

Lighthouse

Spring 2023

Changing lives in western Pennsylvania since 1911

Building Bridges for His Glory

Advancing the Gospel often requires building bridges. City Rescue Mission has a history of working with community agencies to bridge gaps between people's needs and services. Now, thanks to the Mission's Community Bridges initiative, guests have an opportunity to receive basic health, dental and other services such as flu vaccinations, at the Mission.

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From the Director's Pen

Bridge of Life

Easter is that time of year we reflect on the greatest blessing ever received, God's gift of eternal salvation through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Jesus suffered an unimaginable death on the cross so all could have an eternal relationship with God, both now on Earth and eventually in Heaven. I am so thankful I can look forward with great anticipation to an eternity in Heaven in the presence of our God, all because of the price Jesus paid for me that first Easter.

Jesus' death and resurrection provide all the opportunity to cross the bridge of life. Romans Road (Romans 6:23) is a great illustration

that reminds us that we all deserve death due to our sin, but God provides a pardon to remove that penalty with the provision of Jesus' death on the cross. We are born on the side of a canyon filled with sin, death and eternal separation from God, but we can look across the canyon and see God and His gift of eternal life with Him. The death and resurrection of Christ provides the bridge to cross over from death to life, but only if we place our trust and faith in Jesus Christ. Praise God for His mercy and grace!

At City Rescue Mission, we have been working with local churches, organizations and agencies to bridge the services they offer to those we serve through our various ministries. In this Lighthouse edition, you will read about just one example of a bridge we have built called Community Bridges. Community Bridges, a collaboration of City Rescue Mission and Primary Health Network, is designed to support the development of meaningful

connections among our guests and the broader community. By providing our guests with opportunities to connect with goods and services within and beyond our walls, we are looking to optimize each individual's quality of life. Thanks to the support of our donors, we are able to continue to build these bridges of hope for our community and those we serve that are struggling with homelessness, hunger, mental health challenges and addiction, for God's glory and His alone.

As we build bridges, I would like to encourage you to give generously once again this year during our Matching Gift Challenge. Annually, this challenge has provided the resources needed to fund all of our ministries throughout the summer months. Thank you for your faithful partnership serving our hurting neighbors.

Jack H. Lynn,
Chief Executive Officer

Do you love being part of a stewardship circle of friends? Commit to serving the lost and least in our community by joining one of the Mission's giving groups.

Light Keepers

Light Keepers are faithful partners who help keep the Mission running through their monthly donations. Their commitment provides a dependable cash flow to ultimately keep the Mission's lights on to be a beacon of hope to our neighbors in need as they receive food, shelter, and care.

Director's Circle

Director's Circle partners are a group of friends committed to giving over \$1,000 a year to invest in transforming the future of the Mission. Through their generosity, lives are transformed as hurting people receive food, shelter, care, and hope through faith.

Legacy Circle

Legacy Circle partners are individuals and families that have made a commitment to remember the Mission in their will or estate plans. If you have done this, please call 724-652-4321 or email legacy@cityrescuemission.org so we can correspond with you as a member of this group.

Over the past year this initiative brought about collaborations with Primary Health Network and Link the Valley, Inc., to offer quality, life-changing care to those in need.

Coupled with the Mission's focus on leading people to Christ, Community Bridges emphasizes meeting physical needs as a means to begin meeting a person's spiritual needs. "You cannot help people transform their lives if you don't meet their physical and spiritual needs," said Mission CEO Jack H. Lynn. "When you provide food, a warm bed and access to general healthcare, you build trust and set an example that our guests notice. Once that trust is

built, you can begin to plant the seed by sharing the Gospel," he added.

The collaboration with Primary Health Network began in late September 2022. Erin Flaherty-Harris is a certified health care professional who serves as liaison between the Mission and Primary Health Network. Erin meets with guests two days a week to address health concerns, help guests with specific health issues and assist them with scheduling doctor or dental appointments. There have been success stories, one of which was when a guest felt unusually ill, Erin helped him get the tests done that discovered he had high blood sugar. Other successful outcomes have included helping guests with high blood pressure and encouraging regular doctor visits so that guests benefit from routine care. Erin says some guests need time to absorb and adjust to these services and to understand she's been brought to the Mission to help. "Guests can tell when you genuinely care about them. They now seek me out, which makes me happy", she stated.

The next step under Community Bridges was to bring in Link the Valley, Inc., a mobile dental care unit which offers dental and tobacco cessation services. Lisa Tovcimak, a hygienist for Link the Valley, has been a registered public health dental hygiene practitioner for 28 years and serves patients that other care providers may be unable to serve. Lisa meets with patients at the Mission monthly, where she also facilitates a 6-week smoking cessation class, covering proper nutrition, eating and hygiene habits. The program offers smokers a variety of alternative care options to help them quit permanently. For Lisa, helping guests of the Mission receive these services has been a highly rewarding experience.

Community Bridges, along with the services provided from other collaborations between the Mission and local agencies, can ultimately help the Mission spread the Gospel and share the love and compassion of Christ with people in need. They are truly bridges for God's glory, helping to lead people to transformed lives, both physically and spiritually.



Faith and Family

Cutting Through the Noise of Life

"A study showed that in 1968 it took 15 hours to record one hour of pure nature without the ambient sounds of airplanes, cars, and other manufactured reverberations. As of the year 2005 it took more than 2,000 hours of recorded time to yield the same hour of pure nature sounds."* (*Can you even imagine what it would take today?*)

This striking quote spells out something we already know – finding silence requires intentionality. Stillness, quiet, and rest don't just happen; we have to make space for them, now more than ever.

Here are four practical ways to build more margin into your life and create room for greater peace:

- 1. Set limits.** Overbooked schedules edge out time for rest. Create rules and structure around the time you spend looking at screens, fulfilling commitments, and even working.
- 2. Declutter.** Excess stuff in your space brings excess clutter to your mind. Organize and simplify your home to enjoy greater rest.
- 3. Practice the Sabbath.** The Jewish tradition of Sabbath means to denote a particular expanse of time as *set apart for rest*. Worship, contemplation, prayer, and simply taking a nice, long exhale can all help us pause and reconnect with God and ourselves.
- 4. Plan for the future.** Have you created an estate plan? Roughly 70% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will; many avoid the process because they feel overwhelmed or assume they have many years still to prepare. The process of creating or updating a will can be surprisingly simple, and it creates immeasurable peace of mind.

*Quote from *Quiet: Hearing God Amidst the Noise* by AJ Sherrill

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "**6 Ways to Experience More Peace Today**" by contacting City Rescue Mission at (724) 652-4321 or legacy@cityrescuemission.org. Visit christianwill.org/cityrescuemission to bless your family with an up-to-date will.



Spring 2023 Wish List

Practical Ways You Can Help

We welcome your donations of the items listed below. Please call **724-652-4321** for drop off instructions and/or directions.

Our immediate needs include:

FAMILY CARE MINISTRY

- Cereal
- Sloppy Joe Mix
- Canned Fruit
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Laundry Detergent
- Facial Tissues
- Dish Soap

MEN'S MINISTRY

- Blue Jeans (waist sizes 30-38)
- Backpacks and Bookbags (please choose colors and styles that would appeal to adult men)
- Drink Mix (like Kool-Aid)
- Pasta Sauce
- Hot Sauce
- Ketchup
- Canned Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Easter Candy
- Individually Wrapped Snacks (Sweet or Salty)
- Cases of Bottled Water

*Please call or visit our website for the most up-to-date list of needed items.

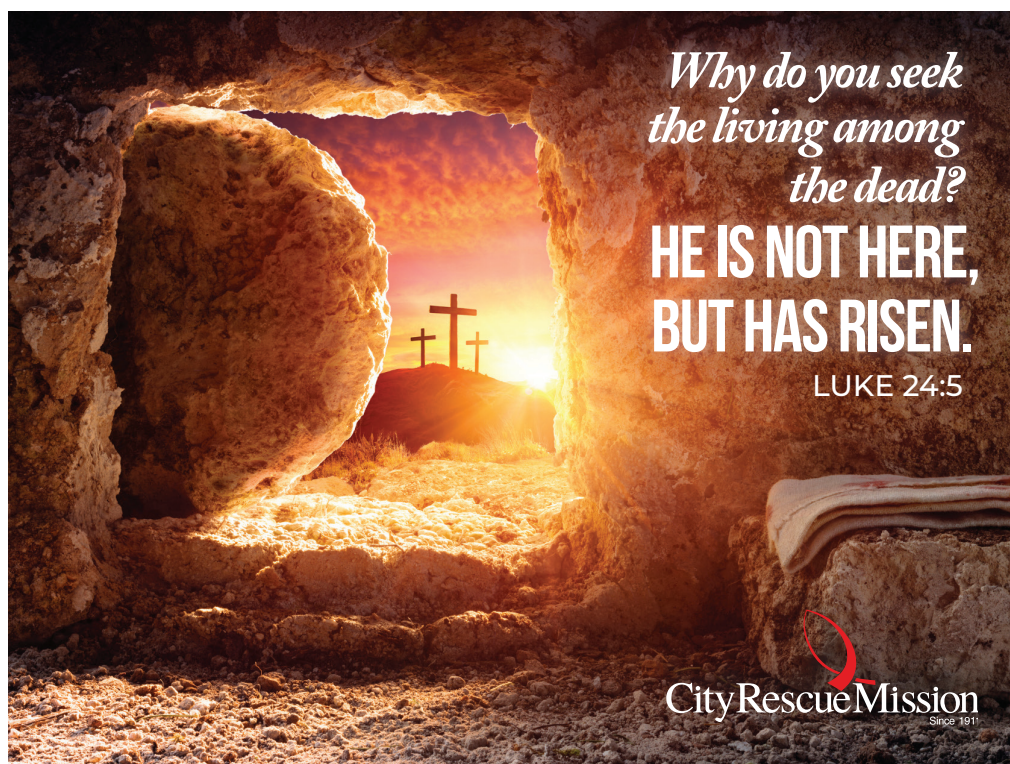
\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge

In recognition of the Mission's dedication to serving the community, generous friends have offered to match all gifts received now through May 31, 2023, dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000! Help us meet this challenge by donating today!



Don't Wait. Every dollar you give will be doubled to feed and shelter the homeless.

DONATE NOW and DOUBLE the **HOPE!**



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The City Rescue Mission is supported by private donations and faithfully demonstrates compliance with ECFA established standards for financial accountability, fundraising, and board governance.

The official registration and financial information of the City Rescue Mission of New Castle may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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