



**SPRINGFIELD
RESCUE
MISSION**

**Your Help Provides
Thanksgiving Meals Again!**

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EXPECTATIONS

Bringing Light and Hope to our Community by Sharing the Love of Christ



*“There’s a Sense of
Community Here.
Thank You!”*

See Pat’s story of a
life transformed..... **pg. 2**

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**Look for your THANKSGIVING MEAL
TICKET enclosed with this issue!**



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



“There's a Sense of Community Here. Thank You!”

Thanksgiving can be a challenging, even heartbreaking, time when you've lost everything and have no one left to care. . . like Pat. But thanks to hearts like yours, he found HOPE again!

Pat was already facing homelessness when the State Police found him very ill on the Pike in the middle of the night.

He ended up in the hospital—in isolation with COVID—and walking with a cane: “It affected my lungs *and my legs*,” Pat says, knowing he was vulnerable even before the virus hit, after “multiple back surgeries” . . . and poor health due to his struggles with alcohol abuse “since I was a teenager,” he adds.

But long before hard times and harder circumstances cost him all he had, nearly including his very life, Pat had big dreams and the chance to pursue them.

“My father did 22 years in the Air Force,” he recalls. “I grew up on Air Force bases—a year in Germany, and England. All over.”

And after experiencing the strict discipline and relocations that come with a military childhood, it only seemed natural for Pat to follow in his dad's footsteps, going into the service “for five years,” he says proudly.

He's also proud to have completed college with “a degree in horticulture and landscape design.”



Yet the best-made plans can fail, and opportunities fall aside so easily when difficulties arise—especially when your health begins to decline. Worse, when your refuge is alcohol like it was for Pat, *there's usually no way to go but down.*

When the police found him on the Pike, sick and alone, they didn't know the truck they pulled him from was all he had left in the world. “I was pretty much living in it,” he says—with COVID making everything “a blur,” Pat admits. “*For several days.*”



He was afraid it would claim his life like it had so many others.

But as Pat began his long road to recovery, a concerned caregiver saw he needed more than just his strength back—he needed **HOPE again.**

And after being put in touch with the Rescue Mission, Pat found a second chance at life.

Walking through our doors nervously, his cane in hand, Pat recalls exactly how he was greeted. “It was great,” he smiles. “There are very nice people here!”

That had never been more necessary, he confesses, because, “I was pretty messed up at the time.”

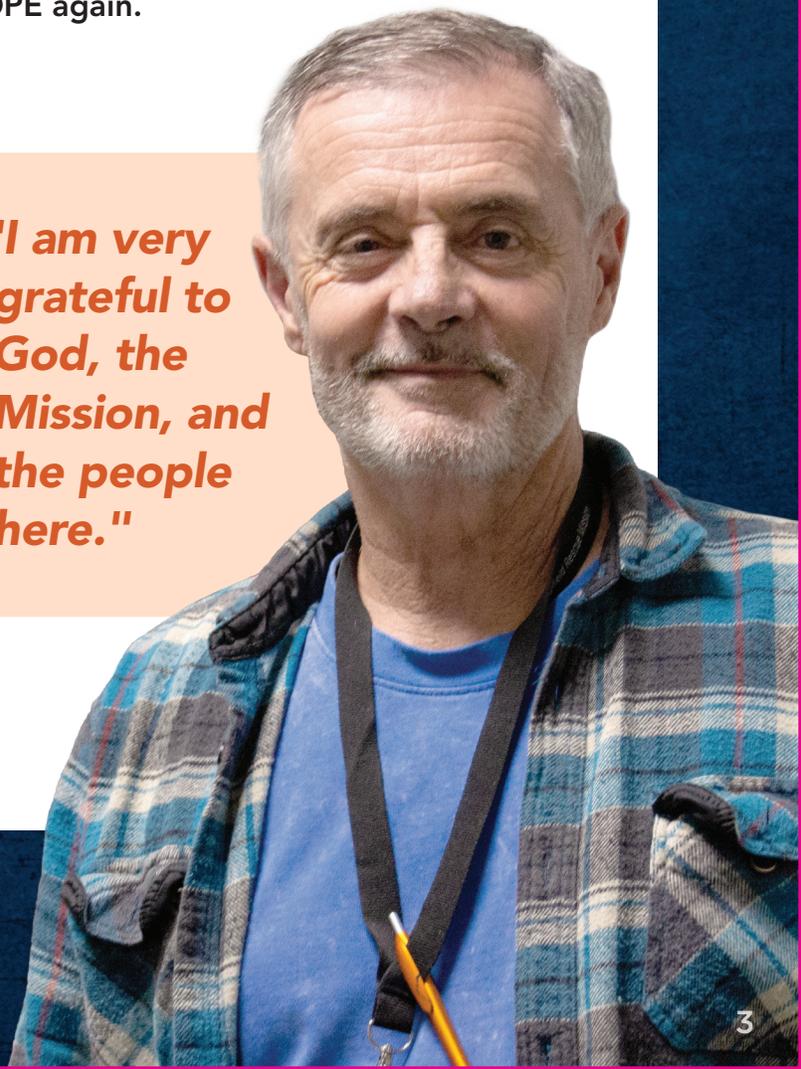
Which is exactly what this historic ministry in Greater Springfield to “the least of these” (Matthew 25:40) was built for—131 years ago and counting—thanks to support like yours!

“Everyone is helpful,” Pat is happy to share with all those who have followed him into our care. “They’re just dedicated to what they do,” he says.

And thanks to that care and commitment to seeing him transformed in the Lord, Pat is proud to say today his life has “pretty much changed: mentally, physically, spiritually. In every way!”

Yet nothing that’s being accomplished in healing hurting hearts like his could happen here without this family of friends like you who provide the meals, help—and HOPE again.

“I am very grateful to God, the Mission, and the people here.”





Welcome to the Table!

How YOU can help neighbors
who are hungry and hurting this Thanksgiving.

There's nothing more joyful than gathering around the table for a big, hearty New England Thanksgiving meal shared with friends and loved ones . . .

That's just as true for this family of friends at the Rescue Mission, as plates are filled with delicious food and received with thankful smiles.

Yet for all those coming through our doors this season—hungry, hurting, even homeless—the **\$2.64** meal you help provide can mean even more than a holiday treat: it can be the first step to a new life, as HOPE in Jesus is shared with every portion.

Your gifts and prayers are essential to making that happen—today and on Thanksgiving Day!

It all starts with your heartfelt gift returned with your enclosed **Thanksgiving Meal Ticket** and reply slip. **And on behalf of every life we reach together this season, thanks & blessings!**





In addition to your special gift today, you can help make a life-changing impact by . . .



Praying

Times continue to be difficult for neighbors in need all across our community.

So please join us in prayer for God's provision—through hearts like yours—for the resources needed to reach every life He brings to our table . . . those who are hungry and hurting, *body and soul*, this Thanksgiving.



Volunteering

There's nothing quite like reaching the heart of someone in their hour of deepest need. Something special happens when you share your time and talent at the Rescue Mission. And every guest you help serve is full of gratitude—whether they show it or not—as you provide them with a plate of food, an encouraging word and Scripture, a helping hand through our Operation SONshine mobile feeding ministry or at the Give Away Center.

So look for God's leading by going to springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer where you can easily create a volunteer profile, then attend an inspiring orientation and choose an area where you'd like to share your service! *There's no better time than the holidays to come to the Mission!*



Sustaining

Faithful ministry partners like you can make a year-round impact by becoming a **Sustainer of Hope** to share a gift from your heart monthly! You decide how much you would like to give and how you would like to provide your gift to support lifesaving, life-changing ministry programs.

Simply fill in the information on the back of your enclosed reply slip, or go to springfieldrescuemission.org/ways-to-give/#monthly



Operation SONshine and You!



Joel is a current resident in the Men's New Life Rehabilitation Program

The Rescue Mission's mobile feeding ministry takes your love to vulnerable neighborhoods, and you can help—just like Anne-Marie and Joel, who share their heart for this ministry to *all* of Greater Springfield!

ANNE-MARIE— “There have been so many people I've met out in the community who are living on the streets and have touched my heart. I have added several to my daily prayers and continue to add more.

“Without Operation SONshine, most of the people we serve would not have a meal that day. We always hear how grateful and appreciative they are—and how deeply touched they've been by this act of kindness.

“Honestly, there are so many more lives to reach than the mobile feeding van has capacity to do! I have heard many times how a meal we've provided came at just the right time because someone was so hungry and in need! It's humbling and joyful at the same time to see them filled.

“In addition to the meals we hand out, the gloves, hats, socks and hygiene kits we can provide are so necessary at most of the stops we make. I once saw a man put the socks on right then and there; his need was so great.

“Over time, those serving through Operation SONshine build a sense of trust with those we see, and a part of my heart stays with them. *I am grateful and blessed to be a part of this amazing program!*”

JOEL— “My experience with Operation SONshine has been one of blessings. I can recall once as I was giving out food bags that also had socks and water, a man came up to receive a bag and had tears in his eyes. He opened up to me on how he became unemployed and then homeless. He asked for prayer, so I prayed with him that he'd find a safe place, a job, peace and that he'd come to know Christ.

“A few weeks passed and I saw him again, and he told me he had good news! He'd found a job and a safe place to stay! It was an answer to our prayers. God answered his cry for help! He was so grateful for Operation SONshine, not only for food, but for providing spiritual guidance.

“He said, ‘God is truly awesome!’ and told me to please keep Operation SONshine going because people are being helped by a simple bag of food and hygiene supplies, as well as prayer. *I thank God I'm able to give back and help serve in our community!*”



To become a key part of Operation SONshine or any of the Rescue Mission's key ministries, go to springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer and get involved—especially for the holidays!

Your Holiday Gifts & Prayers in Action!

Through your compassion in action, we have the opportunity as a Christ-centered ministry to reach those in harm's way this fall, and all winter long, through these significant outreaches . . .



Thanksgiving Meals & HOPE

Over 800 men, women and children will gather gratefully at our annual Thanksgiving Celebration for a meal and more. **And because the holidays are the hardest time to be hungry, your help means more now than ever!**



Operation SONshine

Our mobile Operation SONshine ministry covers neighborhoods across Greater Springfield to meet the needs of vulnerable people. **Gifts and prayers like yours keep the van on the road, serving hundreds of meals each week!**



The Give Away Center

We offer gently used clothing, shoes, winter coats and staple groceries, thanks to your donations. The Give Away Center is open by appointment to anyone in need—**every gift received reaches as many neighbors as possible!**

Mark Your Calendar For the Holidays at the Rescue Mission!

OCTOBER 1 – 31

Undie Sunday/Undie Monday

Through the end of the month, you can help reach our goal to provide 4,000 sets of new underwear, t-shirts and socks for men, women and children—especially men's boxers/briefs (M to XL) and t-shirts (L to 4XL). 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.

ALL
MONTH
LONG

NOVEMBER 16

Feed the Need Q99.7 FM Radiothon

Listen in and make an impact at this annual area-wide event—6:30 am - 6:00 pm. For more information, call Robin Gobeille at 413-732-0808, ext. 237

NOVEMBER 22

Thankful Thanksgiving Banquet

Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.
Thanksgiving meals: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 23

Christmas Banquet Celebration

Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.
Lunch: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SAVE
THE
DATE!

MARCH 2, 2024

Coldest Day 5K 2024

Join us for this year's "Coldest Day 5K" event to share fellowship and spread awareness of those we reach at the Rescue Mission with meals, help and HOPE! See springfieldrescuemission.org for details as we get closer to the event. Hope to see you there!



A Hundred Opportunities to Share Yourself at the Holidays!

These months leading up to the new year are the very best time to join other friends and partners to share your time and talent with your neighbors in need at the Rescue Mission! Volunteer today to help serve or deliver holiday meals and more! Visit springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer

A Personal Message from Kevin



Executive Director/CEO

Thanksgiving Gifts of Meals, Help—and HOPE Again!

My Friend,

I'm excited to share this beautiful Thanksgiving newsletter to show how you are blessing so many hurting neighbors at the Rescue Mission—neighbors who need your help now.

I know you were encouraged reading Pat's story of a life changed in the Lord, thanks to the support of new friends like you. And that you were inspired by the power of volunteering, whether through our Operation SONshine mobile feeding ministry or any of our outreaches—at the holidays and throughout the year!

Just as exciting, along with this special Thanksgiving EXPECTATIONS, is your ticket to sharing meals and HOPE when it's returned with your heartfelt holiday gift today.

Every **\$2.64** you send with the **Thanksgiving Meal Ticket** I've enclosed for you means a meal for someone who may not have eaten today—or even this week. And just imagine how many meals and how much *hope* you can provide as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day!

So please look for God's leading to feed and care for those who are going hungry, hurting, without work, without homes, struggling with addiction and desperate circumstances . . . and who simply need HOPE again.

Thank you for your compassion today, and may God bless you and yours this season of thanksgiving!

Serving HIM,

Kevin Ramsdell
Executive Director/CEO

P.S. Your hope-filled giving is a huge help to those facing hunger and hardship—*especially at the holidays*. So thanks in advance for rushing your **Thanksgiving Meal Ticket** with your gift for as many **\$2.64** meals and as much HOPE as you can this special season!



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GIVE SECURELY TODAY AT:
springfieldrescuemission.org/expectations

DID YOU KNOW your employer may match your gift to **DOUBLE** your impact? When you scan the QR code to the left, search the name of your employer to see if they are listed in our Matching Gift Program!

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 sell, rent or exchange its mailing list.