

# Lighthouse

Fall 2025

*Changing lives in western Pennsylvania since 1911*



## The Gift of a Smile

Every day at the City Rescue Mission, we see pain walk through our doors, individuals who have been worn down by life on the streets, addiction, hunger, and hopelessness. But we also see something beautiful begin to bloom in the unlikeliest moments: a smile. Sometimes, that smile doesn't come right away. But when it does—it's a miracle in motion.

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From the President and CEO's Pen

## The Power of a Smile: How One Simple Act Reflects the Love of Christ

At the City Rescue Mission, one of the most life-giving things we offer doesn't come from a pantry or a shelter bed. It comes from the heart. It's the very first thing our guests see when they walk through our doors: a smile.

A smile may seem small, but it holds extraordinary power. It communicates warmth, safety, dignity, and the compassionate presence of Christ. Thanks to the faithful generosity of our supporters, every man and woman who enters the Mission is met not only with a solution to their physical needs—but with kindness, care, and a warm welcome.

In that moment, fear gave way to peace. Uncertainty softened into trust. And it all started with a smile. Because of donor support, our team—staff, volunteers, and community partners—can extend

this grace-filled welcome every single day. From intake to meals, chapel to case management, job coaching to housing referrals, a consistent thread runs through it all: human connection, rooted in the Gospel.

Through your giving, our guests receive more than shelter—they receive sanctuary. More than food—they receive fellowship. And more than services—they experience compassion in action. Your investment allows us to create an environment where broken spirits can begin to heal, where fear is met with empathy, and where smiles often become the first step toward lasting transformation.

Even beyond our walls, the impact continues. When we make referrals to trusted agencies for housing, mental health services, employment, or medical care, our guests are not passed off as problems to be solved—they're treated as people to be loved. And often, they're greeted once again with a familiar expression of warmth: a smile.

At its core, the Mission is not just

about meeting needs—it's about restoring hope and reflecting Christ. And often, that restoration begins with a simple smile. It's a reminder that someone cares. That there is still kindness in the world. That grace is alive and moving.

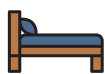
So, to all who make this possible—thank you. Thank you for supporting more than programs. Thank you for supporting *people*. May God bless you as you continue to pray, give, and advocate for the homeless, the hungry, the addicted, and the spiritually lost. All of it is desperately needed, especially as we start planning and preparing for the upcoming holiday season, our busiest time of the year. Because of you, every smile shared within our walls is one more light shining in the darkness.

Together, we are changing lives, one smile at a time.

Jack H. Lynn,  
President & CEO

### By the Numbers: What a Smile Makes Possible

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, here's what happened this past year at the City Rescue Mission:



#### 17,000+ Nights of Safe Shelter

Each stay began with a warm greeting and a reassuring smile.



#### 60+ Men and Women Gained Employment Through Our Programs

Equipped with skills, support, and confidence in their future.



#### 28,400+ Nutritious Meals Served

Offered with compassion and the dignity every person deserves.



#### Countless Prayers Offered and Received

And every guest reminded: *You are not forgotten. You are loved.*



#### 70+ Individuals Secured Permanent Housing

Many started with just a smile and the words, "How can we help you?"

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We remember one community member who came in almost every day for a hot meal. He was quiet, humble, never asked for much, just a plate of food and a place to sit. Life had been clearly hard on him, yet he never complained. Instead, he offered something rare and powerful: a smile that could light up the whole room. And every time he left, he would part with the same cheerful words: “Have a super good day! And a super good night, too!”. It wasn’t just a phrase, it was a blessing. Spoken by someone who had so little yet gave so much to those around him. That simple act lifted our spirits more than he probably ever knew.

*“Thank you for helping me feel human again.”*

Then there are the men and women who walk across the stage at their recovery graduation, wearing the biggest smiles you’ve ever seen. These aren’t just happy expressions. They are radiant, tear-filled, hard-earned victories. That smile? It’s the face of someone who has overcome darkness and stepped into light.

And often, it’s the small, quiet smiles that hit the deepest. A guest, still homeless, still struggling, pauses to say thank you. Their eyes meet ours, and a trembling smile appears.

“Thank you for helping me feel human again.” It’s a holy moment.

At the Mission, our staff greets every guest with warmth and compassion, offering smiles that reflect the heart of Christ. But when that smile is returned, it reminds us why we do what we do. It tells us that hope is alive.



Dear friends, your support makes these moments possible. Your giving doesn’t just provide meals and shelter—it brings healing, dignity, and love. You are part of every smile.

And so, on behalf of all those lives touched here every day, we pass along a message once shared by one unforgettable person: “Have a super good day. And a super good night, too.”

Faith and Family

## 3 Meaningful Gifts to Give Your Family

Did you know you have meaningful gifts to share with your loved ones when you create or update your will? Those gifts include:

**The gift of clarity.** Having a will in place means your family won’t have to guess at (or worse, disagree about) your wishes after you’re gone. Instead, they’ll have clear direction about your desires, from how you’d like your assets distributed to the guardian who will care for your children.

**The gift of simplicity.** A will maintains your instructions in one central location so your loved ones can easily find what they need and understand their next steps.

**The gift of love.** Psalm 145:4 reads, “Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power” (NLT). Your will is an opportunity to communicate about your faith and the values that have shaped your life. And when you make a gift in your will to ministries you care about like the City Rescue Mission, you share that legacy of love with your family and the people who will be impacted by your gift.





# Fall 2025 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

- Laundry Detergent
- Kitchen & Bathroom Cleaner
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Facial Tissues

### MEN'S MINISTRY

- Blue Jeans (waist sizes 30-34)
- Backpacks or Bookbags
- Noodles (any type)
- Pasta & Sauce
- Ketchup
- Canned Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Bottled Water
- Underwear
- Shower Shoes/Flip-Flops
- Rice
- \$5 Gift Cards

### YOUTH MINISTRY

- Individually Packaged Snacks
- Bottled Water

# Mark Your Calendar

## Thanksgiving 2025

# Let the Collecting Begin!

The Mission and our community have a legacy of providing food where needed and sharing the love of Christ with everyone we come in contact with. 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 Gravy
- Canned Yams
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables

- Pie Filling
- Pie Crust Mix
- Evaporated Milk
- Stuffing Mix



## Monthly Giving, Lasting Light

# 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. Please consider being a partner in hope by checking the Light Keepers box on the back of your reply device.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, October 19, 2025**  
**10AM -2PM**

Join us after church for our annual Sunday Brunch and see what God is doing through the Mission and what happens here on a daily basis.

## Board of Directors

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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.

