

# TIDINGS

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION



*Serving the entire Lehigh Valley since 1900*

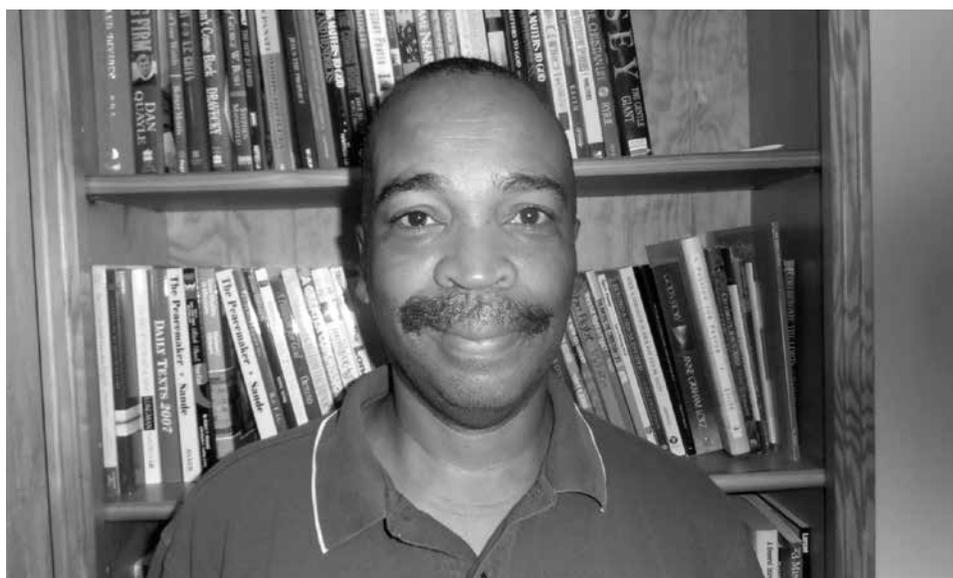
## “I let the past be the past”

**T**yrone had reached a point in his life where nothing mattered except “the next high or the next bottle.”

Growing up in a very strict family and church, he rebelled, becoming “the black sheep of the family.” The drinking and drug use that began in his late teens continued into his later life and brought nothing but trouble.

“I had great opportunities in life,” Tyrone says. “I got married...I had a good job...but to tell you the truth, it didn’t last long because of my selfishness. **Drugs and alcohol took over my life.**”

Tyrone moved from place to place, but his addictions just followed him. Without God in his



life, he continued to fall, always meeting “the wrong friends” and “getting into a lot of trouble.”

“I read the Bible,” Tyrone says. “I went to church, and I knew something wasn’t right.” That something was Tyrone’s relationship with the Lord. “I really didn’t care about God and I didn’t care about my life.”

It wasn’t until the apartment that Tyrone was living in burned down that he finally came to our Gateway Center emergency shelter where **he found not just a bed and a meal,**

**but a chance for a new beginning.**

Today, there’s a new Tyrone. One who reads his Bible every day and gives his troubles to the Lord. “It’s changed me a lot,” he says. “Now, I let the past be the past...I give it to the Lord and don’t worry about it no more.”

Through our Christian Living Program, Tyrone learned about money management and other lessons he’ll need when he’s living on his own again. “When I get out of here, I’m determined not to fall back into the same habits.”

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## You and I are so blessed!

In just a few days, we will give thanks for all the blessings that have come our way this year.

Then, we'll start looking forward to Christmas. Familiar carols. Fragrant greens. The celebration of Christ's birth.

It's a truly wonderful time here at the Mission. A time made even better because Christmas is when folks open their hearts extra wide.

What a blessing that is to the men who will be celebrating their holidays here with us – knowing that you care about them; that you're reaching out to them – extending the hand of Christian fellowship – offering a meal, shelter, and most of all – Hope.

**Your holiday donation to the Mission could be the most valuable gift you give this year.** Because it will make the holidays – and the coming year – better and brighter for people who desperately need food, shelter and loving care.

Thank you! May your holidays be the best, most blessed ever.



Tom Gibson, President  
Board of Directors



## TIDINGS™

Rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration for people in crisis.

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**TIDINGS is funded by private donations, not government money.**

## Christmas Wish List

The men who call the Mission home this Christmas are separated from their families; some have no families at all. That's why we work hard to make Christmas a special time for them, and why we want to ensure that each person has at least one special gift when they sit down for brunch Christmas morning.

Please consider making a gift of new, unused items from the list on the right to touch the heart of a person in need this holiday season.

Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Mission office at 355 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Hillary at (610) 740-5500, ext. 23.

THANK YOU!



Men's socks  
Men's underwear  
(sizes M-XXL)  
Men's white undershirts  
(all sizes)  
Men's khakis (blue or tan)  
(sizes 32"-48")  
Men's belts – brown or black  
(waist sizes 32"-46")  
Winter gloves  
Work gloves  
Knit hats  
Sweaters  
Sweatshirts  
Watches

## A Delicious Success



A big THANK YOU to WAEB's Bobby Gunther Walsh and all our meatball sponsors for the best ever Newstalk 790 Spaghetti Dinner! For the 11th year in a row, Bobby and a group of dedicated volunteers made up thousands of Bobby's secret-recipe meatballs which were eagerly consumed by one of our largest ever dinner crowds.

For more details on the dinner and the official fundraising results – visit [AllentownRescueMission.org](http://AllentownRescueMission.org).

## The secret ingredient in all our meals is...

Even on a fast food dollar menu, you can't get a complete meal for \$1.79. But here at the Mission, we serve 92 of them every day.

644 meals a week. More than 33,500 meals by year's end!

But there's more to Mission meals than just food. **Each and every meal is served with love** – an ingredient that is often more important than what goes on the plates!



A meal served with love and compassion does so much more

than just feed a person. It encourages those who are hungry, homeless and without hope to think about beginning new lives. Here at the Allentown Rescue Mission, a simple, home-cooked meal is often the all-important first step on the road to recovery.

You can provide one of those hope-filled meals for just \$1.79!

Please use the gift slip and envelope enclosed with this newsletter to send a special holiday gift today. Or, you can donate safely and securely online at [www.AllentownRescueMission.org](http://www.AllentownRescueMission.org).  
**Thank you!**

## From using drugs to “being in God’s hands”

# A life transformed

**L**ike many young people, Cliff was active in his church. He belonged to a Boy Scout troop and played guitar at mass. But also like so many others, he drifted away from the church in high school – about the time he started smoking marijuana.

Eventually, Cliff started his own business and began “making a lot of money.” He married, but when the marriage ended in divorce, Cliff felt “really alone.” He filled the emptiness with drugs, until his **life began “spiraling out of control” and Cliff ended up in jail.**

Nearly ten years ago, Cliff found his way into another Mission where he was asked if he had been saved. “I knew these guys had something I couldn’t grasp,” Cliff says. And that’s when his search for answers began.

It took Cliff several more years and a lot of time being “completely homeless.”

“I was trying to do my own thing,” he says, “Trying to do it my way.” Cliff’s life went steadily downhill. “I was such a mess. I looked like a wild man and no one wanted to associate with me because they assumed I was an alcoholic and a drug addict.”

**Cliff arrived at our Gateway Center emergency shelter “scared and shaking.”** “I was dirty and filthy and hadn’t had my hair cut in months.” We found Cliff a bed, and the very next day, he was asking about signing up for our Christian Living Program.

“It wasn’t even 48 hours before I was accepted into the program,” Cliff recounts joyfully. “I had to be on the



waiting list for a week, but I knew I was OK.” Time to think gave Cliff an idea. “I knew there had to be something behind this [being accepted into the program], so I started talking to God.”

Cliff had always “prayed” for God to do things Cliff’s way. Now, he began looking at life from a very different perspective. “I was getting fed every day...I had a place to stay...I got new socks and a haircut. This was a big thing to me!”

Cliff is not certain “what’s next” in his life. “I’m waiting for God to give me the answer to that,” he says.

“We are all God’s children. Every one of us is God’s creation. He wants us to be fruitful in our lives. By spreading God’s word, by bringing other people in, **I’m doing what God wants me to do. I’m being God’s hands...He uses me as a tool to reach others.**”

## Holiday Prayer

*Move in our hearts and encourage us to reach out to our neighbors in need.*

*Where there is hunger, let there be food.*

*Where there is despair, let there be hope.*

*Where there is illness, addiction or sadness, let the light of love and compassion shine.*

## Visit Our New Website

**T**he holidays are just around the corner. This is the busiest time of the year at the Mission and we have many events planned. We would love to have you join us as a volunteer or guest anytime throughout the year, but especially during the holidays.

Our website is a great way to learn about everything we have planned, sign up to volunteer, donate or learn about our many programs. Here are some other reasons to visit us online:

- Our website is open for business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- It’s a great way to stay up-to-date on current events and urgent needs and read stories of changed lives.
- Donating online is fast and easy through our secure website, and since it costs little to maintain, more of your donation goes to support our ministries.

For all of this and more, please visit our website today at **AllentownRescueMission.org**.



## Your Legacy

Many of us spend the first half of our lives telling ourselves we should prepare for the second half. Often, we're so busy with family and friends, church, community and business obligations that time just slips away. We wake up one morning and find ourselves wishing we had done more.

Our Gift Planning experts can help you implement a plan that will meet your financial objectives – whether it's having more income for retirement, reducing taxes or providing for your spouse and heirs – while accomplishing your charitable giving goals and leaving a legacy at the same time.

There's no obligation. To learn more about making a gift to the Allentown Rescue Mission through a will, bequest or planned giving program, contact Development Manager Dawn Godshall at **(610) 740-5500, ext. 14**. Thank you.



## We need your help!

There's still time to be part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lehigh Valley Thanks for Giving Food Drive. Volunteers will be on hand at Wal-Mart Giant Store locations Friday, Nov. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accept your donations.

This once-a-year event is critical



**Thanks for Giving**  
supplies & food drive to help homeless people



to helping us provide more than 33,500 meals throughout the year.

For a complete list of drop-off locations, visit our website at **AllentownRescueMission.org**.

Supermarket gift cards  
(\$10, \$25 or any amount)  
Canola or vegetable oil  
Canned fruits  
Boxes of breakfast cereals  
Granola or cereal bars  
Ketchup  
Paper napkins  
Toilet paper

Large trash bags (45-gallon  
or 55-gallon)  
All-Purpose cleaner  
Liquid laundry soap  
Liquid bleach  
Deodorant  
Disposable razors  
Shampoo

## Have More of Your Gift Go to Help Others

You can help the Mission reduce expenses and have more of your gifts used to provide food, shelter and care.

- Donate safely and securely online
- Sign up to give automatically via EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)

- Join our e-mail list and receive letters and newsletter electronically

Going green can help the Mission save lots of green. Contact Jan Hoffman at **(610) 740-5500, ext. 16** or go online to **www.AllentownRescueMission.org** to donate, sign up to join our e-mail list or give automatically via EFT.