

Lighthouse

Winter 2025

Changing lives in western Pennsylvania since 1911

“You Will Forever Be in My Heart”: The Power of Compassion at Work



When compassion moves beyond words into action, it touches lives so deeply that its impact is remembered long after someone leaves our doors. At the City Rescue Mission, every meal served, every hand extended, and every prayer whispered is more than service, it's an act of compassion.

Compassion is love in motion. It's the difference between noticing a need and stepping forward to help. Every day, our staff and volunteers embody this through simple but powerful acts, greeting a guest with a warm smile, serving a hot plate of food, or offering a listening ear to someone carrying heavy burdens. These acts plant seeds of hope, telling each guest that you matter. You are not forgotten. You are loved.

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CityRescueMission.org



From the President and CEO's Pen

Clothed in Compassion: The Why Behind What We Do

Colossians 3:12 calls us to “*put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.*” At the City Rescue Mission, this verse is more than a beautiful sentiment, it is the heartbeat of our ministry. It reminds us that our calling is not simply about the tasks we accomplish, but about the reason behind them.

Our mission’s work is often described in numbers, how many meals were served, how many beds were provided, and how many people graduated from our recovery programs. These are important, but they are not the “why” that drives us. The deeper truth is that we serve because God has called us to love as He loves, to treat each guest as a person created in His image, and to respond to their needs with genuine compassion.

In this month’s feature article, “*You Will Forever Be in My Heart*: The Power of Compassion at Work,” one guest’s words captured this perfectly. After

receiving housing and leaving the Mission, he made a point to find one of our pastors. “I want to make sure I told you that I am so appreciative,” he said. That gratitude was not simply for a roof over his head or food on his plate, it was for the way he was seen, respected, and cared for during his time here.

As we approach the winter and holiday season, the importance of compassion becomes even more evident. These months bring increased depression, anxiety, and loneliness for many of our guests. While the holidays are a time of joy for some, they can be a painful reminder for those who have lost family, stability, or hope. At the Mission, we witness this every year, and we remain committed to being a place where people find warmth, both physical and spiritual.

The season also brings its challenges. Each year, as temperatures drop, our shelter fills beyond capacity and we enter overflow status to ensure no one is left out in the cold. This places an extra strain on staff and resources, but it also deepens our resolve. The love of Christ compels

us to stretch, to adapt, and to continue serving with patience and grace. Our “why” has never been more urgent. We are here to serve with God’s love, offering not only practical help but also the hope of the Gospel. We do this together, with the prayers, support, and generosity of people who believe in this Mission.

As we enter this season of gratitude and celebration, we remain thankful to every person who stands with us. Your partnership allows us to meet each guest with the compassion of Christ, even in the most difficult circumstances. This holiday season, we invite you to join us in praying not only for those we serve, but also for the staff who give of themselves daily to meet growing needs.

In all we do, may we remain clothed in compassion, because that is the “why” that changes lives. Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Jack H. Lynn,
President & CEO

Christmas Gift Assistance At Sankey Center, December 16-17



Continued from the cover

One recent message from a former guest to one of our pastors shows the life-changing effect of this care:

"I want to make sure I told you that I am so appreciative of everything that you and the other pastors have done for me when I was at the shelter, from the time I got there until the time I left you all have been amazing. It means a lot to me. You have no idea. I will be visiting off and on to see everyone. I have made some really good friends there. I was scared the first day I was there. The best thing was that I found God and accepted Him in my heart. You all will forever be in my heart."

This is what compassion does, it meets people in their fear and loneliness and walks with them toward restoration and faith.

Our volunteers are another living example of this love in motion. They serve meals in the dining room, stock shelves in the food pantry, mentor guests in recovery, and help with the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the Mission going. Each of these acts is a tangible expression of God's love.

And compassion doesn't stop with those inside our walls. It flows through our donors, whose gifts help make changed lives possible. To a person in crisis, your giving says, someone I've never met cares enough to help me through this season.

Whether it's providing shelter to someone sleeping on the street, a meal to someone who's hungry, recovery support to someone battling addiction, or simply the reminder that they are seen and valued, these acts of compassion open doors to transformation.

At the heart of it all is the Gospel, the ultimate act of compassion shown by Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost. When we feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and help the hurting, we are extending His hands and heart to a world in need.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and donors for living out this calling every day. You are not just part of a mission; you are part of miracles in the lives of people who once felt forgotten but now know they are loved.



How You Can Show Compassion

Small acts of love can make an eternal difference. Here are a few ways you can be part of changing lives:

Pray – Lift up our guests, staff, and volunteers daily. Pray for hearts to find hope in Christ.

Give – Your gift provides food, shelter, and recovery support for those in need.

Volunteer – Serve meals, mentor guests, or help behind the scenes.

Share – Tell others about the Mission's work and invite them to get involved.

Encourage – Send a note of encouragement to our staff and guests, they matter more than you know.

Every act of compassion, big or small, ripples into a story of hope.

Faith and Family

Giving and Living a Legacy of Generosity

As she gathered items for a seasonal centerpiece, Anne came across a few mementos of holidays past, and an idea was sparked. What if these small treasures became the table's focal point?

This would be the first gathering since losing several family members, and these pieces showcased memories of their generosity. The centerpiece became a beautiful tribute to their legacy of love.

This season of thanksgiving and gift giving is an ideal time to honor the generosity of those who have gone before and live out the legacy they've left for you.

Get something growing. Planting a living reminder of a family member or friend allows you to share that beauty with others.

Foster new traditions. What activities would have made your loved one smile? Put them into practice in a way that encourages others.

Serve others. Volunteering with a cause that was important to your loved one honors what was meaningful to them and meets a need.

Give in their memory. A gift in your will to the City Rescue Mission is a lasting tribute to their legacy of love.



Winter 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)
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice

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
- Women's Shower Shoes

MEN'S MINISTRY

- Belts
- Shower Shoes/Flip-Flops
- Backpacks or Bookbags
- Underwear/Boxer Briefs (new, unused)
- Ketchup
- Cereal
- Bottled Water

- \$5 Gift Cards for Men's Recovery Program (Dunkin, Burger King, etc.)

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 2 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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