



**SPRINGFIELD  
RESCUE MISSION**

*Inspiring Hope - Promoting Healing*

Thanksgiving 2024 • Volume 38, Issue 3 • [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org)

# EXPECTATIONS

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

*Your love today . . . feeds a hungry neighbor tomorrow!*

**Joseph says:**

**"It's good to believe in Jesus!"**

See Joseph's amazing true story, "Alone no more" . . . . . **pg. 3**

**PLUS:**

Look for your Thanksgiving Meal Ticket enclosed with this issue!



SPRINGFIELD RESCUE MISSION  
**THANKSGIVING MEAL TICKET**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

102674

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



# A personal word from Kevin

Kevin Ramsdell, Executive Director/CEO



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TWO MEALS A WEEK: This Thanksgiving will be better!

### My Friend,

It's a little early yet, but you can probably already picture it . . . Thanksgiving dinner.

Whether you're planning something big or small—a noisy family get-together or a quiet, cozy meal—I imagine you'll have plenty of blessings to count.

But a lot of folks here in our community can't look forward to a Thanksgiving like that.

They don't have a home to go to . . . or they're facing eviction . . . or life has thrown them some curveballs, and they're straining just to keep their lives together.

They're not looking forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving meal—they're wondering how they'll find something to eat *tomorrow*.

But here's some good news: Troubled neighbors have *hope*—because **you and I have a way to help them.**

With your strong support, your prayers and your giving, Springfield Rescue Mission's doors can open wide this Thanksgiving season. Your gift of love today will welcome them with open arms, seat them at the table, serve them a nutritious meal . . . and offer them a wonderful array of ministry programs and resources to help them get back on their feet.

Most important of all, you'll be sharing a message of hope not just for tomorrow, not just for a few days, but for a *lifetime* . . . and for *eternity*: the message of God's love, of the potential for new life through faith in Christ.

**Your Christlike compassion has never been more important.**

We're seeing more folks than ever turning to us for help. And as the weather turns colder, we know that the need is only going to increase.

*You'll be sharing a message of hope for a lifetime . . . and for eternity!*

I'm so grateful to see how God has changed lives through the generosity of caring friends like you, and my prayer is that you'll reach out with a heartfelt gift of love today . . . to be used by the Lord in this beautiful way once again.

And I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving. God bless you richly!

Serving HIM,

P.S. We're including a **Thanksgiving Meal Ticket** with this issue of *Expectations*. I warmly invite you to return it with a special Thanksgiving gift. Every \$2.64 you give will provide another meal—and life-giving *hope*—for a neighbor in need this holiday season. Thank you in advance for giving as generously as possible!

*As Thanksgiving approaches, record numbers of our neighbors need help!*



TRUE STORY

# Alone no more

Joseph can tell you about heartbreak. He was blindsided by one marriage betrayal, then another. In the fracturing of the family, he lost his home. His children rejected him.

He was utterly alone. Even his sister lived in another country.

Joseph's life began to spiral.

He had work, he drove a truck and he got a paycheck. But it wasn't enough for a living.

For six long months, Joseph lived in his vehicle.

He tried various shelters, but they all seemed to be uncomfortable, disturbing or dangerous.

Finally, he came to Springfield Rescue Mission where he received a warm welcome, a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals and *hope for the future*.

To meet Joseph today, you would never guess his history. He beams with joy. He's been baptized; he's walking with God. He's serving at the Mission, ministering to others. He's moving forward, trusting God's plan for his life.

And his relationships with his children are healing—a real answer to prayer.

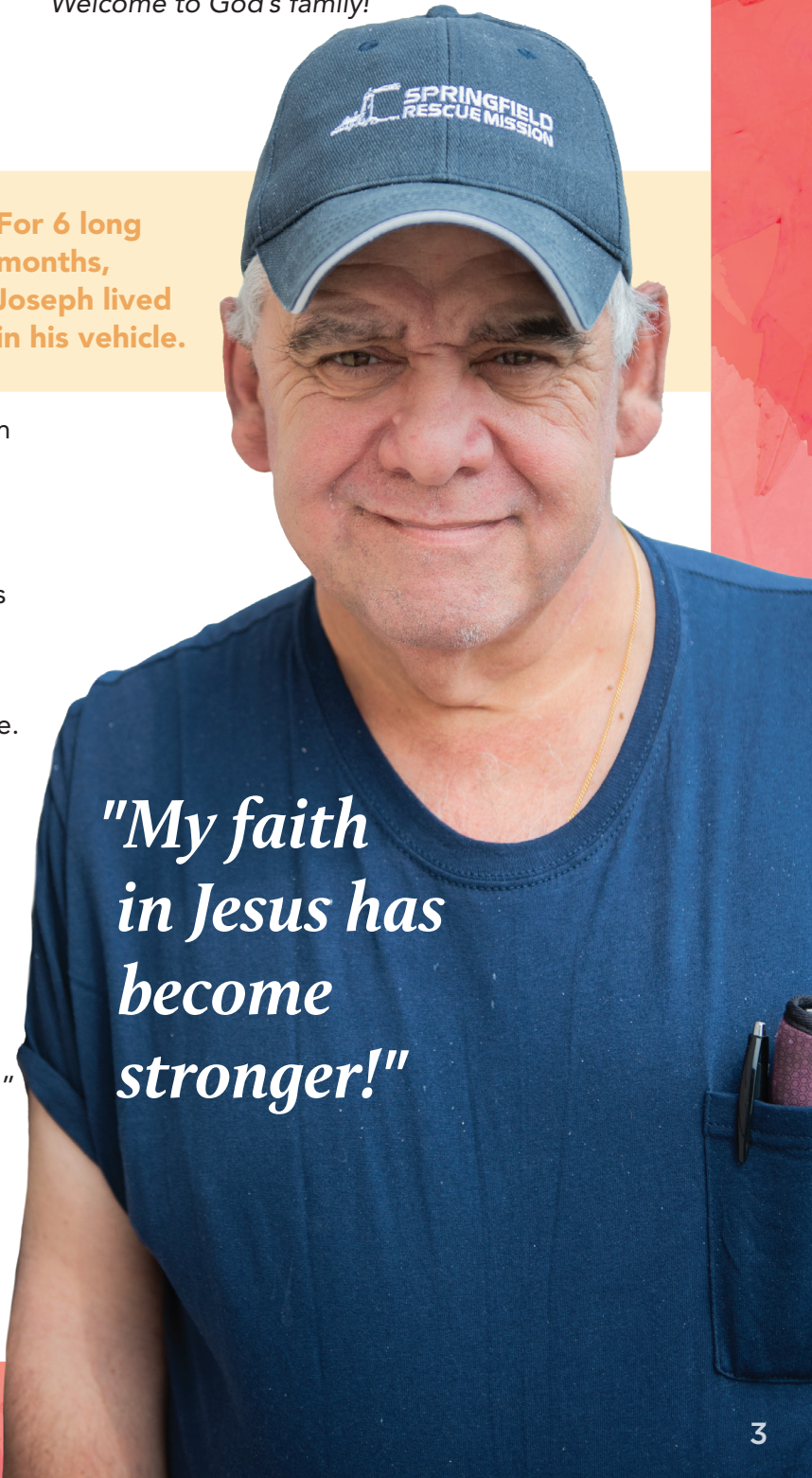
This Thanksgiving will be the best for Joseph in many, many years. Your generous support has made it possible. Thank you for praying so fervently and giving so generously. For those who find themselves alone in the world, you're offering four beautiful words:

*Welcome to God's family!*

**For 6 long months, Joseph lived in his vehicle.**

***"My faith in Jesus has become stronger!"***

"It's good to believe in Jesus!" he says with a smile. "I'm going to follow God from now on! My faith in Jesus has become stronger!"





# Look what God's doing through YOU in 2024!

Here's a quick snapshot of how God is moving in our community through your faithfulness and generosity:



## BACKPACK DRIVE

A big THANK YOU to all who made donations designated for backpacks and school supplies to share with families and schools for children in need.



**267 backpacks**  
given to children in need

## GIVE AWAY CENTER

Your love makes the connection when someone needs clothes or basic necessities. They call ahead for an appointment, then come in to "shop." Your support is critically important because the need is growing—our Give Away Center is booked weeks in advance!



**4,902 visits**  
from people in need

**19,857 articles**  
of clothing given

\*All number represent annual totals for Fiscal Year 2024



### JUNE "TASTE & SEE"

Our ticketed dinner events occur throughout the year, each focused on a unique theme. Diners have an opportunity to "Taste & See" how our community is responding to homelessness, and to learn about available government resources. Proceeds help the homeless through the services of Springfield Rescue Mission.

**\$6,837 raised**



### MOTORCYCLE DRIVE TO END HOMELESSNESS

This July, we had the joy of hosting this event for the first time. Drivers and riders purchased tickets to participate; proceeds came to the Mission. It was a fun day of food, live music and raffles!



**\$14,700 raised**

### OPERATION SONSHINE

You're sending a meal delivery service into Greater Springfield, providing meals to homeless families and individuals. We prepare all the meals in our kitchen, then our awesome team takes it from there!



**14,071 meals**  
served through  
Operation SONshine



**Thank you so much for supporting Springfield Rescue Mission!  
You're making a profound impact on countless lives.**

# Mark your calendar

for the holidays at  
Springfield Rescue Mission!



*Fast Approaching!*

## **OCTOBER 1-31**

### **Operation Hope Tote**

Join with local churches, businesses, families and individuals all month long to help provide 4,000 sets of new underwear, T-shirts and socks for men, women and children to be shared through our Give Away Center. Time's running out—Please take action now!

#### **Drop off donations any day:**

10 Mill Street, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**More info:** 413-732-0808 or [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org).

## **NOVEMBER 27**

### **Thankful Thanksgiving Banquet**

Breakfast 7 a.m.

Thanksgiving meals served 1-3 p.m.

## **DECEMBER 23**

### **Christmas Banquet Celebration**

Breakfast 7 a.m.

Christmas meals served 1-3 p.m.

## **MARCH 8, 2025**

### **Run to End Homelessness 5K/10K and Spaghetti Dinner**

This annual walk/run event spreads the word about the Mission's good work.

Please join us at SRM's Pre-Event "Carb-Up" spaghetti dinner at the Basketball Hall of Fame on March 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. Visit [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org) for details as the event approaches.

Hope to see you there!



# Bring someone special to dinner!

NO ONE GOES HUNGRY IN OUR HOME



Someone is hurting, homeless and hopeless . . . but this Thanksgiving, you can pull up a chair for them, sit them down to a hearty New England holiday dinner, and point them in the direction of a whole new life . . . *new life in Christ!*

Thanks to donations, discounts and careful stewardship by our ministry team, each meal served during this Thanksgiving season will cost just \$2.64.

But it all starts with your generous giving. *At \$2.64 per meal, how many hungry people could enjoy a life-giving Thanksgiving meal thanks to you?*

The need is great: Last year we provided over 3 million meals across all our Mission outreaches! So please return the enclosed Thanksgiving Meal Ticket with your generous Thanksgiving donation.

**God bless you for your Christlike compassion!**

## Give the gift of yourself this holiday season!

It's the hap-happiest season of all . . . the perfect time to join with friends and loved ones to share your time and talent for the sake of helping your neighbors in need. Volunteer to help serve or deliver holiday meals and more! Visit [springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer](http://springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer)



TWO MEALS A WEEK

# This Thanksgiving will be better!



Christmas in jail, New Year's sleeping under a bridge.

Matt spent 15 years addicted, wandering in and out of unemployment, prison and homelessness. Pain came early. His father was abusive, and Matt's parents divorced. His mother married a man who didn't like Matt.

He was still just a teen when his mother put him on the street with nothing but a bag of clothes. Matt remembers those years as a litany of grief: "addictions, depression, anxiety, isolation and loneliness, abandonment."

Sometimes he could manage. He could get a job, keep it for a while. But then the old despair would creep in, or a problem at work

would waylay him, and he would turn back to drugs—lose his job—lose his home—lose himself. Eventually, he grew "kind of numb," he says, "where I felt like almost nothing I could do could get me out of this situation."

For a time, he had a tent; but the winter cold was agony. Hunger was a constant tormentor. Matt sometimes went days without a meal. When he found a camp that served two free meals a week, he considered himself lucky.

Matt was ready to respond to God's provision for his physical and spiritual hunger. A social worker guided him to Springfield Rescue Mission.

Here, Matt surrendered his life to Jesus Christ, and what followed was an astonishing transformation. "I really started growing in my faith," he says, delighted to "have Jesus as my rock!"

Matt is also thrilled to be part of the family of God. "For the longest time, I tried to kind of stay to myself and not bother anyone," he recalls. "So I'm grateful for any time someone reaches out with a helping hand. . . . It's really touched my heart."

Today, Matt is looking to the future. By God's grace, your giving helped point him in this new direction. Thank you for praying, thank you for giving, thank you for your sacrifice of love. You truly do make a difference—for now, and for eternity!



"Nothing I could do could get me out of this."



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GIVE SECURELY TODAY AT:  
[springfieldrescuemission.org/donate](http://springfieldrescuemission.org/donate)

## DID YOU KNOW

To leave a legacy by including the Rescue Mission in your will, contact Georgia Briggs at 413-732-0808, Ext. 223 or [gbriggs@springfieldrescuemission.org](mailto:gbriggs@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 less fortunate by Inspiring Hope – Promoting Healing, Sharing the Love of 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.