



Don't  
miss...



You Fill Hearts with  
Thanksgiving

2



"We can't  
watch you die"

3



How to Help at  
the Holidays

4

*“They said,  
‘We can’t do  
this anymore.  
We can’t watch  
you die.’”*



Today, Daniel is on a path to a new beginning – and his heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who are making his journey possible.

YOU'LL BE MOVED BY HIS STORY, ON PAGE 3.

“We must never give up hope – *God’s* little blessings keep us going.”



Daniel has worked in the restaurant industry his whole life. The tough environment led to frequent drinks to relax with coworkers – but Daniel soon felt overwhelmed. He says, “Things got stressful. I took on too much responsibility and started drinking more heavily.”

He had been living with family and friends, but they told him to move out because they could no longer watch him kill himself. He ended up homeless on the streets – alone and bitter. Then, one day, God used a chance encounter to soften Daniel’s heart.

When he stumbled into a day center, a nurse on duty asked, “Can I pray for you?” I said, ‘Yeah, go ahead. Anything will help at this point.’ And she held my hand and ***I felt hope for the first time in years,***” he says.

Daniel remembered visiting the Utica Mission with his youth group years before. His hope led him to the Mission, but he was still unconvinced God could really change him. So he gave God an ultimatum – 90 days to fix his life.

Daniel came to Parker House, our long-term discipleship program that gives men a safe place to heal from addiction and other destructive behaviors. Within that 90-day period, he was surprised to see how “God gave me little blessings, little gifts to keep me going, saying, ‘Look, it’s not that bad. I’m with you, OK?’” as his life transformed rapidly.

Today, he is sober, working part-time at the Mission, completing his Bachelor’s degree in Social Work, buying a house and engaged to be married – dreams he never thought he would accomplish before coming to the Mission.

“Now I know how to fail – how to live beyond what’s right there. ***This is all from the grace of God, and it didn’t happen overnight. God will give you what you need just a little bit at a time.*** He reveals it slowly to you.”

Daniel has a heart for serving others and is so full of gratitude for friends like you who showed him that change was possible. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**“I was homeless. Unemployed. Friends were pushing me off. It shook me to the core.”**



A MESSAGE FROM JIM HAID

Your kindness fills hearts with Thanksgiving

Those we care for at the Mission face a litany of challenges. Like Daniel, who you'll read about on Page 3, each story of heartbreak and tragedy is personal and unique.

Yet all of our guests share one thing in common: **deep gratitude for friends like you who are providing a pathway to hope and healing.**

From the essentials of food and shelter to our programs of recovery and practical training, your generosity lays the financial foundation for our faith-based outreach. Sharing the love of God is at the center of all we do, and we know true and permanent life change is only possible when men and women have invited Him into their hearts.

With you alongside us, **we have the amazing opportunity to accompany homeless and hurting individuals – whom God loves deeply – on their journeys to restoration.**

The Thanksgiving season offers a special opportunity for everyone on our staff – and each man, woman and child in our care – to reflect on the many blessings of your kind compassion. With a heart of gratitude, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent, gifts and prayers to uplift our neighbors in need.

Jim Haid  
Executive Director

You're invited to join us at our 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOURMET GUYS to the rescue!

OCTOBER 14, 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.

HART'S HILL INN  
135 CLINTON STREET  
WHITESBORO, NY

For more information on tickets for the event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Susan Woods at (315) 735-1645 or email [susan.woods@uticamission.org](mailto:susan.woods@uticamission.org).



With Grateful Hearts...

As you give thanks for your blessings this Thanksgiving, those in our care will be giving thanks too – for you and for the gifts of comfort, compassion and life-changing opportunity you so generously provide for them.

This Thanksgiving Season Alone...



54,000 Hot Meals



11,000 Safe Beds



900 Food Boxes Delivered to the Homebound



Thousands of hours of Training, Counseling & Prayer

Please continue your heartfelt support with a gift to our 2018 Thanksgiving Campaign. Because you care, your neighbors in need can overcome their challenges and embrace a new beginning.



God bless you for being generous



Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.



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



## Can you add a few items to your grocery list?

Thanksgiving will soon be here, and we need help from dedicated friends to ensure there is enough food for everyone at the table. If you are able, please consider purchasing:

- \* Turkey
- \* Ham
- \* Potatoes
- \* Canned vegetables
- \* Fresh vegetables - onions, carrots & celery
- \* Bread - rolls

You can drop off items 7 days a week at our:  
Food Service Center  
201 Rutger Street

To learn more, contact Lucas Richmond at  
☎ (315) 735-1645 ext. 2130  
✉ [lucas.richmond@uticamission.org](mailto:lucas.richmond@uticamission.org)

## Open Your Heart... Lend a Hand

It takes careful planning and organizing – and scores of caring volunteers – to bring a meaningful holiday to hundreds of homeless and hurting people. That's why we're starting NOW, and we hope you'll join us. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Melissa DePue, for opportunities and details.

☎ (315) 735-1645, ext. 2103  
✉ [melissa.depue@uticamission.org](mailto:melissa.depue@uticamission.org)

CONNECT WITH US

[uticamission.org](http://uticamission.org)



## The West Street Apartments are complete!

Affordable housing is a challenge for many in our community, which is why we are pleased to announce the completion of the 54,000-square-foot West Street Apartments!

There are 42 units for low-income and homeless tenants – 36 one-bedrooms, 6 two-bedrooms, and 5 ADA customized units for those with disabilities. The Mission's Learning Center, Food Pantry, Clothing Closet and Representative-Payee facility have been relocated to this new location to offer on-site services to residents.

**Thank you for all of your support** that helped make this beautiful new facility possible!

**Did You Know?** It costs only **\$2.19** to provide one meal for a hungry person.