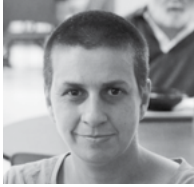


Serving Utica and the Mohawk Valley since 1890

EASTER 2020

Don't
miss...



Gloria came
in for a meal...

2



"I'm a new
creation."

3



Easter
Needs

4



Meet *Antonio*
He can't thank
YOU enough!

Because of you, Antonio's heart
is filled with *new hope*
this Easter.



Then he and his fiancée set a wedding date, and when she suggested they honeymoon in Puerto Rico, it opened Antonio's old wounds. "The pain rose up and I relapsed."

It was then when he came to the Mission for help, graduating from our Addiction Stabilization Center and entering our Parker House Program. Through Bible studies, chapel services and Christian counseling, Antonio has strengthened his faith and begun to heal. "**Now I'm in an intimate relationship with God, and sharing my pain with others has given me strength and hope,**" he says, his eyes filled with tears of gratitude.

"GOD HAS MADE ME A NEW CREATION."

When Antonio was a little boy, he stayed with his uncle in Puerto Rico every year for vacation, and every year, his uncle sexually abused him. "I was so ashamed. I thought it was my fault so I never told anyone."

When he was 11, Antonio stopped vacationing there, but he

kept his traumatic secret. It wasn't until he was 13 that a doctor discovered the truth during a physical exam and referred him to a psychiatrist. Antonio was prescribed antidepressants, but they made him sluggish, so he stopped taking them and began numbing his pain with alcohol and drugs. "They made me forget."

For 20 years, he struggled with his addiction, while serving in the Gulf War with the navy, working construction and raising a family with his fiancée. Finally, he got clean and, for 13 years, maintained his sobriety. "I buried all the pain."

"I'm not filled with shame anymore."

Antonio graduated from the program, has a job and his own place, and plans to become a drug and alcohol counselor so he can help others find the healing he found at the Mission.

You may never meet Antonio, but he's eternally grateful to YOU for your support – today his heart is filled with new hope for the future. "I've forgiven my uncle. He no longer owns my soul. God has made me a new creation."



Save the Date - 13th Annual Golf Tournament

June 11th • Twin Ponds Golf Course, New York Mills, NY

Grab your clubs and meet us on the links for the **13th annual Golf Tournament** to support our programs that save and change lives in Utica and the Mohawk Valley.

You'll enjoy the fellowship of other compassionate friends of the Mission as you share a round of golf and the knowledge that you're helping to bring hope to homeless and hurting people.

We need YOU to make this event a success!

Whether you golf, volunteer or sponsor a golfer, you'll help us to reach our goal of raising \$50,000 to fuel the transformative work we do every day at the Mission.

For more information, visit uticamission.org.



26th ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

They're walking miracles... homeless, hungry, hurting men and women whose lives have been transformed by the healing hand of God through the Mission. Come hear their inspiring stories for yourself at our **26th Annual Alumni Banquet** in honor of our program graduates.

You'll enjoy an evening of food and fellowship with Mission alumni, friends and guests and come away with a heart filled with gratitude for what God has done and hope for lives yet to be transformed through our programs.

For reservations, contact Cathy Hardy at (315) 735-1645, ext. 2102 by May 10.

We hope to see you there!

WHEN: May 11 at 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Tabernacle Baptist Church
13 Clark Place, Utica, NY

"For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness & transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom & forgave our sins." Colossians 1:13-14, NLT



A Message from WENDY GOETZ

YOUR GIFTS ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES THIS EASTER SEASON

My friends, Easter will be here soon – and with it, the joy of being able to celebrate and shout, “He is risen indeed!”

I can't think of a truth that's more important to those staying at the Mission right now... men and women who are facing devastating struggles with homelessness, poverty and addiction.

That Jesus overcame death and rose again to offer a hurting world hope resonates with our guests.

In Jesus, they see that they too can overcome! As they begin to trust Him, their past guilt and shame transforms into hope for a brighter future. They walk in freedom, knowing that they're forgiven.

Forgiveness is a doorway to new life. It opens up our guests to

accepting love – not just God's, but love from our staff, their families and even themselves. From there, they blossom into the people they were always meant to be.

This Easter, I pray you'll experience the glorious hope of the cross in your life... and remember that YOU are making it possible for hurting people to find forgiveness and freedom through the cross too. I'm so grateful that each time you reach out to help, more hearts are touched by the love of a risen Savior.

Wendy Goetz
Executive Director



GLORIA CAME FOR A MEAL...



... AND IT WAS THE START OF A NEW LIFE!

Gloria didn't have much hope left when she came to our door. Thanks to you, she was warmly welcomed and provided with the basic necessities that restored her hope:

- A hot meal for \$2.19
 - An overnight stay in our shelter
 - Clothing, showers & Christ-centered care
- ← Each meal you give makes a big difference!*

This Easter, as Gloria celebrates the hope in her life, **YOU can give even more people the gift of meals and care** that's often the first step to healing and a new life in Christ!

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- ✦ Give online anytime at uticamission.org.

Thank you again for your support of our Mission guests! Happy Easter!

YOU can help meet our **EASTER NEEDS!**

Sunday, April 12: Our Easter Service starts at 11:00 a.m., followed by dinner at 11:45 a.m.

We need your help to prepare all the meals and care we'll provide this Easter season.

Between now and Easter Sunday, we're preparing to serve **28,000+ hot meals...** and provide hundreds of men, women and children with **basic necessities like safe shelter, clean clothing and Christ-centered care.**

Our homeless neighbors are counting on us... and we're counting on YOU!



FOOD ITEMS NEEDED!

Consider hosting a food drive OR dropping off any of these urgently needed food items **by Friday, April 10:**

- SPIRAL SLICED HAMS
- INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
- BUTTER
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- POWDERED MILK
- DESSERTS (homemade or store-bought)
- COFFEE
- CREAMER

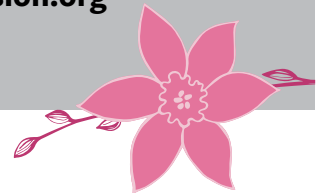
Drop off donations at the Mission's Food Service building: 201 Rutger Street, Utica, 7 days a week.

Thank you so much!

No time to shop? Donate now!

☎ **(315) 735-1645**

🌟 **uticamission.org**



Lend a hand this Easter season... **VOLUNTEER!**

Contact Demetria Lunny ☎ **(315) 735-1645, ext. 2103** 🌟 **demetria.lunny@uticamission.org**