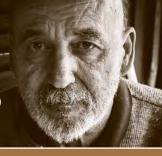


Changing Lives



Serving Utica and the Mohawk Valley since 1890

Fall Issue 2016

INSIDE...



When food + shelter are not enough



What's on the menu?



We need your help!





Our guests may never meet you, but they give thanks for your care and support each and every day!



MEALS



NIGHTS OF SHELTER



THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF TRAINING. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING & PRAYER

CONNECT WITH US!







uticamission.org

WHEN FOOD & SHELTER **ARE NOT ENOUGH...**

If all we do with your most generous gifts is feed and shelter hungry, homeless people in Utica and the Mohawk Valley, we're not doing our job!

Meals and a bed will not keep people from being homeless. They also need education and job training, like we provide in our Skills for Success program.

Food and shelter alone will not end addiction. People trapped in the prison of alcohol and drug use need counseling and support.

And every single one of the men, women and children who comes to the Mission needs God's grace.

As our busiest time of the year approaches, I need your help to make absolutely sure people's physical and spiritual needs are met.

Donate food, or send a gift to purchase it. And please pray for those who so desperately need our help, and God's love, to live better lives.



Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Jim Haid, Executive Director

What's On The Menu?

Nourishing food & God's love!

You can provide **both** with your 2016 Annual Thanksgiving Campaign gift! Please use the enclosed envelope, or give online at **uticamission.org**.

Thank you!



Every morning, Matt woke up wondering what he'd done the night before. "My drinking got to a point where I lost everything."

He moved in with his sister, thinking a location change would change him. But as he says, "The drinking came with me. After two weeks, she kicked me out."

Matt ended up wandering around Syracuse with only a backpack. "I had no hope...no clue where to go."

He ended up next to a railroad track. "I was waiting for the train because I was going to jump in front of it and end it all."

But God was at work in Matt's life, even at this darkest moment. Without realizing it, Matt dialed

911 on his phone. An operator dispatched an ambulance to come get him. As it pulled away with Matt in the back, the train sped by and **Matt was amazed at how close he'd come to a brush with death.**

Because of a referral to Parker House, he showed up here. He'd been to detox before, but had never tried a Christ-centered recovery program like ours.

"Parker House is the best thing that's ever happened to me," Matt says, smiling. "Not just Parker House, but the Mission, too. I'm so grateful for all they've done. You can feel how much the people here really care."

Matt had always numbed his anger with alcohol. But as he let

Jesus fill the void in his heart, something amazing happened: "Jesus said, 'I got you,' and it felt so much better...I didn't have to drink away my problems."

Today, Matt's part of our Phase 4 program, which gives men a safe place to further their walk with Christ and prepares them to transition back into the community. He also volunteers here 20 hours a week.

He's working to get into community college, but Matt's main goal is to stay focused on what matters: a steady, sober life with God at the center. "The Mission has completely changed my life and my attitude. It's awesome to be happy."

DONATE FOOD

Please consider hosting a food drive or donating these needed items **before Monday, November 21:**

- Turkeys & hams
- Boxes of stuffing
- Bags of potatoes
- Fresh or #10 canned fruits & vegetables
- Baked pies
- Coffee
- Canned cranberry sauce

Drop off donations at our Food Service Center at 201 Rutger Street, 7 days a week. Thank you!

Want to know more about donating food or hosting a food drive?

Talk to Debi Kenyon!

- **(**315) 735-1645, ext. 115
- debi.kenyon@uticamission.org

NEEDED BY THANKSGIVING!

Will you join in and set more places at our table for hungry people in Utica and the Mohawk Valley this Thanksgiving?

We need your help! Just look at our needs this holiday:

- 33,264+ meals for men, women & children
- 200+ food boxes for families, seniors & people in desperate need of food

And there's no way we can serve thousands of people without you!

