

Lighthouse

Spring 2026

Changing lives in western Pennsylvania since 1911

A Legacy Written in Transformed Lives: Joe's Story



In the early 2000s, Joe Risi walked through the doors of City Rescue Mission carrying little more than desperation and a last hope to stay out of jail. What he found here, however, was far more than a bed or a hot meal. Joe found a place he now describes as his *Bethel*—a sacred place where he encountered the living God and where his life was forever changed.

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CityRescueMission.org



From the President and CEO's Pen

Faithful Through the Generations

As City Rescue Mission approaches its 115th year of ministry in 2026, we pause with deep gratitude to reflect on what God has done through this Mission for more than a century. Since 1911, City Rescue Mission has existed to serve those most in need, sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, and offering the hope of the Gospel to the lost.

While methods and programs have evolved over time, our mission has never changed: to model Jesus Christ through excellent, relevant and personal services which lead to changed lives for the needy in our community.

Over the past 115 years, City Rescue Mission has walked through seasons of growth, challenge, and transformation. The needs of our community today look very different than they did in our earliest years, and our programs have adapted accordingly. We have expanded services, strengthened

recovery and discipleship efforts, and increased our capacity to care for men, women, and families experiencing homelessness. Yet at every stage, the Mission's purpose has remained rooted in Scripture and centered on Christ.

From the beginning, this ministry understood that meeting physical needs alone is not enough. Food, shelter, and safety open the door, but lasting change comes through the transforming power of the hope in Christ. That belief continues to guide us today.

Every meal served, every bed offered, and every program provided is an opportunity to reflect God's love and point individuals toward restoration, dignity, and hope.

Throughout our history, God has faithfully used City Rescue Mission to change lives. Thousands of individuals have passed through our doors over the decades, many arriving broken and uncertain, yet leaving with renewed faith and direction. Some of those stories began many years ago and continue today, reminding us that what God starts here often bears fruit long after a guest's stay has ended. In this issue, you will read one such testimony, a reminder of the enduring impact of a Gospel-

centered ministry.

As we look ahead to the future, we do so with both humility and confidence. This work has never belonged to us; it belongs to God. Our role is to remain faithful stewards of the Mission entrusted to us, listening for His guidance, responding to the needs before us, and continuing to share the Good News with compassion and conviction.

Thank you for your faithful partnership in this ministry.

Through your prayers, generosity, and support, City Rescue Mission continues to stand as a beacon of light in our community.

As we prepare to celebrate 115 years of faithful service, may we remain focused on what has sustained us from the beginning: faith in God, obedience to His call, and trust in His provision.

Jack H. Lynn,
President & CEO

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“It wasn’t always easy,” Joe recalls. “But the Mission became a place where I could finally hear God’s voice.” Removed from old habits, distractions, and even family for a season, Joe entered the recovery program unsure of what the future held. Like so many guests, he came broken—but God was already at work.

Joe remembers the staff vividly. Imperfect people walking alongside imperfect people, yet faithfully



demonstrating Christ through compassion, accountability, and love. “They showed me Jesus,” Joe says simply. And through that daily witness, something began to change.

The turning point came quietly but powerfully, in the Mission chapel. After months of resistance and missteps, Joe surrendered. In that moment, he encountered God in a way that set a new direction for his life. What followed was a season of growth, healing, and provision that Joe still describes as nothing short of miraculous.

As part of the program, Joe began serving in the Mission kitchen, eventually overseeing it. Day after day, he witnessed God’s faithful provision, food arriving at just the right time, needs met before they were even spoken. “This is God’s work,” Joe says. “You just work with His provision and give it to the right people.”

One moment stands out above the rest. While reading the biblical story of Joseph storing grain for a coming famine, Joe stood in the Mission pantry and prayed: *Lord,*

make this storehouse a blessing. Soon after, donations overflowed—so much so that the Mission was able not only to feed its guests, but to bless others throughout the community, including the local jail. Joe saw firsthand how God multiplies generosity when His people are faithful.

Nearly twenty years later, Joe’s life looks very different. He is a business owner, a husband, a father, and a man firmly rooted in Christ. Yet the legacy of City Rescue Mission remains central to his story. The relationships formed here still endure. “Only what is of God remains,” Joe reflects. “And this—what happened here—was of God.”

As we celebrate **115 years of ministry in 2026**, Joe’s story reminds us that City Rescue Mission is not just a place—it is a vessel God has used for generations to rescue, restore, and redeem lives. The same God who met Joe here is still at work today, writing new stories of hope, one life at a time.

Faith and Family

A Legacy That Blooms

There’s a rich history behind the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the trees at its center, marked by values that span generations. As you read, consider your story and the legacy you’d like to leave behind.

This story begins with **Generosity**. In 1912, Tokyo donated 3,020 trees to Washington, D.C., as a gesture of goodwill to honor the relationship between the United States and Japan. That generosity had its roots in a small group of people who worked to generate interest in Japanese cherry trees by raising money, giving away saplings, and advocating with government officials. *What causes are important to you?*

Relationships are central to this history. Friendship between Japan and the U.S. motivated the original donation. The trees have continued to be symbols of goodwill over the years. *What relationships have shaped who you are?*

With relationships often comes the need for **Reconciliation**. After World War II, the National Park Service sent budwood from the original trees to Japan to restore the trees in Tokyo. In turn, Japan gave the U.S. a stone lantern as a rededication of friendship. *How has the reconciliation you have through Christ changed your life?*



Spring 2026 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

- Ketchup / Salad Dressings
- Canned Meat (Chicken, Pork, Beef)
- Soup
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Potatoes
- Rice / Pasta / Noodles (any kind)
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Beans / Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Bottled Water
- Plastic Grocery Bags

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Washcloths & Bath Towels
- New Women's Underwear (small)
- Bras
- Facial Tissues
- Kitchen & Bathroom Cleaner
- Batteries (AA / AAA / 9V)
- Various Storage Bags (freezer, sandwich, storage, etc.)
- Hair Brushes
- Journals
- Deodorant
- \$5 Gift Cards for Women's Recovery Program (Dunkin, Burger King, etc.)

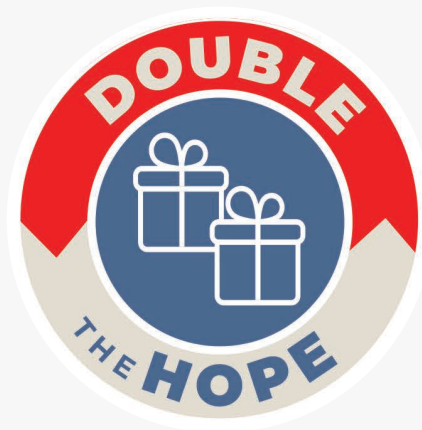
MEN'S MINISTRY

- Pocket Tissues
- Lip Balm / Chapstick
- Air Freshener Spray
- Hats / Gloves / Scarves
- Jeans (waist 32-40)
- Shower Shoes / Flip-Flops
- Belts
- Deodorant
- Underwear / Boxer Briefs (new, unopened – size M/L)
- Sweatshirts
- New or Slightly Used Shoes
- Washcloths & Bath Towels
- \$5 Gift Cards for Men's Recovery Program (Dunkin, Burger King, etc.)

Now is Your Chance to Add to the Legacy:

\$150,000 Matching Gift Challenge

In recognition of the Mission's dedication to serving the community, generous friends have offered to match all gifts received between April 15 through May 31, 2026, dollar for dollar, up to \$150,000! 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!



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 • 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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