



Serving Utica and the Mohawk Valley since 1890

Easter 2017

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Starts Here

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"The Mission
turned me
around."

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A NEW | SENSE OF

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Following in his father's footsteps, Chris battled a lifetime of addiction.

THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT,
people like Chris can leave behind a destructive past. ▶

SAVE THE DATE



THURSDAY, JUNE 8
TWIN PONDS GOLF COURSE

Team up and tee off to
help the homeless!

Your team's participation will help us continue to meet the physical, mental and spiritual needs of struggling individuals and families right here in our community. You can play to bring them hope.

Last year, players in the tournament raised \$36,000 for our ministry, and this year our goal is \$38,000. In addition to golfers, we also need sponsors and volunteers to make this event a success.

Plan now to take part and watch our website – uticamission.org – for all the details!



A Message from Jim Haid

SHARING HOPE STARTS HERE

What does it look like to share hope?

Compared to a plate of nourishing food or a warm blanket, it's often hard to visualize how hope changes lives.

But for the homeless and hurting people you're helping through your gifts, hope is transforming their lives in very tangible ways.

Take Chris, who's featured in this issue – at his lowest point, he turned to us. He didn't know if a new life was even possible.

Meals, shelter and care changed Chris' life from the inside out. Experiencing God's love showed him that a new life is possible. He began believing in a better future – and began living that life every day!

When you see Chris today, you see hope... made real in his life through your generosity.

Just as Christ shared hope with

you and me through His glorious resurrection on Easter, you share His hope with struggling and downtrodden individuals through your prayers, your acts of service and your generous financial support of this ministry.

Thank you for sharing with our community's homeless – and for making Rescue Mission of Utica a refuge of encouragement and hope for those in need.



Jim Haid
Executive Director

THIS IS MATT.



You'd never guess that he once believed all hope for his life was gone... until he came to the Mission.

There are so many like Matt – in need of new hope for a new life.

You can share new hope this Easter by sharing meals, shelter and God's love with homeless and hungry people.

A meal is just \$2.19!

📄 Share online at uticamission.org.

✉ Share now using the enclosed reply card + envelope.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING NEW HOPE WITH HURTING PEOPLE
IN UTICA AND THE MOHAWK VALLEY!



The Mission turned me around

COMPLETELY from what I was before.

Chris describes his father as an alcoholic. “All I knew how to do was watch him drink,” he recalls. **“At the age of 9, I picked up my first beer... and I loved it.”**

He started stealing his dad’s liquor, and by 14, the onset of addiction began to take its toll. Chris

his life spiraled downhill.

Chris started experimenting with drugs and couldn’t hold a job. **“I got arrested... I was in and out of jail... in and out of rehab,”** he says.

It was a miserable existence that lasted 20 years. But along the way, he heard about Rescue Mission of Utica.

“I was harboring resentments, pain and misery. At last, I let go of my past.”

was getting into trouble and letting his grades slide. Athletics became an outlet for his frustration, and he excelled at baseball. He dropped out of school his senior year and tried out for the major leagues. But when a shoulder injury ended his hope for a career, his drinking escalated and

Finally, after seeking our help, he gave his life to the Lord.

“I accepted the Lord fully and completely,” Chris says. **“I’m staying sober and I understand now that I can pray and rely on Him instead of taking charge myself.”**

With a new outlook on life, Chris

strives to excel in everything he does and willingly accepts both criticism and compliments. His positive attitude and behavior have paid off. He was recently offered a position at a company where he began as a volunteer. **“Because of the work they’ve seen me do, they gave me a job,”** he says with gratitude.

Chris is grateful for the many other virtues that have changed his life so dramatically – **and that he was able to develop them through your support of our programs.** “The Mission built my self-esteem... my confidence... my humility. It built responsibility, respect and patience,” he says. “The Mission gives you a base... a firm foundation to build yourself up.”

YOU DID IT!

Walkers Make a Difference

More than 400 people participated in the Mission's 6th annual "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" event on February 4. Walkers began the one-mile trek at Hanna Park. Then they proceeded to the halfway point at the Mission's Parker House, where they turned to complete their journey at Westminster Church with refreshments and fellowship.

Despite the cold weather, it was heartwarming to see this caring community come together on behalf of their neighbors in need. We're grateful for the nearly \$15,000 that was raised to support the Mission's programs and services. Thank you to all who participated!



A NIGHT OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE

Mission program graduates, friends and guests are invited to attend the 23rd Annual Alumni Banquet on May 15. This time of sharing and fellowship honors those who are dedicated to following God's plan for their lives as they share their stories of the Lord's healing power over addiction.

The event will be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church and begins at 6 p.m. To reserve your place, please call call Debi Kenyon at **(315) 735-1645 x 115.**

2017
Easter
C • A • M • P • A • I • G • N



25,000
meals



2,272
nights of shelter

VISIT US ONLINE to learn more about our outreach, read stories of hope & securely donate anytime!

 uticamission.org

