



Don't  
miss...



How You  
Restore Hope

2



"I thought I'd  
never have a  
normal life."

3



Annual Easter  
Campaign

4



A **BEAUTIFUL NEW**  
*Beginning*

Codie's life is being restored in ways he never imagined.

*On Page 3: Read how your support is giving Codie a reason to celebrate this Easter!*



**B**y the time Codie was just nine years old, he was already running drugs for his mother's boyfriend. "I didn't know what was going on and I'd do it without hesitation, thinking everything was okay," he says. "Growing up, I thought I lived a pretty normal life, but I soon realized that it was crazy."

When Codie was 12, he started drinking to cope with the chaos in his life and, by the time he was 14, was using hard drugs. It was the beginning of an eight-year struggle with addiction that cost him everything he held dear. "I lost my friends and my family and wound up homeless, roaming the streets."

Codie had tried rehabs in the past and always relapsed, but when he was 22, he decided to give it another try and came to our Addiction Stabilization Center. It was then, during a chapel service at the Mission, that he gave his life to Christ. "An overwhelming joy came over me and I felt like Jesus was actually hugging me. I'd never felt so calm, so at peace with myself," Codie says.

He then entered our Parker House Aftercare Program, and through counseling, case management, Bible studies and life skills classes, has grown stronger in the Lord and in his sobriety. Codie's relationships with family and friends have been restored, as well.

**"EVERYTHING HAS BEEN FALLING INTO PLACE. IT'S A MIRACLE."**

Codie plans to go to college and become a certified substance abuse counselor with hopes of working at the Mission one day. "I'm going to help people just like the Mission helped me," he says. "They gave me hope."

**This Easter, Codie will be celebrating the beautiful new beginning in his life – made possible by your generous support.** "Before coming to the Mission, I was a homeless drug addict. I thought that would be my life forever, that I'd never be able to have a normal life. But now I have everything I could ever ask for and more. I see a bright future."

**"I thought I'd never have a normal life. Now I have everything I could ask for."**



## 8th ANNUAL

**WALK  
A MILE**  
*in my shoes*

Compassionate people from Utica and the Mohawk Valley gathered on Saturday, February 2 to walk and raise money for our life-changing programs.

This year's "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" event took more than 300 participants on a one-mile journey from Hanna Park, past our Parker House Aftercare, and on to Westminster Moriah Olivet Presbyterian Church, where they enjoyed food and fellowship.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated – walkers, sponsors and volunteers – for actively expressing your compassion and for being the hands and feet of Christ.

All proceeds from the event benefit our programs and services that reach out and change the lives of people in our community.

VISIT [uticamission.org](http://uticamission.org) to read stories of hope, learn more about our ministry & securely donate anytime.

Let's be friends!



# Easter 2019

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Here's how your gift provides comfort & care over the next month!



**13,325** meals to serve



**4,557** nights of shelter



**150+** men & women to care for in our recovery program



**11,820** hours of education & counseling to provide



It's that time of year when golfers gather with their clubs and compassion to raise money for the Mission's programs that bring healing and hope to those in need in Utica and the Mohawk Valley.

### It's our 12th Annual Golf Tournament!

Join us for a day of fellowship on the links and the satisfaction of knowing you're changing lives

## A Message from JIM HAID

# YOU RESTORE Hope



When we pass a homeless person on the street, it's often easier to avert our eyes to our phones rather than engage with that person's very real pain. That way, we don't have to hear their cries... or see how broken their lives are... or feel how much they suffer.

But their pain is real, even if we look away.

On the cross, Jesus didn't look away from suffering, but endured it, fixing His eyes on "the joy set before Him." The glory of the cross is that Jesus boldly engaged with our pain. He experienced our struggles and our cries, and suffered with all of humanity. Jesus took our pain upon Himself and redeemed it.

### **Easter is our celebration of that new hope!**

Your generous gifts demonstrate that you **turn toward** those who are hurting – and want to offer them healing and restoration through

Christ's love.

Because of you, people like Codie are celebrating HUGE changes in their lives. Codie's story is on page 3, and I hope as you read, you're inspired by how your gifts can turn a life filled with pain into a beautiful new beginning.

By God's grace, and your support, many like Codie are experiencing hope restored. On behalf of each person in our care, thank you for reaching out to them with the love and kindness that helps restore lives this Easter.

Jim Haid  
Executive Director

## PLAY A ROUND | CHANGE A LIFE!

**Save the Date**  
12th Annual Golf  
Tournament

Thursday, June 13  
Twin Ponds Golf Course  
New York Mills, NY

through your participation.

Whether you take part as a golfer, a volunteer or a sponsor, you'll help make the event a success, enabling us to reach our goal of raising \$43,000. We can't do it without you!

For more information, visit [uticamission.org](http://uticamission.org).  
Thank you!

# Preparing for Easter...

## AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!



**Sunday, April 21:** Easter Celebration from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We'll be serving more than **21,000 hungry men, women and children this Easter**. Please help by donating or giving gifts-in-kind **by Friday, April 19**. For a list of needed food items or to donate now, go to **uticamission.org** or call **(315) 735-1645**.

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



### IAIN HAS A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

Meet Iain! He came to the Mission believing all hope for his life was gone. Your support provided the hot, nourishing meal that changed everything – and gave him hope for a new life in Christ.

Today, you can help more people like Iain with your gift to feed, shelter and share God's love during our Annual Easter Campaign.

**A meal is just \$2.19... and the hope it provides in the lives of homeless and hungry people is truly a reason to celebrate!**

✉ **GIVE NOW** using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

🖨 **GIVE ONLINE** anytime at **uticamission.org**.

Thank you for the new hope you make possible in hurting lives! Happy Easter!



**Volunteer:** You can help from now until Easter Sunday!  
Contact Melissa DePue: **Melissa.DePue@uticamission.org**



## 25th Annual Alumni Banquet

It will be an evening of inspiration as graduates of our program share their testimonies of the Lord's transformation in their lives. Please join us Monday, May 13 as Mission alumni, friends and guests gather for an evening of food and fellowship in honor of those living victorious lives in Christ.

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

**WHEN:** Monday, May 13  
6 p.m.

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