

THANKSGIVING 2014

the Pulse

www.OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org

A Newsletter from the **Open Door Mission** of Rochester, NY

A Message from Michael Hennessy

Healing broken lives is like baking a very complicated cake. You need exactly the right ingredients. You must mix them in a very specific order. Then, you have to allow time for them to bake at the proper temperature.

Miss a step or omit a vital ingredient and you're risking disaster.

Here at the Mission, we're not just healing lives: we're healing minds and bodies destroyed by alcohol, addiction and neglect. We're restoring souls wounded by abuse and abandonment. The ingredients are not complicated: food, shelter, time, encouragement, counseling, care and a huge helping of God's love.

But there are no short cuts, no substitutions.

This Thanksgiving season, many broken bodies and souls will come here to the Mission. Whether you volunteer your time, take part in a special event, donate food or send a gift, you play a vital role in making them whole again.

Let the healing begin!


Michael Hennessy
Executive Director

"My life was unmanageable!"



Homeless. Jobless. Addicted. That about sums up Alfonso's life before he came to the Mission.

He was in a detox program for addiction and living in a halfway house. "My pastor took me into his home – even though I'd stolen from him. He asked me what I would do when I got out and found a job and got my first check – would I go back to drinking and drugs? I thought about it and prayed about it and decided to check out the Christian Life Recovery program at the Mission."

Before Alfonso's pastor drove him to the Mission, he took him to breakfast and bought him clothing to wear while he was here.

But it wasn't all a bed of roses. "Mike Hennessy, the Director, said something that made so much sense to me. He said it's hard to submit to authority, to give up control. **But I know in my heart that I'm supposed to be here!**"

Alfonso is learning from others here as well. "As I meet people here, I learn. I was raised in the church, but I never took it to heart. Whenever I got in trouble, I'd go back to church, God would fix my life and then I'd go back to the world. **But you reap what you sow. If I had stayed out there, I would be dead by now.**"

Today, Alfonso looks at those who are coming to our Samaritan House Rescue Shelter for emergency food and shelter, and is thankful. "I drank all my life, I also did cocaine. You have to do like Mike says and let go of these things and you'll fly through this program!"

“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.” Psalm 146: 7

This season, thank you for providing:

- 25,000 meals
- 3,500 nights of shelter

Your gifts are the fuel that enables us to bring hope and help to hungry, homeless neighbors.



Stuff a Bus on Nov. 22nd!

First Student Transit Company, The Buzz 98.9 FM, WBEE 92.5, 98 WPXY and 96 WCMF are teaming up with the Mission to fill school buses with food and clothing for the cold months ahead.

Now's the time to get your friends, family, church group and coworkers busy collecting new and gently used men's, women's and children's coats, winter outerwear, paper products and non-perishable food, and personal hygiene items.

Then, on Nov. 22nd, bring them to one of the Stuff A Bus locations throughout Monroe County. Go online at OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org for bus locations and collection times.

Join us



Facebook.com/
OpenDoorMissionRochesterNY

Visit Us Online!

Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org

Tell a friend about...

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

We are grateful that you work with us to end hunger and homelessness year round!

So Nov. 15-23 is a great time to encourage others – friends, family and coworkers – to join you, and help fix the problems that cause hunger and homelessness by volunteering, organizing

a clothing or food drive, or making a special donation to the Mission.

If you're on Facebook or Twitter, please, urge friends to help. You can even give them our website address, OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org, as a place to get more information. THANKS!

Thanksgiving Shopping List

If you can buy and donate one or more of these items, it would be a great blessing to the Mission!

Please bring donations to the Caring Center, 156 North Plymouth Avenue, Monday - Sunday, 12:00 - 6:00 pm – THANK YOU!

Baked Hams
Homemade Pies,
Cookies, Cakes
Sausage
GRAVIES
(Beef, Turkey)
SUGAR
Milk (2%)
Juices
(Apple, Cranberry)
Chicken Broth
Butter/Margarine
Shredded cheese
Potatoes

Onions
Salad Dressing
(Ranch, Italian)
Dinner Rolls
Non Flour/Non Flavored
Cooking spray
Coffee
Creamer
Disposable salt/Pepper
shakers
Napkins
Paper Towels
Dish Detergent
Bleach



Code Blue!

Fall is a great time! But as the temperature drops, we can save lives by making sure homeless neighbors have food, shelter and protection against extreme temperatures.

Your gift of \$50 provides a backpack filled with hygiene products, a hat, gloves, a blanket, thermal socks, hand warmers, a thermos and a first aid kit along with the ongoing care of meals, shelter and clothing.

Check the special box on your reply slip to provide a Code Blue Emergency Kit today.

Breakfast, Lunch or Thanksgiving Dinner – Still Just \$2.05!

Some of us still remember when a soda was 5¢. Or a time when you could get a burger for a quarter. These days, a plain cup of coffee can set you back \$2 or more!

But here at the Open Door Mission, you can still provide a hot, wholesome, home-cooked meal for just \$2.05.

We'll be serving a lot of those great meals this Thanksgiving season, including hundreds of festive Thanksgiving Dinners with turkey and all the trimmings!

Your \$2.05 gift can provide a meal that's a turning point in the life of a person who's lost all hope, along



with the care and counseling that helps end homelessness and addiction.

If you think that's amazing, imagine what a gift of \$25 or \$50 or even \$100 can do!

Please share your blessings by making a special gift today to feed and begin to change the lives of as many people as possible. Use the enclosed envelope, or make a safe, secure donation on our website at OpenDoorMissionRocNY.org. THANK YOU!