

INSIDE...



A Message from
Jim Haid

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"I'm an example
of what the
Mission does."

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The perfect gift?
Look no further!

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a weary heart
REJOICES.

From spiritual bankruptcy to a life full of
God's grace, William is truly a rich man!

Today, William feels the thrill of hope
in his life – because of GOD!

READ HIS STORY ON PAGE 3.





“I’m an example
of what the
Mission does.”

From a close-knit family, William suffered trauma at the age of 11, when his dad and brother died within a year of each other. For years, William struggled to find a role model. **“I started looking elsewhere for mentorship, and most of the people that I drifted to were involved in street life, criminal activity and addictions.”**

Soon, William immersed himself in similar, destructive behavior. “It escalated to a life of jails, compromising everything I learned, all my values, and **total spiritual death.**”

After 35 years of drug use, rehab attempts, homelessness and everything in between, William finally hit an all-time low when his mom died in 2013. “I ran to the Addictions Crisis Center, which is here on the Mission campus.”

While here, one of our nurses remembered him from a time he came before, and said something he wouldn’t forget: **“It’s alright, buddy. We love you. We miss you. We were worried about you.”**

However, not long after, William relapsed and ended up in prison. Today, he sees it as a blessing, because he encountered the Lord. “I sincerely believe that had I not gotten arrested, my life would have been miserable. I would have died alone.”

After being released, he was placed in a program that helped him finally break free of his addiction for good. He thanks God for a second chance.

Feeling led here, William joined our team as a clinical supervisor! He helped the incoming men with detox, guided them through addiction recovery and ensured they were mentally strong.

“My one goal is to bring these young men to
CHRIST.”

William was raised in the Muslim religion but says it actually led him to Jesus! “My spirituality was just elevated by the grace of God through the Holy Spirit, because I always had something dear for Jesus in me.”

After his long journey, William says, **“I’m just thankful to be alive, and to be able to use what God has given me to share in this community.”**

He is thrilled by his transformation thanks to God’s love in his life – and your support! **“It’s amazing to come from being a person who was spiritually bankrupt to having some coins of joy and happiness in my life.”**



Bring **HOPE** to weary hearts

Caroling angels. Christmas pageants. Celebrations around the world. Christmas is truly a thrilling time of year.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

I think the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" puts it best: **A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices / For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

But that's exactly what makes Christmas **a very difficult time** for the men and women who make their home with us here at the Mission.

While it feels like the world is rejoicing around them, most of our guests would tell you they have very little to celebrate. Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Their hearts are weary from their struggles with homelessness or other desperate situations.

It's your gifts that **make Christmas the very best day possible for them** – and provide them with the thrill of new hope!

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas... a reminder for them – and for all of us – that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

As you keep Utica and the Mohawk Valley's hurting and homeless in your prayers, I pray you'll share the joy of the season through a gift that transforms lives forever... filling people with joy and new hope.

This then is my Christmas wish for all who join us here at the Mission during the holidays, and for you and those who are near and dear: **Let weary hearts experience the thrill of hope!**

Jim Haid
Executive Director



27,000

MEALS BY DEC. 25

OUR GOAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Each meal you provide today is so much more than a plate of food. It's a chance to end someone's hunger or homelessness – and offer them the gift of a joyful new life this Christmas.

GIVE NOW

using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

GIVE ONLINE

anytime at uticamission.org.

Thank you
for sharing your blessings & bounty!

SHARE

The Thrill ^{OF} HOPE

THIS CHRISTMAS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!



18,000

MEALS



3,600

BEDS

The perfect gift? Look no further!

Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog – it's full of ways to save and change even more lives!

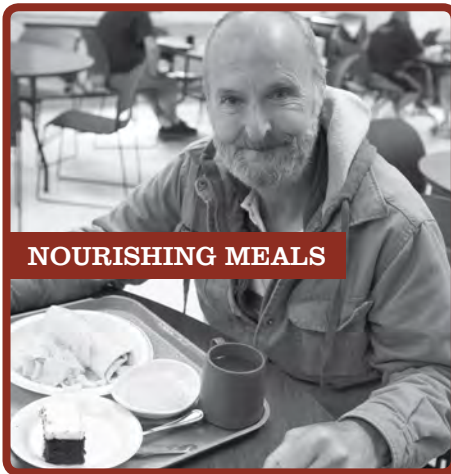
Shop our Gift Catalog online at uticamission.org/GiftCatalog. Or simply add your special Christmas gift to the enclosed reply card.



HOLIDAY HERO PACK

\$55

Give even more with our Holiday Hero Pack! It includes 10+ hot meals, 2+ nights of shelter & access to clothing, spiritual guidance & recovery programs!



NOURISHING MEALS

\$25

A hot meal at the Mission may be people's only meal of the day.



SAFE SHELTER

\$50

It's so much more than a bed! During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite & worse when temperatures drop below zero.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of people served by Rescue Mission of Utica. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.

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HONORS AND MEMORIALS

Beginning March 1, 2017; Ending September 5, 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:

LISA JONES BISQUE

Linda & Henry Talerico

VERA B. BUETTNER

David & Donna Rider

ELAINE ERWIN MATULIS

(on her retirement)

Marston & Geri Erwin

IN MEMORY OF:

HENRI AYRES

Rita Seamon

ART & NORMA BAKERT

Janine King

NORMA J. BAKERT

Suzanne Bakert
Mike & Bonnie McGee

NICHOLAS CAMELO, SR.

Florence S. Galinn

ROB ACEY, NEPHEW

CARMELLA CENTOLELLA, AUNT

JIM TUTINO

Sheila Tutino

JACQUELINE CIAGLIA

Joanne Monescalchi
Carol W. Steele

BRIAN P. COSTELLO

Suzanne Bakiewicz

1ST LT. LEE S. COUCHMAN, WWII

Cynthia Shoemaker-Hoffman

SCOTT A. COUCHMAN

Dave & Debbie Bartlett

EVELYN DANAHER

Sue & Howard Anderson
Atlantic Testing
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Enjem
Donna Hall
Alfred, Lorraine & Anne Marie Matys
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Small
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Turczyn
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Wicks

STEVEN R. DAY, GRANDSON

Patricia Neary

LARAINÉ DELL

Robert O. Dell

JAMES E. DUNN

Anne M. Dunn

VIOLA EATON

John Friers

MICHAEL EVERHART

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald F. Sullivan, Sr.

CHAD DE FINA

Judy DeFina

KATHY GIOVINAZZO

Robert J. Giovinazzo

RAYMOND & NORMA HALL

Robert & Virginia H. Illi

BUTCH HARRIS

Thomas J. Finnegan

DOLORES PAPA JONES

Dr. & Mrs. Raphael Alcuri
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Alpert
Daniel & Gail Altieri
Daniel & Justina Altieri
Jerry & Lorraine Cardinale
Tracy Esposito
Mr. & Mrs. Andre Esposito

JIM KALLASSY, JR.

James Kallassy, Sr.

MR. LESLIE W. KERNAN

Kelly & Dan Colantuoni
The Fountainhead Group, Inc.
Cynthia & Gregory McLean
Mr. & Mrs. James O'Looney
Mr. & Mrs. James Salamone

JEANNE KING

ALICE OHL

Mark & JoAnn Ohl

GLORIA KWIAT

David De Bernardis

KATHALEEN LALLIER

William Lallier

DR. JOHN M. LANIGAN

Antoinette Crescenzi
Katherine S. Schmidt
Staff at Rep Payee

JAMES LEHNER

Charles & Sandra Madore

RAJE SHWAR MARA, FATHER

(to provide the lunch meal on 5/6/2017)

Raja Mara and family

PATRICK MARLEY

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph B. Humphreys

HOWARD B. MCCUMBER

Doris McCumber

MARY J. POLERA

Jean Potempa

AL & FLORENCE RINEHARD

JERRY & MARY VIVENZO

Shirley & Guy Vivenco

KEITH ROBY

Joanne Roby

SHARON 'ANGEL' A. ROSS

Veronica Capponi
Terry Donovan

JOHN RUTLEDGE

Allan Bullet
Dr. Julia Grant
Betty Henry
Jerry Henry
John Henry
Terry Henry
Henderson Johnson
Mary & Joe Jones & family
Margaret Rutledge & Charlotte Young
George & Mary Serour
Bob & Debbie Williams

JACK & KATHY SCHAFFER

Kevin Schaffer

FRANK J. SMITH

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Blair

MARY LEE SPELLS

Barbara C. Jimenez

DOROTHY TIBBITTS, SISTER

Hazel Lee-White

MARIA VALLESE

Carla A. Vallese