

CONNECTIONS

Rescue
Mission
of Utica
Reaching Out...Changing Lives

CHANGING LIVES IN UTICA AND THE MOHAWK VALLEY SINCE 1890 | HOLIDAY 2025

THANK YOU
FOR SHARING
Christmas blessings
WITH STEVIE!



DON'T MISS...

2 Give a meal. Share peace and hope!

3 "God has a purpose for me."

4 A Christmas to look forward to

RESCUE MISSION OF UTICA | 293 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501-3804 | (315) 735-1645 | uticamission.org

You share the gifts of peace and hope at Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner! We're busy with our preparations – and I know you are too. I invite you to remember our neighbors in need for a moment... and consider what Christmas means to them.

For people experiencing homelessness, there is no moment of peace or joy. They endure constant stress... uncertain of where they can sleep safely... how they'll stay warm... and when they'll get their next meal.

I know your heart breaks for so many of our neighbors who feel they have little to celebrate this Christmas.

That's why your support means so much.

You can share the gifts of peace and hope with our hurting neighbors – this holiday season and beyond. When you give a meal for just \$2.65, you open the doors to healing and transformation. People like Stevie (whose story is on page 3) will experience the blessings of God's love that restores hearts and lives.

You can join us in reflecting God's love to our neighbors at Christmas through your compassion toward individuals and families who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

Thank you for filling hearts with peace and hope this season... and every day of the year.

Wendy L. Goetz

Wendy Goetz
Executive Director



Give a meal. Share *peace* and *hope*!

For our neighbors experiencing homelessness or hunger, Christmas can feel more lonely than joyful... **but YOU can share the gifts of PEACE and HOPE.** Just \$2.65 provides a nourishing Christmas meal – and opens the door to recovery and a fresh start this holiday season.



\$2.65
for 1 hot meal



**SHARES
PEACE & HOPE**



**That leads
to new life!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



You Can End the Year Strong! **\$10,000 GOAL**

This holiday season, weary neighbors face dark, cold nights. They're at risk of losing hope completely. They long for a helping hand and the chance for a brighter future. **YOU can give them food, shelter and life-changing care to transform their lives!**

Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will help meet our \$10,000 goal. Respond now to offer more people *help* now... and *peace and hope* in the new year!



Return your special year-end gift in the reply card today.



Give online at **uticamission.org**.



“God has a *purpose* for me.”

In the mix of happy times in Stevie’s childhood, there was also dysfunction and chaos. Both his parents were alcoholics, and they divorced when Stevie was just five years old. “I remember how badly it affected me,” he recalls. **“I was crying myself to sleep because I really missed my dad. It was hurtful.”**

The pain of that brokenness took root early. As Stevie grew up, depression set in, and he turned to alcohol to cope.

Addiction eventually consumed Stevie’s life. His harmful choices led to jail time, costing him precious years with his children. **“I never imagined not having alcohol in my life because it drowned out so much of my pain and regret.** It made it worse in the end,” he admits.

For a season, he maintained his sobriety – working and keeping life together – until tragedy struck. When his girlfriend miscarried, grief overwhelmed him. “That was the beginning of the end,” Stevie says. He relapsed, lost his job and was evicted from his apartment.

Feeling broken and out of options, Stevie came to the Mission. Here, he was welcomed with grace and began to find hope again. He has learned to put God first and draws strength and courage from prayer.



“I’ve learned that as long as I put my trust in God, I can still have peace, even in the midst of the storm.”



Today, Stevie has moved into his own apartment and is preparing for an internship. His dream is to become a substance abuse counselor and one day open halfway houses or an outreach center. **“My whole goal is to help those struggling the same way I did.”**

This Christmas, Stevie is experiencing the gifts of peace and hope for a brighter future. Thank you for sharing the blessings of God’s love with him! “I’m thankful to the Mission for helping me grow mentally and spiritually. Their program is life changing.”



Give Relief from the Bitter Cold

Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 37° in Utica and the Mohawk Valley – and elements like snow and piercing cold winds – our unsheltered neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and life-threatening illnesses this winter.

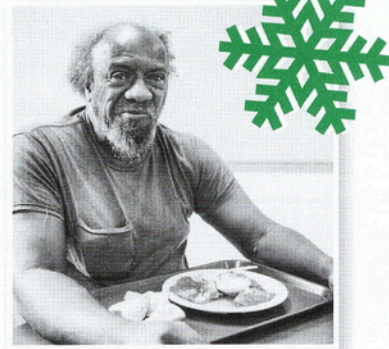
You can give them relief from the cold at Rescue Mission of Utica:

- **Safe shelter** includes a warm bed and a roof over their heads
- **Hot food** offers comfort and nourishment to cold, weary neighbors
- **Winter clothes** like coats, clothing and shoes are in high demand

To see our most urgently needed items, visit uticamission.org/Needs

A Christmas they look forward to, thanks to YOU!

Christmas Morning: Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and an uplifting message



of God's love. Our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the peace and hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas alone and on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals, fellowship and a reminder of the true reason for the season!

Wendy, use my gift to share help and hope this Christmas:

- ☐ \$15.90 to feed & care for 6 people
- ☐ \$26.50 to feed & care for 10 people
- ☐ \$37.10 to feed & care for 14 people
- ☐ \$53.00 to feed & care for 20 people
- ☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible

☐ Plus, my special Year-End gift of: \$_____

Donate now! ☎ (315) 735-1645 💻 uticamission.org

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ BILL MY CREDIT CARD

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

NAME ON CARD

CREDIT CARD #

EXP. DATE

CIV/SEC #

PHONE #

EMAIL

SCAN TO DONATE



Rescue Mission of Utica
293 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501-3804



NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOL25