

Lighthouse

Winter 2024

Changing lives in western Pennsylvania since 1911



The Essence of Mission Outreach

Community Outreach is more than just a catchphrase we use at the City Rescue Mission. It is how we put our faith in action being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. It is how we reach those who need our services, and how we display the love of God to them and sharing the message of Jesus. It is how the Mission lives out our calling since 1911 of modeling Jesus Christ through excellent, relevant and personal services which leads to changed lives for the needy in our community.

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From the President
and CEO's Pen
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CityRescueMission.org



From the President and CEO's Pen

Jesus, the Ultimate Example of Outreach

The completion of this year will mark my fifth year in leadership (2 ½ as Executive Director and 2 ½ as President & CEO) at the City Rescue Mission. It is hard to fathom it soon will already be five years since God called me to a life of serving Him by serving others. As I sit at my desk reflecting over this time period, I find myself in awe over how God continues to bless not only the City Rescue Mission, but me personally with His continued discernment, provision and protection. I love that the service God first called the City Rescue Mission to in 1911 is the same calling today as we continue to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry and provide hope for the lost. I also love how God not only charged us to serve those who come inside our walls, but also for us to reach those beyond our walls through

our various mission outreaches. In this newsletter, you will read how the City Rescue Mission uses such outreaches to put our faith into action being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. It is our way of meeting people where they currently are, establishing trust with them and offering them help as we display God's love. These individuals don't seek us for services, they don't have to ask; we go to them because there is a need and calling to do so.

It makes me think how Jesus did the same thing for each of us, making the choice to leave the comforts of Heaven that first Christmas day and being born in the manger. He then lived a life of service ministering to people's needs, leading by example and sharing the love of His Father to all who would listen. He then chose the ultimate sacrifice by suffering the unimaginably painful death on the cross, being separated from the Father and ultimately defeating Satan through The Resurrection. We couldn't and cannot do a thing to earn such forgiveness, we didn't

seek Him and ask Him to do it. Jesus met us where we are as sinners, seeing the need for restoration and providing victory through Him. No outreach that we do or think of can come close to what Jesus did for us.

As we approach the busiest time of the year at the Mission, I want to thank God not only for the ultimate example of outreach Jesus displayed to us, but also want to thank Him for the opportunity He has provided the City Rescue Mission to serve our community for His glory. I also thank God for all of you, whose generosity provides us with much needed resources that fund such services and outreaches. May this holiday season be anchored in the love of Jesus Christ and displayed through us as God's servants. I pray that God blesses you all during this holiday season.

Jack H. Lynn,
President & CEO

Christmas Gift Assistance At Sankey Center, December 17-18



Continued from the cover

As the cold weather season approaches, and the Mission continues to provide safe shelter for the homeless and hot nutritional meals for the hungry, God also calls us to use His continued provision to provide various outreaches to those outside our walls.

One such provision this past year is God opening the door to expand our street outreach to help address the issue of unsheltered individuals living on the streets. Jesus instructed us in Matthew 25:35 stating “for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and

you took Me in.” The street outreach team follows this scripture daily, going into the streets and offering unsheltered guests food, drink and hygiene products all while encouraging them to come inside to receive further assistance. They work with our local police to locate the unsheltered as well as reduce the amount of panhandling taking place in the area. They are a bright beacon of light for those lost on our streets as well as our community.

Throughout the year, the Mission’s Family Care Ministry also provides various outreaches as it works to meet the needs of families with grocery assistance, a lifeline for many who might otherwise go hungry. The ministry also provided kids with supplies needed to go back to school once again this year. Now, upon entering the last two months of the year, Family Care enters its busiest and most critical season. During November, the Thanksgiving Basket Outreach will provide hundreds of families with everything they need for a special

holiday meal. Thanksgiving turkeys and baskets of stuffing, vegetables, and all the trimmings are provided, allowing families to gather around the table and give thanks despite difficult circumstances. In December, the Mission’s annual Christmas Gift Assistance will provide families the opportunity to choose toys, clothing, and other gifts for their children, who might otherwise wake up to an empty tree on Christmas morning. The love and compassion of Jesus will be on display, as our Mission family helps other families celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Outreach is one more way that City Rescue Mission displays God’s love to His children. We praise God for these opportunities to serve others. We also recognize none of this would be possible without the blessings the Lord so abundantly provides - volunteers with hearts ready to serve and donors with hearts ready to give, working alongside our dedicated staff. To God give the praise and glory!



Faith and Family

The Antidote for When You’re at Odds

Studies show that gratitude has a positive effect on our mental and physical well-being. That’s good news as we head into a season focused on getting together and giving thanks.

But we know that family gatherings can sometimes mean families disagreeing. Practicing gratitude together is the antidote for hard feelings and harsh words. As we’re reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (emphasis ours). Here are some ideas:

Remember God’s goodness. Recall shared stories and memories, ways God has shown His faithfulness, and answers to prayer.

Make your gratitude active. Set extra places at your Thanksgiving table and invite college students who can’t make it home for the holiday. Bless neighbors with a meal. Volunteer at a local rescue mission.

Think forward. Leaving a gift in your will or estate plan to the City Rescue Mission is a lasting expression of gratitude to God. The holidays provide a wonderful opportunity to share this with your family, reflect together on His blessings, and move forward in unity.



Winter 2024 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

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Cereal
- Sloppy Joe Mix
- Canned Fruit
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned Beans
- Tuna
- Pasta/Noodles (any kind)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Women's Underwear (sizes 5-8, new)
- Women's Pajamas (M, L, XL)
- Children's Underwear and Pajamas
- Kitchen & Bathroom Cleaner
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Toys for Children 5 and Under
- Women's Shower Shoes

MEN'S MINISTRY

- Belts
- Shower Shoes/Flip-Flops
- Backpacks or Bookbags
- Underwear/Boxer Briefs (new, unused)
- Pasta/Noodles (any kind)
- Pasta Sauce
- Ketchup
- Canned Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Bottled Water
- Rice
- \$5 Gift Cards for Men's Recovery Program (Dunkin, Burger King, etc.)

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Capri Sun
- Chips

The Season of Giving

Donate the Following Items

- ★ Hams, turkeys, and homemade desserts
- ★ Gifts and stocking stuffers for men and women
- ★ New hats and gloves for men, women, and children
- ★ Pajamas, socks, and underwear for children (ages 0-14)
- ★ Gifts for a Recovery Program Participant



Hundreds of children received Christmas gifts from the City Rescue Mission last year

Lend a Helping Hand

- ★ Help guests shop for gifts
- ★ Sort Christmas gifts
- ★ Serve Christmas Day meal

To learn more about Christmas at the Mission, Visit CityRescueMission.org/Christmas-gift-outreach

A Gift That Keeps On Giving

GIVING TUESDAY

We all have gifts to give. There are limitless ways to use your generosity to support others. GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities. Join the City Rescue Mission on Tuesday, December 3 by pledging your time, skills, voice, or dollars to support our neighbors in need. Visit CityRescueMission.org/Giving-Tuesday to learn more!



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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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