

Don't
miss...



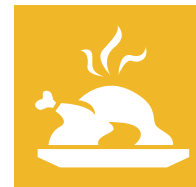
Join Our
Campaign

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"Now I'm a
believer."

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Our
Thanksgiving
Needs

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Kevin's heart
is filled with
gratitude
for YOU!

Inside: Read how your
compassion and support
changes lives.

“I WAS SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT AND HOPELESS, BUT NOW I’M A BELIEVER.”

Kevin’s father was an addict and a drug dealer and his mother lived in fear that Kevin would choose the same path. “She loved my father to death, but she didn’t want me to be like him, so she was really hard on me. It bordered on abuse,” Kevin says. “I felt rejected and became introverted because I thought there was something wrong with me.”

When Kevin was in junior high, he ran away from home in search of acceptance. “I found what I was looking for in the streets,” he says. “I started doing drugs and alcohol and I felt normal. I wasn’t shy anymore.”

For nearly 30 years, he struggled with addiction – costing him jobs, damaging

his relationships and leaving him homeless. “I lost everything,” he says. “All I had was pain, loneliness and shame.”

It was then Kevin came to our Addiction Stabilization Center, where he found safe shelter, food and the opportunity to detox in a medically-monitored setting.

With his physical needs met, he was able to focus on his spiritual healing, attending chapel services and Christian counseling that opened his heart to the Lord. “When I walked in here, I was spiritually bankrupt and hopeless, but now I’m a believer.”

Kevin completed his ASC treatment and moved into transitional housing. He plans to become a Peer

Engagement Specialist here at the Mission, encouraging and guiding others who are struggling with addiction.

“I thought the life I’d lived had been for nothing, but I’ll be able to use my experience to help people,” he says, smiling.

This Thanksgiving season – and all through the year – your kind generosity fills hearts with hope and gratitude... and transforms lives like Kevin’s.

“The Mission received me with open arms, pointed me in the right direction and gave me the tools to become independent. I’m leaving with goals and hope.”

“
I saw the **love**
and **peace of the**
Lord here and I
wanted that.
”



*You fill my heart
with Thanksgiving.*

The past few months have been challenging for all of us. No one is immune to the stress of uncertainty or the fear of the unknown. Especially this year, far too many of our neighbors have also felt the harsh reality of losing their livelihoods – their ability to provide for themselves or their families. They join scores of others already turning to Rescue Mission of Utica for food, shelter and life-restoring guidance.

Yet, through it all, my heart is filled with gratitude – for God's faithfulness... the goodness of mankind... and your dedication to serving all who are in need.

As more struggling people reach out to us, you are there for them. You are among the heroes who put others' needs above your own. You join us on the front lines of compassion and kindness, loving your neighbors when they need it most. Now, as we anticipate an increased need for food and care throughout the fall, my greatest hope is that you'll continue your amazing support this Thanksgiving season.

Regardless of the season or the challenges around us, remembering our blessings brings us comfort, peace and joy. This Thanksgiving, as we gather with our loved ones, I pray each of us finds strength in God... one another... and our own grateful hearts.



Wendy L. Goetz

Wendy Goetz
Executive Director

40,000
MEALS NEEDED BY THANKSGIVING

Join our
2020 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN!

Please help us now to prepare for the thousands of meals we'll serve to our homeless and struggling neighbors throughout the Thanksgiving season. Your generosity will not only provide nourishing food for hungry people, but also opportunities for lives to be restored:

***faith-based counseling • life-skills classes
emergency shelter • and more!***

Your giving spirit can mean a new beginning for hurting individuals and families right here in our community. Share your heart of thanksgiving by giving your **2020 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.**



Give now using the enclosed
reply card and envelope.



Give online anytime at
uticamission.org.



***Our hearts are filled with Thanksgiving for
your faithful support!***

SEE HOW YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



\$2.19
for 1 hot meal



\$37
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN LEAD
TO**



**Practical guidance
and God's
life-changing
LOVE**

**READ KEVIN'S STORY TO
LEARN MORE!**



Announcing our 28th Annual Gourmet Guys Event with a *2020 Twist!*



Due to social distancing and COVID-19 precautions, we're unable to hold our traditional event. However, you can still enjoy Fun, Friends, and Fabulous Food when you participate in "Gourmet Guys... To Go!" It's our new coupon book with the best restaurant and dessert options in the Mohawk Valley. When you purchase a book for \$25, your name will be entered for a prize drawing. "Gourmet Guys... To Go!" is an awesome benefit to you and a blessing to our community.

How to Purchase:

By Mail: 293 Genesee Street Utica, NY 13501

Online: uticamission.org

By Phone: (315) 735-1645, ext. 2104

Thank you!

Our Thanksgiving Needs List

Turkeys

Potatoes

White onions

Canned cranberry
sauce

Pre-packaged pies

Rolls

Milk

Mixed fruits &
vegetables

Please consider shopping or hosting a food drive for these items we need to feed our hungry guests throughout the Thanksgiving season.



Drop off your donations at **201 Rutger Street.**

Thank you for helping!

Don't Miss a Single Mission Moment!

Follow us on social media and sign up for our emails to stay up-to-date on our Thanksgiving activities, urgent needs, special events and how your partnership is transforming lives. Be sure to tell your friends about us too, and encourage them to help this Thanksgiving!

uticamission.org

