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"They've shown  
me how to get  
close to God."

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Match it by  
May 31!

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## TOMMY'S CHALLENGE:

### FINDING A NEW LIFE

From the time he was eight years old, Tommy had lived the life of an addict – lying, stealing, hurting those he loved – and he didn't know how to free himself.



# THEY'VE SHOWN ME HOW TO GET CLOSE TO GOD.

Tommy started using drugs when he was only eight years old. **“I got into crack, cocaine, heroin – anything I could get my hands on,”** he says. “When I was 10, I started using meth.”

His mother sent him to live with his grandmother when he was 15, hoping it would help, but things only got worse. “From the time I was 16, I was in and out of foster homes, group homes, and jails. **I quit school, lied, stole and hurt people, and I didn’t care,”** Tommy says. “Then I started making and selling meth and coke, and the more I made, the more I wanted it.”

Tommy served a 10-year prison sentence for manufacturing and selling drugs. After his release, he went on a drinking binge. It was then

his parole officer suggested he come to Rescue Mission of Utica. Tommy decided it was worth a try.

He didn’t believe in God when he arrived at our Parker House Aftercare Program, but when he saw the joy of the others in the program, he wanted what they had. “I started praying for forgiveness and I got baptized,” Tommy says. **“Now, I pray every morning and read my Bible, and God has been showing me the right things to do.”**

Tommy has now earned his GED and plans to go into Phase 4 of our Aftercare Program, where he’ll receive spiritual mentoring

while training for work in asbestos removal. **“Without the Mission, I’d probably be back on drugs, on the street, in prison or dead,”** he says. “They’ve shown me how to get close to God and given me the tools to stay clean.”

***“I knew if I didn’t change my life, I was going to end up back in prison or dead.”***

WITH YOUR HELP, Tommy and others like him are finding that God’s hope and healing are for everyone, regardless of their past or circumstances. Thank you for your generous support!

## THE GREATEST CHALLENGE

### How do you challenge yourself?

Maybe you're a golfer who is always pushing yourself to lower your score. Maybe you've even competed in a tournament like our Annual Golf Tournament!

Or maybe you've been challenged by family, friends or a pastor to open your heart to someone who's very different than you... or to live out God's love in new and powerful ways.

Right now, we're in the middle of a challenge from a wonderful friend of the Mission to match their generous \$25,000 gift with an additional \$25,000.


But our greatest challenge is a daily one: inspiring new hope in the lives of people struggling with an addiction or abuse, unemployment or homelessness, hunger or hopelessness.

In this issue's cover story, you'll hear Tommy's testimony of how our

Parker House Aftercare Program has transformed his life.

His story is powerful because of you. You understand the challenges our neighbors in need face, and we're grateful you share the truly life-changing gifts of meals, shelter and care.

**We can meet the challenge of caring for our community's hurting because of you and your faithful support.** Thank you for giving to bring new hope to countless lives forever.



Jim Haid  
Executive Director



### GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

While many individuals provide a lifetime of generous gifts for family, friends and organizations they care about, over half of U.S. adults do not have a will or other estate plan. Without a will, your estate will be divided according to the laws of the state in which you live. And the result may be very different from what you had wished, especially if your desire was not only to care for those you leave behind, but to leave a lasting legacy for the causes close to your heart.

Rescue Mission of Utica can help make sure your wishes are followed. For more information, please contact Mike Dow, Finance Director, at **(315) 735-1645 x 106** or **mike.dow@uticamission.org**.

### BECAUSE OF COMPASSIONATE, CARING COMMUNITY FRIENDS, IN 2016 THE RESCUE MISSION OF UTICA:

- Served 147,930 meals to hungry people.
- Provided 3,840 food boxes, representing an additional 69,120 meals (a 32% increase over 2015).
- Provided 46,262 nights of care in all Mission programs.
- Provided 13,726 nights of care to homeless men in the Emergency Shelter which was at or beyond capacity 110% of the time.
- Helped 83% of homeless men in our Shelter find permanent/transitional housing.
- Provided 18,852 nights of care to 64 unique men and women in our Enriched Living Center (mental health outreach).
- Helped 11 students graduate from our Skills for Success Job Training Program.
- Served 638 unique individuals through the Representative Payee Program (money management assistance).
- Provided academic and job skills training to 375 men and women at our Learning Center.
- Witnessed 11 individuals make faith decisions for Christ and 4 rededicate their lives to Christ.
- Witnessed 5 men get baptized.
- Held over 152 chapel services with 1,444 in attendance.
- Held Bible study, devotions and other spiritual enrichment opportunities for over 1,400 individuals.
- Received 8,231 hours of volunteer services, given by 903 individuals.
- Gave 9,621 articles of clothing to 1,733 needy men, women and children.
- Received in-kind donations valued at \$406,236 (not including food donations).



**MATCH IT BY MAY 31!**



Right now, because of a generous Matching Challenge, every gift you give will have **double the impact** for those in need.

Or as we like to say,

**1 + Y = TWO!**

**\$50 → \$100**

**\$100 → \$200**

**\$150 → \$300**

That's how **\$25,000** becomes **\$50,000** when you give today!

By giving, you'll provide hot meals for a hungry child... safe shelter for a homeless woman... counsel for a man battling addiction... care for a family who has suffered abuse... and training to help men and women prepare for employment.



**This Matching Challenge ends May 31 – so don't wait.**

Help turn \$25,000 into \$50,000 and double your impact by responding now.



There's still time to join us for our 10th annual golf tournament June 15 at the Twin Ponds Golf & Country Club in New York Mills, NY.

Whether you play a round of golf, volunteer, or sponsor the event, you'll be helping the Mission bring healing and hope to those in need in our community.

For more information, to register, or to sponsor the event, go to [uticamission.org](http://uticamission.org) and click on "Events," or contact Stacia Bridger at ☎ (315) 735-1645 x 102.



**Listen to our daily show "Reaching Out...Changing Lives" on Mars Hill Network – 91.1 FM or 102.9 FM at 1:25 pm and 12:25 am.**

This is a great opportunity to hear news and updates happening at the Rescue Mission along with testimonies from those whose lives have been changed through our ministry!



# HONORS AND MEMORIALS

Beginning June 20, 2016; Ending February 28, 2017

Honor gifts of someone living and gifts made in memory of a deceased loved one are accepted throughout the year and published with the newsletter.

## **IN HONOR OF:**

### **TO HONOR THE MOTHER OF JESUS, MARY MOST HOLY**

Phyllis & Anthony J. Palumbo

### **FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENTS ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER**

Brad Bennett

### **MY BROTHER MARK**

Janet Halpin

### **DAN Y.**

Andrew J. Avella

### **EDGAR G.**

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### **MELISSA TALLMAN**

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Kathleen M. Welch

## **IN MEMORY OF:**

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Judy Eaton

### **MY WIFE DOTTIE**

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### **ROB ACEY, MY NEPHEW**

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*--to support the services of Addiction  
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Quadfather Men's Roller Derby  
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