

# Lighthouse

Fall 2023

Changing lives in western Pennsylvania since 1911

## Bread of Life

Have you ever known real hunger? The need for physical nourishment of hurting people in our community is just the beginning. As hands and feet of Christ, City Rescue Mission remains steadfast in providing struggling men, women and families with food for their physical needs and spiritual care for their eternal need.

*(Continued inside)*





## From the Director's Pen

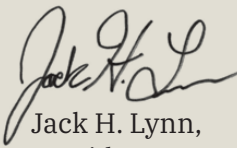
# Feed My Sheep

the City Rescue Mission to provide food for the hungry. It is such a joy witnessing the relief in someone's eyes as we remove the burden of fearing such difficult choices of what to pay for.

While our missionaries provide those who walk through our doors with the food they need for their physical bodies, they also have the opportunity to do so much more by telling them about the spiritual food needed for the soul. When Satan tempted Jesus, his first temptation of Christ related to food for the body. Jesus responded in Matthew 4:4 stating "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Missionaries such as Damianna get to witness our love for Christ by feeding and tending to His sheep per Jesus's instructions in John 21:15-17. We get to tell them the truth of God's Word and His gift of salvation that is only offered by being a

follower and believer of Jesus Christ.

It is such a privilege to serve God by serving our hurting neighbors. God continues to provide the City Rescue Mission with His protection and provisions. I am so thankful that God has placed it on your heart to partner with us as we serve together. This partnership can take many forms, such as volunteering to pack food orders, serving in our kitchen, praying for us daily or by supporting us financially, as we are also impacted by the increased cost of food. No matter how you partner with us, I want to thank you for doing so. Your partnership lets us fulfill our calling from God to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ on Earth, as we model His love and compassion to all that walk through our doors.

  
Jack H. Lynn,  
President & CEO

**I**t breaks my heart to see more of our neighbors struggling during these times as the City Rescue Mission continues to see a dramatic increase of those seeking food and grocery assistance. While everyone is impacted with the food index increasing 7.1% over the past year, those living in poverty are impacted the most. Those living in poverty must make the difficult choice of either paying for food or utilities, or paying for food or medical care, or paying for food or housing. In this Lighthouse edition, we read how our Food Services is providing food to this group through our Family Care Ministry and our Community Kitchen. I thank God for Him calling

## Do You Have A Heart To Serve Those In Need? Become a Volunteer

Do you enjoy interacting with people in need and making a difference in their lives? Do you want to give your time to make an impact for your community while serving Christ? If so, you should become a City Rescue Mission Volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering, feel free to email [volunteer@cityrescuemission.org](mailto:volunteer@cityrescuemission.org) or visit our website: [www.cityrescuemission.org/volunteer](http://www.cityrescuemission.org/volunteer) or scan the code for a direct link.



We are currently looking for individuals for the following volunteer positions:

- **Church Ambassadors** needed to share our monthly emails, updates and announcements with your congregation. We don't want to be the best kept secret in town!
- **Donor Ambassadors** needed to make appreciation telephone calls to donors (No soliciting). This can be done from the comfort of your home!
- **Class Facilitator** (Men's and Women's Ministries) Men of Faith needed to lead/facilitate classes on budgeting, building healthy relationships, anger management and/or conflict resolution; Women of Faith needed to lead Bible studies and devotions, and also needed to help provide cookouts, outdoor picnics and games for guests.





### Continued from the cover

Serving food to those in need is a cornerstone of the Mission's Family Care Ministry. As inflation continues to rise, whole families and neighbors are in crisis, seeking the Mission for help to provide meals for everyone in their household. Since 2021, the number of individuals and families served by our Family Care Ministry and Community Kitchen has tripled. Nearly two thousand people and more than 100 new families have been served this year alone by receiving grocery assistance and finding spiritual care.

Grocery assistance is just one of the front lines of serving the needs of our struggling neighbors that the Mission provides. With hearts to serve,

the Food Services staff are focused on the immediate needs of anyone who comes through the Mission's doors and that includes prayer and spiritual counsel. Angela Streckeisen, Chief Operating Officer, understands the needs of those who struggle in our community. She shares, "It's not just about nurturing caring relationships with people, it's about leading them to a relationship with Christ. Many of the people who come for grocery assistance return each month not just for food but for spiritual support."

Damianne Blackshear is a Guest Advisor for Family Care and one of the friendly faces guests will meet first. As an added help to visitors, she encourages guests through her faith and testimony. "I set a welcoming atmosphere. I like to listen to people and look for ways to guide and help them." It is because of caring staff like Damianne that so many people return to Family Care for grocery assistance. They can count on the caring support of prayer from a caring staff person with a heart for the Lord.

The Mission's community kitchen is also being used mightily in the service of Christ. The community

kitchen has seen a tremendous increase over the past 2 years, with more than 10,000 meals served in the past year. This creates new opportunities to share the truth of God's word through the love and compassion of our Savior. As Director of Food Services and a minister in the Mission, Damon Blackshear reaches hundreds of people in need each month. "Cooking is my passion, It's what I live for." His ministry of transforming lives begins with a warm meal.

***"Food is the way to somebody's heart, some of the best times in life are meal times, those are the times when you can discuss anything."***

Each member of Food Services is a friend, a helper, a teacher and an encourager as they meet the physical needs of hurting and hungry people while introducing them to the only One who can really change their lives, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through support and prayer, the Mission continues to give both physical and spiritual food to those who receive grocery assistance and meals. This faithful support is feeding souls the "bread of life" (John 6:35).



## Faith and Family

# The Lifeline for Your Estate Plan

The hit show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* featured 15 increasingly difficult trivia questions, with the goal of winning one million dollars. Contestants could take advantage of "lifelines" to help if they got stuck, one of which was to phone a friend.

When it comes to updating your estate plan, you too might find it helpful to "phone a friend"; doing something that seems daunting is made easier with a friend or two. Here's what that could look like:

- **Get your priorities on paper.** Meet some friends for coffee and talk through and pray about what's most important to you about your plan, from providing for your family to blessing the ministries close to your heart. Then be sure to write it down. Our free Christian Wills Guide can be a helpful resource to move you from conversation to action.
- **Hold each other accountable.** Starting can be the toughest part of any goal. Pick a date to begin your updates, tell some friends, and then ask them to follow up with you and pray for you. The best part? You can do the same for them.
- **Share ideas and insights.** Inviting others to join you in the process gives you access to their knowledge and experience, and vice versa. Besides that, good friends know your heart. Their wisdom can help ensure your plan reflects what's most important to you.

As Proverbs 15:22 reminds us, *"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed."*

Now is the time to use that lifeline and find some friends to help you take your estate plan to the finish line.



# Fall 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

- Soup
- Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Rice
- Pancake Mix / Syrup
- Pasta / Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter / Jelly
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Canned Beans
- Hamburger Helper
- Sloppy Joe Mix

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Women's Underwear (all sizes)
- Laundry Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies
- Facial Tissues
- Hand Soap
- All-Surface Cleaner w/ Bleach
- Zip-Lock Baggies (any size, esp. quart or gallon)

### MEN'S MINISTRY

- New Underwear / T-shirts
- Wash cloths / Towels
- Long Sleeve Flannel Shirts (all sizes)
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Body Wash

### YOUTH MINISTRY

- Cases of Bottled Water
- Individually Packaged Snacks (e.g. Cookies, Chips)

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

## How You Can Help

### Thanksgiving 2023

## Let the Collecting Begin!

We've started preparing for the Mission's Thanksgiving Basket outreach and you can too! This year has been difficult for many. There are individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. With your help, our neighbors in need will be able to celebrate the holiday with all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal to enjoy in their own home. Check out this Thanksgiving Basket wish list for ideas of what you can start collecting now to donate:

🍂 Cranberry Sauce

🍂 Canned Fruit

🍂 Pie Crust Mix

🍂 Canned Gravy

🍂 Canned Vegetables

🍂 Evaporated Milk

🍂 Canned Yams

🍂 Pie Filling

🍂 Stuffing Mix



## BECOME A *Holiday helper*



Do you want to give the gift that keeps on giving? The holiday season is the busiest time of the year at the Mission and we are always looking for people who can lend a helping hand. If you're interested in making a difference this season, please visit [CityRescueMission.org/volunteer](http://CityRescueMission.org/volunteer) or call 724-652-4321 to see the opportunities for you or your group.



**Physical Address:** 319 S. Croton Avenue • New Castle, PA 16101

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 965 • New Castle, PA 16103-0965

724.652.4321 • [crm@CityRescueMission.org](mailto:crm@CityRescueMission.org) • Follow us   



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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