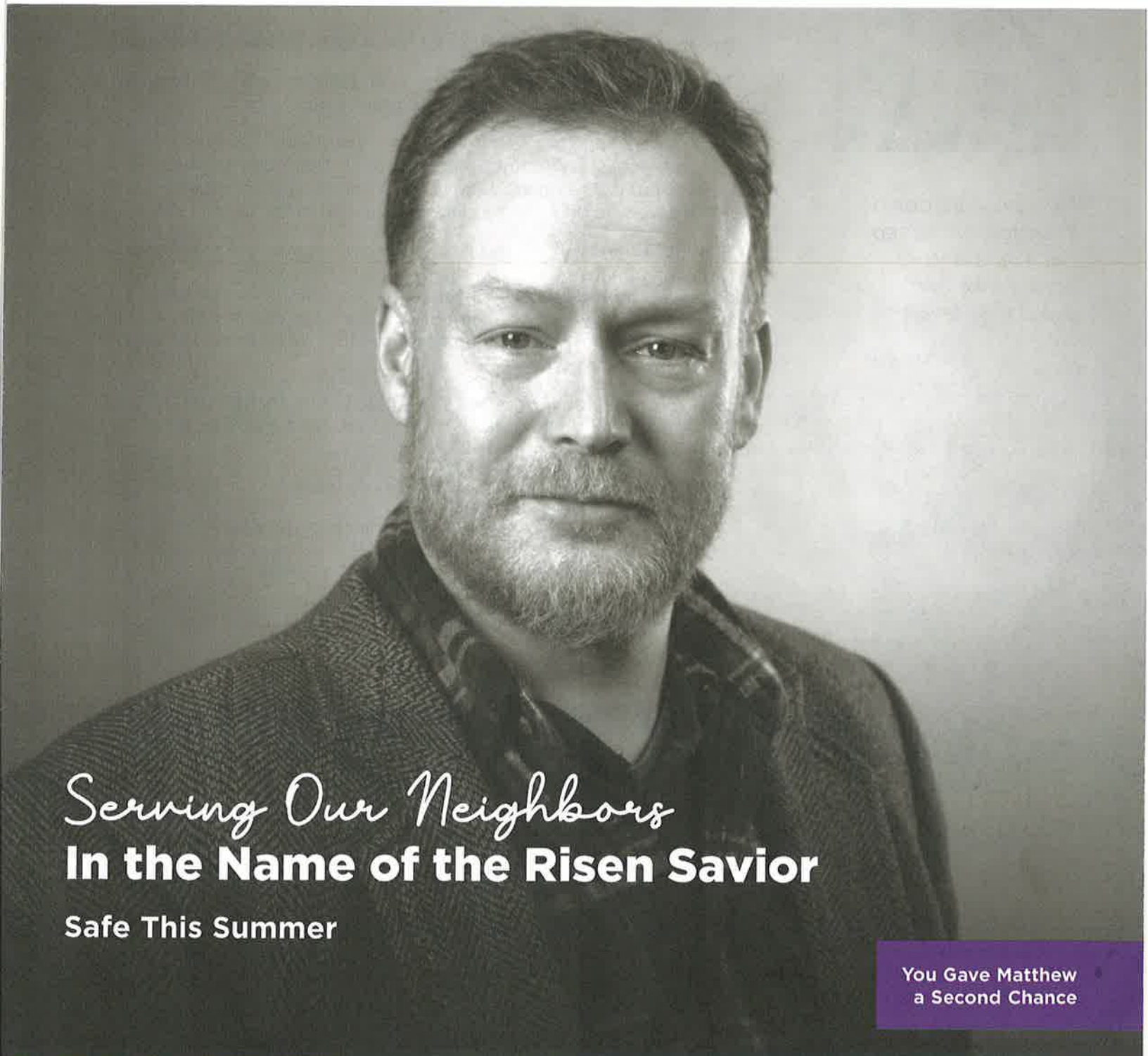


CONNECTIONS

Rescue
Mission
of Utica
Reaching Out... Changing Lives

CHANGING LIVES IN UTICA AND THE MOHAWK VALLEY SINCE 1890 | SUMMER 2026



Serving Our Neighbors
In the Name of the Risen Savior

Safe This Summer

You Gave Matthew
a Second Chance

Don't Miss...

2 Summer Needs

3 Matthew's Second Chance

4 Miles For Miracles

A Message From Wendy Goetz



The Hope We Have In Christ

Dear Friend,

Because of you, someone in Utica has a safe place to sleep tonight.

That's not a small thing. And I don't want the busyness of summer to let it slip past without saying it plainly: **thank you.**

God's grace and your faithfulness to this mission — and to our neighbors — make everything we do possible. The meals served. The doors kept open. The quiet, steady work of walking alongside someone like Matthew as he finds his footing again. None of it happens without you.

Summer brings its own challenges for our neighbors. When school lets out, children lose access to the meals they depend on. When the season turns unpredictable — severe storms, shifting routines, less community visibility — those without stable shelter feel it most. And when giving tends to slow down during these months, your continued support becomes even more essential.

Your gift today provides nourishing meals, safe shelter and the kind of caring community where real change — the kind you read about in Matthew's story — becomes possible.

Thank you for staying in it with us, in every season.

With deep gratitude,

Wendy Goetz

Wendy Goetz
Executive Director

*I will both lie down
in peace, and sleep;
For You alone, O
Lord, make me
dwell in safety.*

- Psalm 4:8



Summer Needs

Can you help?

We are in need of the following items to care for our Mission guests this summer:

- Water
- Gatorade
- Men's Athletic Shorts (Sizes Medium-3XL)
- Shower Shoes
- Deodorant
- Body Wash (Men's and Women's)
- Towels
- Washcloths



Your summer donations can be brought to our administrative offices at 293 Genesee Street Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in need this summer!

Matthew's Second Chance

How You Helped Him Heal and Find Peace

Matthew was born and raised in Queens, New York, the youngest of two boys in a close-knit family. He started drinking socially at 14. By college, it was every day.

For nearly 20 years, Matthew had his own apartment and a career in marketing sales in Manhattan. All the while he was drinking — heavily. “I was always functional, for the most part,” he says. “I thought I hid it well, but the more I think back about it, I know I wasn’t hiding it.

Then, in 2018, he was dealt two devastating blows. After battling cancer for 14 years, his father passed away. Twelve days later, his mother also died. The grief broke something loose. Matthew’s drinking became excessive. “I just stopped functioning,” he says. He lost his job and two months later, his apartment.

A Final Hail Mary

Matthew called his brother — who had relocated to the Utica area — and told him that he needed help. “Not only did I know it was something I needed to do, I had nothing else to do,” he says. “It was just like a final Hail Mary.”

From the ASC, Matthew transitioned to Parker House, our residential discipleship program. “Parker House gave me stability that other places didn’t,” Matthew says. “It was just peace. It was nice to be able to calm down, take a step back and focus on what I needed.”

From Parker House to His Own Home

Today, Matthew is just weeks away from moving into his own apartment and getting back his 26-year-old cat, who has been staying with his brother. He plans to re-enter the workforce in a capacity that helps others. Something, he says with a smile, that is “low stress and high impact.”

As Matthew looks toward a brighter future, he is full of gratitude. **“I went out and sought help and wound up here, and it’s the best thing that’s happened to me,”** he says. **“Thank you for a second chance.”**



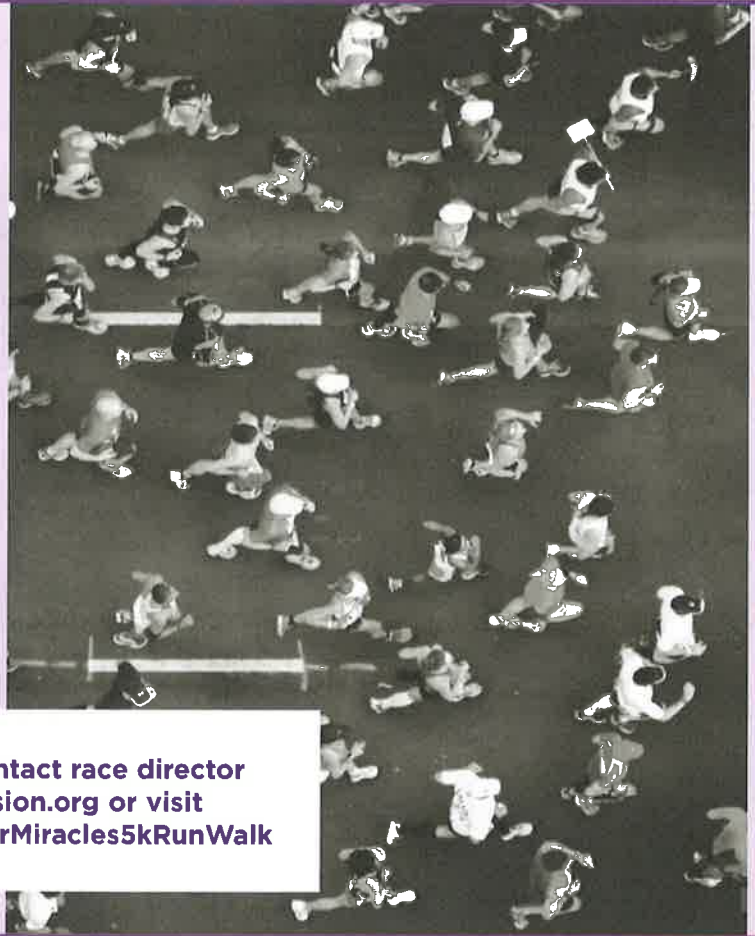
Thank you for making second chances possible for many people like Matthew. Your support of Rescue Mission of Utica extends to the Addiction Stabilization Center, Parker House and other critical care programs that help the men and women who need them most.

Miles For Miracles



Join us on Saturday, August 8th at TR Proctor Park for Miles for Miracles, a 5k run and 1 mile walk to benefit Rescue Mission of Utica!

The race will take participants through a scenic route through Proctor Park, offering a chance to enjoy the outdoors while making a tangible impact on our community. Your participation will help the Rescue Mission provide critical support for those facing addiction, homelessness, mental health challenges and food insecurity.



For more information or to register, contact race director Jace Lapuma at jace.lapuma@uticamission.org or visit runsignup.com/Race/NY/Utica/MilesForMiracles5kRunWalk



Leaving Your Legacy

When you remember Rescue Mission of Utica in your estate plans, you help ensure that shelter, meals, recovery programs and Christ-centered care will always be available for those who need it most.

Even a small percentage of your estate can make an eternal impact on generations to come.

If you would like to learn more about leaving a legacy of hope, we would love to talk with you. Contact our Director of Development, Leslie Nicolette, at (315) 735-1645 x2104 or Leslie.Nicolette@uticamission.org.