

Serving Utica and the Mohawk Valley since 1890

Holiday 2016

INSIDE...



A Message from
Jim Haid

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16,632 meals by
December 25

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The Perfect
Gift?

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**Sean was drunk
and homeless when
police brought him
to the Mission.**

“
I WANTED
TO GET OUT
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE...
THEN I OPENED
THE BIBLE AND
SOMETHING
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CAME ALIVE.
”

"Let there be joy!"

Caroling angels. Christmas pageants. Celebrations around the world.

Christmas is truly a miraculous time.

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

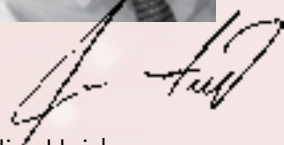
And that's exactly what makes it a **very difficult time** for those who make their home with us here at the Mission.

Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Most would tell you they have very little to celebrate.

It is your gifts that **make Christmas the very best day possible** for them.

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!

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 there be joy!**



Jim Haid
Executive Director



That's our goal this holiday season.

Each meal you sponsor today is so much more than a plate of food.

It's a chance for you to help change a life.

To end hunger. To end homelessness.

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Make your gift online at **uticamission.org**.

Or use the enclosed reply card and envelope.

Thank you for sharing your blessings and your bounty!

CONNECT WITH US!



uticamission.org



They're my family now.

I'M NOT ALONE.

Sean was in second grade when his parents divorced. **"It bothered me deep inside that my father wasn't there all the time,"** he says. "I was dealing with depression."

He started smoking marijuana in high school to "escape" from his sadness and, after he went to work, turned to alcohol. But when he was arrested on a substance abuse charge, he realized he truly had a problem.

After that, Sean went to a number of rehabs, but he always relapsed. **"One weekend, I started drinking after work on Saturday and by Monday, I realized I couldn't stop,"** he says.

Sean lost his job and his

apartment, and slept on friends' sofas for several months until he wore out his welcome. **"I ended up sleeping on a porch and that's when the police came and brought me to the Mission,"** he says.

Sean was in our Addiction Crisis Center and then moved into Parker House

Aftercare and began our Spiritual Life Program. "I was just trying to conform and get out as soon as possible," he says.

Then he took on the assignment of giving a talk about five reasons he was going to heaven. **"I searched the Bible for a couple of days**

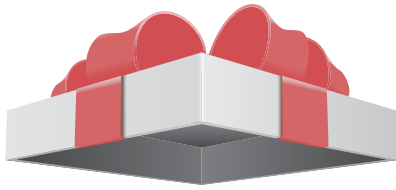
and something happened to me," he says. "The words came alive. Since then, it's become part of my identity and my relationship with God keeps getting stronger."

Sean graduated from the program, has his own place, and is attending

"I had no spirituality."

community college. "I'd like to go to seminary so I can minister," he says.

Sean is grateful to the Mission for helping him change the course of his life. **"Seeing how these people live their lives gave me hope,"** he says. "They're my family, now. I'm not alone."



The perfect gift? Look no further!

For homeless people in our community, Christmas is a season of lonely days and cold nights. Your Christmas Gift means food, shelter and the basic services that provide hope for happier days and nights ahead.

It's easy:

1. Choose a gift.
2. Add it to your reply card.

Or visit our Christmas Gift Catalog online at uticamission.org/GiftCatalog.



Meals – \$25

A hot, nourishing meal at the Mission may be their only meal of the day.



Warm clothing – \$35

We provide new clothing – including undershirts, shorts and socks – through our Wish List program, so men and women can feel warm, dry and renewed in their journey to recovery.

Safe shelter – \$50

It's more than a bed. During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite and worse when temperatures dip below freezing. Give a man safe, warm shelter and the chance to finally rest at our Emergency Shelter.



Hope & Healing – \$100

True change requires more than food and shelter. Our long-term recovery programs give men and women the resources they need to transform their lives.

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.