



**SPRINGFIELD
RESCUE
MISSION**

You're Sharing the
Spirit of Christmas in Springfield!

Christmas 2022 • Volume 36, Issue 5 • springfieldrescuemission.org

EXPECTATIONS

Serving the Homeless in Jesus' Name Since 1892



*"My life has started over
**Because
People
Here Gave
Me Love!"***

-Angel

See how God saved &
changed his life through
your support, pg. 2

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Our doors and arms are open this Christmas through the warmth and witness you make possible during these difficult days. Because of you, we are leading our many guests to Christ as He invites them to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NIV).



“My life has started over Because People Here Gave Me Love!”

**Angel’s life has been saved and changed in Christ,
THANKS TO YOUR GIFTS & PRAYERS!**

Angel had no one to count on, nowhere to find “peace on earth.” In fact, you may even be shocked by his story . . . years of struggling, isolation, survival on the streets.

As a child, “My life was hard,” Angel remembers. Harder still, “My father died when I was 16 years old,” he recalls, shaking his head at how much those memories still hurt.

When that happened, Angel found himself easy prey for guys he looked up to in the neighborhood who said they’d take care of him, only to leave him addicted—and alone.

There was “nothing else,” he says. “I didn’t have family, didn’t have *anybody*.” And eventually, the streets became his whole life. It made him tough—but bitter, too . . .

“I felt like nobody loved me,” Angel says.

“So I thought I didn’t *need anybody*. And in that moment, I didn’t care.”

But God had other plans for Angel, and he found himself sitting down to a meal—surrounded by feelings of hope—at the Rescue Mission, all because of caring hearts like yours.

That winter, Angel saw so many other neighbors in need like him come “to get a warm bed, breakfast, dinner, to shower and get clean clothes.” And he soon realized he wasn’t alone in his suffering anymore.

Just like that, Angel knew it was time—he took the next steps to get clean and sober through our proven New Life Men’s Rehabilitation Program. “It’s really good—it really works,” he smiles. “But you’ve got to be sure *you want to change your life.*”

Angel wanted that change more than anything, and he’s a new man today. He’s on staff here at the Rescue Mission, dedicated to helping care for other lives on the line!

“My life has started over *because people here gave me love.*”

And now, Angel is looking out for others. “I talk to the guys. I say, ‘if you have no place to live, nowhere to go, there’s a program. It can help you because it helped me!’”

Angel is grateful to hearts like yours for making peace and restoration possible at the Rescue Mission, starting with the Christmas meal and hope in Christ you share for just \$2.64!



Please fill out the CHRISTMAS MEAL & HOPE CERTIFICATE with the amount God leads you to share this celebration season—and return it with your very best gift to share warm meals and Christ’s hope for Christmas!

Opportunities for You to "Give Back" in the New Year!

There's nowhere better to share Christ's love than at the Rescue Mission! You can volunteer to serve in many ways to brighten lives across our community! **Contact Lenore Masciotra by phone at 413-732-0808, ext. 220. Or email her at lmasciotra@springfieldrescuemission.org**



Mark Your Christmas Calendar

DECEMBER 23

Annual Christmas Banquet

Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m.
Traditional Christmas meal served from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.
Christmas morning
(Taylor Street Men's Shelter only): 7:00 a.m.

ALL MONTH LONG

Operation SONshine

Our mobile food service vans head into Springfield's neighborhoods 3 days a week.

Give Away Center

Reaching Springfield's neighbors with clothing, shoes, household items and basic hygiene items *free of charge*.
Appointments: 413-732-0808 ext. 121.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023

SAVE
THE
DATE!

Coldest Day 5K 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Share fellowship and raise awareness for those we serve!

Virtual 5K option available March 4–18.

See springfieldrescuemission.org for up-to-date info. See you there!

**Tell your friends at work, school, or your club!
This is a wonderful team-building opportunity!**



A Personal Message from Kevin



Executive
Director/CEO

You Are Sharing the Spirit of Christmas in Springfield!

My Friend,

It's the holidays—it's Christmastime—and if you're at all like me, you can hardly catch a breath! There is so much to do and so much to look forward to during this most blessed of seasons . . .

But before more time races by, *I want to stop for a moment . . . slow things down . . . and ask you to join me in prayer with Christmas Day in mind.*

Pray that the record numbers of men coming in from the street will find safe refuge here as the weather gets colder and more dangerous. Pray that the hungry men, women and children turning to us for food and other basic necessities will find the help they need in hard times. And pray that every person God brings to our door finds **hope in Christ this Christmas.**

That's the kind of Christmas miracle that turned Angel's life around—for good! I trust you'll read his story inside this issue and see a life *saved and changed* through many years of both giving and receiving at the Rescue Mission! **May you find encouragement in his miraculous step back from the brink of despair to a hope-filled future!**

As you consider how God is blessing this "shelter . . . from the storm" (Isaiah 4:6), remember He accomplishes everything here through hearts like yours.

Thanks and blessings to you and yours for being the best part of this ministry in Christ's name at Christmas and in the new year ahead!

Serving HIM,

Kevin Ramsdell
Executive Director/CEO

P.S. As you prepare for your own Christmas with loved ones and friends, please welcome struggling neighbors to our table with as many **\$2.64** meals and as much hope in Christ at Christmas as possible by returning your enclosed **CHRISTMAS MEAL & HOPE CERTIFICATE! Thanks again.**



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WEB: springfieldrescuemission.org

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.



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Follow us on Twitter!
[@hope4spfld](https://twitter.com/hope4spfld)

The Springfield Rescue Mission is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and does not rely on government funding.

