



Serving Utica and the Mohawk Valley since 1890

HOLIDAY 2021

Don't  
miss...



Celebrating  
rebirth this  
Christmas.

**2**



"Everything  
about my life  
is better."

**3**



You can transform  
lives by year's  
end!

**4**

Thanks to you...

***Earl***

has been given a  
life-changing gift  
this Christmas.



# “Everything about my life is BETTER.”

**E**arl grew up longing to fit in, but it wasn't to be. “I had ADHD and social anxiety. I didn't feel accepted by the world. I felt like an outcast.”

When he was 9 years old, his father remarried, and Earl's sense of rejection grew. “My dad only saw me two weekends a month. In my eyes, that meant I wasn't important.”

Earl began numbing his pain with drugs and, by the time he was 16, he was using every day. For more than 15 years, he struggled with addiction, unable to hold down jobs and, eventually, finding himself homeless.

With each day on the streets, his depression grew and, finally, he tried to take his own life. But God had other plans. Earl survived and, after completing rehab, came to our Parker House Aftercare Program.

Through chapel services, devotions and Bible studies, Earl surrendered his life to the Lord. **“I feel God's presence and I'm allowing Him to work within me,”** he says. “I'm learning more about Him every day and I know that, even if no one in the world accepts me, He does.”

After coming to the Mission, Earl was diagnosed with depression and anxiety and placed on medication. He's also been processing his emotional pain during regular visits with a therapist. “I'm healing and learning how to control my emotions.”

**“Now I know God doesn't see me as an outcast.”**

He plans to complete the program and study to become a drug and alcohol counselor so he can help others who struggle as he once did. “God is good and I want people to know He will help make them better,” he says.

**It's going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Earl – and he is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life.** “Everything about my life is better. I'm growing mentally and spiritually and I know that God accepts me. He'll never leave me.”



## Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

During the Christmas season, we hear a lot about joy. It has me thinking about how joy is something *all people* can have in their hearts. This time of year, our greatest joy is celebrating the birth of our Savior and the eternal life we have been freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts Christmas morning... and, hopefully, every day of the year. It's the same joy I see on the faces of the children, women and men that have come to Rescue Mission of Utica and experienced God's life-changing love up close and personal. The joy YOU help them experience through your heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on the "reason for the season," I hope you will remember our neighbors who are hurting. As Earl's story shows, your generosity offers help, healing and a chance to be held in the arms of a loving God.

I am continually humbled by the faithfulness of friends like you who joyfully bless others. Thank you, and may God fill your heart with peace and love.



*Wendy L. Goetz*

Wendy Goetz  
Executive Director

## A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

### ... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas, please remember our hurting neighbors. It's been another really tough year for so many in our community – and the very best gift you can give them is the help they need right now!

Just \$2.19 provides a meal and care for one person.

That meal is often the first step toward a new life through God's love.



**\$2.19**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$37.00**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**

**Healing  
Hope  
And a Second  
Chance!**

### Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

**SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE EARL'S LIFE!**

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

-Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

*Wishing you and your loved ones a  
Merry Christmas!*

During this joyous holiday season, our prayer is that God will richly bless you just as you have blessed your hurting neighbors. Your incredible generosity has opened the door for healing and transformation through Christ's unending love by providing 255,000 meals and 51,000 nights of safe shelter this year.

May His face shine upon you and bring you peace, comfort and joy... today and all throughout the new year. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

# You Can Transform Lives Before the Year Ends!

This year has been tough for so many of our neighbors. They're trying to rebuild their lives after losing their jobs... their homes... or even their hope. **But your year-end gift will give them a chance to transform their lives completely.**

Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will help so many people start over now and in the new year!

- ✓ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.

🖥 Give online at [uticamission.org](http://uticamission.org).



## 3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

### FEED THE HUNGRY



Want to nourish your neighbors? Donate these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season. Please deliver them to **201 Rutger Street, 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**, by Friday, November 19th.

turkeys & hams \* boxes of stuffing \* bags of potatoes \* canned fruits and vegetables  
coffee, creamer & sugar



### MEET BASIC NEEDS



Looking to cover the basics? These essential items keep Mission guests safe and comfortable during their time in our care. Please drop off donations at **293 Genesee Street, Utica, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

NEW mens and womens socks \* gloves \* hats \* undergarments  
\* sweatpants \* sweatshirts sizes m to XXXL

### GIVE GIFT CARDS



No time to shop? Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts as well as year-round necessities. Please mail or deliver them to **293 Genesee Street, Utica, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

Walmart \* Target \* Big Lots \* Old Navy \* Best Buy

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS A TIME OF JOY!**