your help means more now than ever!



The Give Away Center

We're blessed to be able to offer gently used clothing, shoes, winter coats and staple groceries, thanks to donations like yours. The Give Away Center is open by appointment to anyone in need, so every gift received reaches as many neighbors as possible!

Public Breakfast

As the health crisis pushes more men, women and children to our door for our public breakfasts, you have the opportunity to show how much you care for thankful neighbors in need like . . .

Shawn: "COVID-19? Still doing all right, and been coming here—and it's a good thing because food doesn't go far. The Rescue Mission's public breakfast is one meal I don't have to worry about where it will come from!"

Stacy: "I hope everything gets better and back to normal soon. I hope the Rescue Mission is always here—I'm very grateful for the help. I have my own place, but I'm still struggling."

David: "I wasn't doing well, working two part-time jobs, nervous about the coronavirus and what could happen. But I heard about the Rescue Mission, especially about the public breakfast. And it was a good place to come to for a meal!"

Michael: "I've been coming here for a while. The food is good—and the people who help you!"

The Power of a Thanksgiving Meal You Provide!

For all those coming to the Rescue Mission in desperate need right now, every **\$2.32** meal served with your help can be the first step to new life! That's the power you have, so like the one below, please return your enclosed **Thanksgiving Meal Ticket** attached to your reply slip along with your special Thanksgiving gift. **And on behalf of every life we serve, thanks & blessings.**

SPRINGFIELD RESCUE MISSION
THANKSGIVING MEAL TICKET

\$ _____

Your generous gift will provide Thanksgiving meals and extra servings of help and hope!

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Mark your Calendar

For the Holidays at the Rescue Mission!

OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30

Undie Sunday/Undie Monday

With the holidays here and winter right around the corner, the months of October and November bring an opportunity for friends like you to help provide new undergarments for men, women and children in need. *Contactless drop-off donations are Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at 10 Mill Street. Call 413-732-0808 or visit springfieldrescuemission.org for more info.*



Dean came by with First Baptist Church of Enfield's Undie Sunday, Undie Monday donation of undergarments that are so desperately needed in our Emergency Shelter and Rehabilitation Programs.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Happy Thanksgiving!

This year's Thanksgiving meal celebrations are a warm and wonderful chance to reach out to the hungry and hurting as a family of friends! Your help serving or delivering meals to hungry neighbors at home is a massive part of our holiday ministry, so please consider joining us as a volunteer.

Holiday Mealtimes:

Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

Meal Deliveries: 11:00 a.m.

Dinner: 1:00 p.m.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Feed the Need Radiothon

A wonderful way to celebrate and share Thanksgiving with your neighbors in need is by tuning into **The Q 99.7** for this year's opportunity to listen, pray and give from your heart!



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Merry Christmas!

The real "reason for the season" is *sharing Christ's name* at Christmas with those most in need as we help with sanitary preparation and the safe serving of Christmas meals . . . or even as we help with local meal deliveries for the homebound!



To personally share the spirit of the season safely & securely, visit springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer or call 413-732-0808. And visit our website to find out how you can also help with food donations for our holiday celebrations.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Coldest Day 5K 2021

Walk/Run for Neighbors in Need

Make plans to join us next year for the 2021 community-wide "Coldest Day 5K" to raise awareness for the homeless in our community. Together, we'll "walk a mile (and more!) in their shoes" to show our support! Registration will start this December for this wonderful winter event! *More information to come on our website.*



LOOKING
AHEAD



Find Financial Peace—Now, and for the Future!

As many worry about the ongoing health crisis, they're also worried about their family and financial future.

But while many haven't started or saved enough for retirement, this is an excellent time to do so:

75 is the new 65 – People are living longer than ever, which could allow you to delay retirement a few years and lessen financial worry at the same time.

Play catch-up – Americans age 50 and up are eligible to make extra contributions to tax-sheltered retirement accounts, so "catch-up contributions" may work best for you!

The SECURE Act – Congress recently passed the **Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act** to give Americans like you more time to save. While you can still make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Springfield Rescue Mission beginning at age 70-1/2, the age for required IRA minimum distributions has been raised to 72! *And if you have an IRA and meet the proper age requirements, a QCD is your smartest way to give.*

So, as you consider your retirement, will and legacy giving, remember how many lives you have the power to impact now and in the days ahead! For more information, confidentially contact Greg Clark at (413) 732-0808 ext. 219 or gclark@springfieldrescuemission.org.

A LIFE CHANGED

I said, 'I want to change!'" —Willie

When there was nowhere else to turn, and no one else to care, YOU were there for broken lives like Willie's, and he's so thankful this Thanksgiving!

It's hard, and it's cold on the streets of Springfield during the holidays, especially with fall turning into winter, and you can't even remember the last time you had food, warmth or welcome . . .

That's the kind of Thanksgiving Willie remembers, before he realized that homelessness wasn't a given and that hunger and hurt could find an answer at the door of the Rescue Mission.



"I wanted to change!" he remembers waking up and thinking. "I said, 'I want to change!'" he cried out. God heard him and brought him here for help—and hope during the holidays!

That's the power of life-change made possible with faithful support like yours for those who desperately want something better, something *more*. And that's precisely what this ministry we share has been providing to the least, the last and the lost here in the heart of our community—for 128 years.

"I've met a lot of people here who are very generous," Willie marvels, explaining how he now shares the recovery and rebirth he's experiencing with others. "Talked to a *lot* of people," he smiles, knowing every life transformed starts with someone caring enough to share their best.

And what could be better than finding hope in Christ over a hot, wholesome Thanksgiving meal?

Thank you for making that possible with your support, and may every blessing of the season be yours *because without you, life-change like Willie's couldn't happen here!*

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Give today at
springfieldrescuemission.org/donate

Connect with us at
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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