



**SPRINGFIELD
RESCUE
MISSION**

**Shining Bright in Springfield—
TOGETHER!**

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EXPECTATIONS

Serving the Homeless in Jesus' Name Since 1892



“God has a plan for **YOU!**”

Mark's story of
a life changed
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"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden . . . in the same way, let your light shine before others." Matthew 5:14, 16

“God has a plan for YOU.”

Mark’s Story of a Life Changed at the Rescue Mission!

Not every resident in our Men’s New Life Rehabilitation Program grew up in Greater Springfield, but in Mark’s case, he has deep roots right here in this community. “I grew up in Springfield,” he says. “Pine Point area. Played a lot of ball when I was younger—and I was on the state championship track team in the ‘70s.



overwhelming. “My friend said to me, ‘Mark, the stuff you’ve been through would’ve killed a lot of people, but **God has a plan for you.**”

That’s when Mark found himself working with a lady from MHA—the Mental Health Association—who asked, “Would you like to go to the Rescue Mission?”

“We had a lot of success,” Mark says. But he shakes his head at the memory, because during those high school years his successes were shadowed by a dark secret. “I started drinking when I was 17,” he admits—an addiction he battled his whole life, until failing health and eventually COVID pushed him over the edge.

“I’m 63,” he sighs. “I was sober for 20 years”—until the pandemic happened . . .

Mark spent a month in the hospital facing the reality of potentially becoming an amputee because of poor circulation in his leg. The doctors tried other means to save his foot and fitted him for a pacemaker. But while he was there, Mark got COVID. Twice. He then went to a health and rehabilitation center, and it was during his long recovery that Mark fell back into addiction.

“When I relapsed, the depression got me,” he says, the despair in his eyes almost

“People here serve the homeless: I see them, and pray for them, because there is hope!”

“So I said, yes!” And that was the first step on Mark’s path back to a hope-filled restoration and New Life in the Lord through our landmark Men’s New Life Rehabilitation Program.

Without answering that call to Christ? . . . “I could be at the Rescue Mission’s Taylor Street Men’s Emergency Shelter, waiting to get a bed for the night: I could be homeless”—and still hopeless.

Full of gratitude for friends like you who help make life transformation in Jesus possible here, Mark shares his thanks and prayers with you—

That kind of hope in the Lord, now and during the busy holiday season ahead, is only possible because we are shining bright in Springfield—together—thanks to your support!

“That’s the grace of God,” Mark says, “And it gets stronger every day. That’s my story!”



Help Fill the Pantry to Feed Our Hungry—Body & Soul!



"I'm sorry, but we're out of food."
How terrible that would be to hear, especially if you were a neighbor who's found himself jobless and homeless . . . or a mother who can't afford the rising cost of groceries to feed her hungry children!

That's not the spirit of the Rescue Mission's 130 years of service—and as Thanksgiving approaches, even more neighbors will come to our door in need of a meal, help and hope!

But to feed every neighbor in need this fall and into the holidays, it's crucial that we fill the pantry and stand ready to serve everyone God sends our way for a meal and a fresh start.

Your heartfelt help is needed now, so please look for the Lord's leading to help fill the pantry shelves and ensure no one is turned away—not on our watch, not in Springfield!

Thank you for your compassion and caring, and remember: without you, many in our community who are struggling will go hungry this Thanksgiving season . . . and we must not—will not—let that happen! **God bless.**

Please don't wait to give—help the Rescue Mission fill the pantry and stand ready to serve! Use your enclosed reply slip or go to springfieldrescuemission.org/expectations

FALL PANTRY NEEDS

- Ground Beef
- Chicken
- Eggs & Milk
- Fresh Vegetables
- Frozen Vegetables

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

to serve in Jesus' name this fall and throughout the holidays!

SERVE AT THE RESCUE MISSION!

There's nowhere better to share Christ's love this season! Volunteer to serve or deliver holiday meals at springfieldrescuemission.org/get-involved/volunteer or call Lenore Masciotra at 413-732-0808, ext. 220.

NOVEMBER 23

Annual Thanksgiving Banquet
Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving meals served from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 23

Annual Christmas Banquet
Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m.

Lunch served from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve
Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m.

Christmas morning
Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. at Taylor Street Men's Shelter only

COLLECTION DRIVE: UNDIE SUNDAY/MONDAY

OCTOBER 1-31

All sizes and styles of NEW socks, underwear and t-shirts welcome for men, women and children—especially men's boxers/briefs sizes M to XL and t-shirts L to 4XL. Our 2022 goal is 4,000 sets of underwear, socks and t-shirts with your help. Thank YOU!



A Personal Message from Kevin



Executive Director/CEO

Shining Bright in Springfield Thanks to Hearts Like Yours!

My Friend,

I love Matthew 5:14, 16, where Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden . . . in the same way, let your light shine before others" because I see this ministry that you and I share as a shining light to the least and the lost in our community!

Of course, the Rescue Mission has been far from hidden in 130 years of service to Greater Springfield, but I feel that we are so visible right now as *increasing numbers* of our neighbors in need search for a meal, for help and for hope in the Lord during these difficult days.

That sense of purpose is only possible with partnerships like yours. The gifts and prayers you provide are the key to *being here* with doors and arms wide open to every neighbor in need, especially as we head into the holidays.

For too many this year, Thanksgiving in New England won't be a question of "when" they'll eat . . . it's a question of "if."

That's why I'm looking for your help today to make sure we're ready for these hungry

people, body and soul. We can't go to the pantry and find it empty. And after a hard summer like this one, our resources are already strained as we prepare to serve 20,879 meals this fall!

I urge you to consider a special gift today to help fill the pantry and offer a wholesome meal—and Christ's hope—to every hungry man, woman and child coming for help. **Any gift you share can provide a hearty meal to someone in desperate need for just \$2.64!**

So thank you for shining the light so brightly together with those serving alongside you here at the Rescue Mission . . . and please know how thankful those in our care are for hearts like yours "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16 NIV).

From the bottom of my heart,

Kevin Ramsdell
Executive Director/CEO

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Give today at:
springfieldrescuemission.org/expectations

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, and does not rely on government funding.



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