

Reaching Out...
Changing Lives

Serving Utica and the Mohawk Valley since 1890

SUMMER 2023

Don't
miss...



Your love will
transform lives
this summer!

2



"I realize God's
importance in
my life."

3



Walk the halls
where YOU help
change lives

4

**THANK YOU
FOR LOVING
YOUR
NEIGHBOR,
LARRY,**

and giving him
hope for the
future!





“I REALIZE GOD’S IMPORTANCE

in my life.”

When Larry looks back on the parts of his life that felt reckless and hopeless, regret tries to creep in. He remembers addiction and homelessness taking over, and how he paid the price with his health, his relationships and his life.

“Now, I’m where I need to be,” he shares with a newfound confidence. “The past is irrelevant. Today is what I have.”

Larry grew up in a Christian home, but when at a young age he witnessed a violent crime against his mother, his desire to protect people grew to an extreme level. After discovering that alcohol could numb his fears, he rebelled against his parents – and even his faith in Christ – which led to homelessness in his teens.

When serving in the military couldn’t save him, and with a bad reputation following him, Larry’s drinking became worse. He even considered suicide. At his lowest point, he was found nearly dead in a snowbank, which was the wakeup call of a lifetime.

“It was the Lord’s presence that saved me. I needed to find help from a place that had God in its workings.”

The day he walked into Rescue Mission of Utica, everything changed for Larry. “When I arrived, I was greeted with joy... and a sincere, ‘Thank God you’re here.’”

Through meetings, outpatient counseling and church involvement, Larry has built a supportive network of people who are on the same spiritual journey. “All my friends are Christians who are in recovery. I finally feel like I belong, and I know who’s got my back.”

Larry has a strong desire to live his best life and give back through leadership. He starts each day with Bible study

and prayer, and is eager to hear God’s Word shared by others. “Through Christ, I know there’s nothing I can’t do. And He’s done all of this for me because of His love.”

Larry is thankful for the way you have answered God’s calling to love your neighbor as yourself – and have helped him learn how to love himself. “I hope I can inspire those who are still struggling to turn away from a life of fear. After all, everything is in God’s hands.”

“I ONCE WAS ASLEEP IN THE LORD,
AND *now I’m resting in Him.*”

“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14

A meal for \$2.19 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



A Message from WENDY GOETZ

Thank you for loving your neighbors as yourself

We all need a helping hand from time to time. No one makes it through life without a little care and compassion along the way. That's what loving your neighbors is all about, right?

Yet, you and I know that God's Word has a way of challenging us to go further... of stretching our faithfulness beyond what we thought possible. The Lord makes the impossible POSSIBLE at the Mission, thanks to the generosity of friends like YOU.

Now, as the summer months approach, I hope we can count on you during our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign.

Time and time again in Scripture, we're told not just to "love your neighbor" but to "love your neighbor as yourself." That's a big difference! It's making the needs of others a priority equal with your own from the beginning.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who give in this way to help individuals and families in Utica and the Mohawk Valley who are hurting and homeless. I ask for your continued support through the summer, when the weather can be dangerous for people who live outside.

Thank you for offering a helping hand to your neighbors most in need – and for continuing to love them **as yourself**.



Wendy Goetz
Executive Director

YOUR LOVE will transform lives this summer!

Your gift today provides:



39,972 meals



12,500 beds



hundreds of
hygiene items



countless hours of
counseling & education



life-transforming decisions
for Christ

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Give now!
uticamission.org



Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!

Celebrating new beginnings...

THANKS TO YOU!

We're proud of our Parker House Aftercare graduates!

It's a special time at the Mission as **we celebrate our 2023 graduates from our long-term Parker House Aftercare!**

After 6 to 9 months of Christ-centered counseling, classes and life-skills training, this is only the beginning. Thanks to your support and God's grace, they have a new life of HOPE.

As our graduates return to our community, please keep them in your prayers. Thank you for your continued support, as more people walk through our doors to start their own journey of transformation.

Want to learn more about our recovery services for men and women? Visit **uticamission.org**.

TOUR THE CAMPUS

Walk the halls where YOU help
change lives

Join us for an inside view of Rescue Mission of Utica to see how your partnership is changing lives!

You'll witness how your support goes to work in a variety of programs, including our:

- Emergency Shelter for Men
- Parker House Aftercare Program
- West Street Apartments
- Community Services
- Butala Food Pantry
- Drop In Center

Our Rescue Mission tours are held on fair weather Tuesdays from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., or you may contact us to schedule a group tour.

Visit **uticamission.org**,
or contact Leslie Nicolette at
(315) 735-1645, ext. 2104 or
leslie.nicolette@uticamission.org
We hope to see you soon!



You're helping care for bodies and minds

Men and women come to the Mission with a variety of challenges, and we're committed to addressing their unique needs. For some, that means a warm meal and safe place to rest. Others struggle with addiction. Some are desperate for guidance.

But many arrive with mental illness and trauma from their past.

That's why – in addition to helping clients heal spiritually – we also help them heal psychologically. **We offer Christ-centered counseling, referrals to community partners and other resources for long-term recovery.**

It's just another way your gifts and prayers help address the complex issues of poverty and homelessness in Utica and the Mohawk Valley. Thank you for your support!

*Want to learn about other life-changing services you help provide? Read about our programs at **uticamission.org** today!*