

TIDINGS

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION



Serving the entire Lehigh Valley since 1900

“Cleaning up the community”

James was laid off from his security job and moved in with a cousin in Allentown while he looked for work. But his job search was in vain. **“I was here more than a year trying to find jobs and nothing panned out.”**

When an acquaintance told him about the Allentown Rescue Mission, James thought he’d give it a try. He moved into the Mission’s Gateway Center emergency shelter, receiving food and a place to stay for several weeks while he continued to look for work, but nothing opened up.

It was then he learned about the Mission’s Christian Living Program



and decided to join. “It sounded like a good opportunity,” he says. “I like what it stands for. **It is Christian-based and it helps to get us prepared to get back into the world.**”

James had a strong Christian faith before coming to the Mission – a faith that was reinforced through the program’s spiritual components, especially Bible study. James was most moved by the Bible story of Nicodemus. “He was well-off, but he wasn’t spiritual and he gradually

became spiritually enlightened,” he says. “When he was able to reach that, it impressed me.”

James graduated from the program and is now working with the Mission’s Clean Team five days a week, gaining valuable work experience which will enhance his résumé. “I had to get out there so I’d have a better chance of finding employment,” he says. “We go and we clean streets...clean areas. I like that part of it. We get to clean up the community.”

After a day of cleaning, James often goes to the library to work on his résumé. He is currently applying for warehouse and retail positions, but he’s flexible. “I will work at whatever is available right now,” he says.

James values the work of the Allentown Rescue Mission in the community. **“It’s important because it helps homeless men to get back on their feet and back into society,”** he says.

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A Message from Tom

Thank you for opening the door to a better life!

The inventor Alexander Graham Bell once said, "When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us."

He could have been talking about so many of the people who come to the Mission!

Life has been so hard for so long that it's often nearly impossible for them to believe there is another way to live, "another door" to a better life.

Jesus opened that door when he died on the cross and was resurrected. Just as He came to life again, so do the men whose hearts and lives are changed here at the Mission.

What better Easter celebration could there be than the rebirth and renewal of those who thought all doors were closed to them!

Thank you for being part of this joyous transformation.

Tom Gibson

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.



You're invited

A Taste of the Valley's Finest

Mark your calendar now to enjoy the 3rd Annual "Taste of the Valley's Finest" as Lehigh Valley restaurants, caterers and bakeries offer samples of their best dishes.

Thursday, June 5, 2014, the Holiday Inn Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Breinigsville, PA will again host this year's festivities. Last year, 18 restaurants served up samples of their signature dishes and delights. This event includes live music and thousands of dollars of

exciting silent auction items to bid on – just in time for Father's Day! Tickets are only \$25.

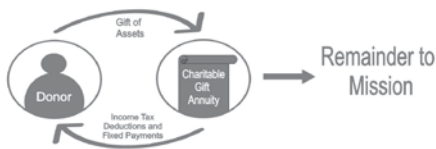
All proceeds from ticket sales and the auction will benefit the Allentown Rescue Mission, providing help and hope for our community's homeless and impoverished people.

To purchase tickets, call Dawn Godshall at (610) 740-5500, ext. 14 or visit AllentownRescueMission.org and click on "Events."

Giving and getting – it's a double blessing!

A charitable gift annuity is a special investment opportunity for Mission supporters who would like to make a gift and receive steady payments in return.

You can give a gift, get a deduction and receive payments, actually getting back some of your donation.



Through a simple contract, you agree to make a donation of cash, stocks, real estate or other qualified assets to the Allentown Rescue Mission. In return, we agree to pay you a fixed amount each year for the rest of your life.

- Your initial gift is partially tax-deductible.
- Payments to you are partially tax-free throughout your estimated life expectancy.
- Your payments are not affected by ups and downs of the economy.
- The annuity can be for one or two people.
- If you use appreciated stock to make a gift, you can usually eliminate capital gains tax on a portion of the gift and spread the rest of the gain over your life expectancy.

For more information, contact Tom Mohr, Director of Development at (610) 740-5500, ext. 34 or email tmohr@armpa.org.

Help him find his way home

Meals. Shelter. Clothing. These are all the physical things homeless people need to survive.

But what about faith? Love. Encouragement. HOPE!

The Mission is where hunger and homelessness end and HOPE begins. It's where the power of God's love – fueled by your prayers and support – truly makes a



difference in the lives of neighbors who can no longer survive on their own.

Your gift this Easter will transform lives!

Providing meals, shelter and care helps people begin to rebuild their lives. Those who enter our programs make even greater strides as their hope is renewed and God's love becomes real for them.

Please send a gift today to provide the help homeless men need to find their way home. You can also make a gift safely and securely online at www.AllentownRescueMission.org.

Meet the President

Making life richer for those in need

Tom Gibson is an Allentown native. Except for a few years in college and the Army, he's lived and worked here all his life.

His involvement with the Mission came about as a result of his work as Business Administrator at Asbury United Methodist Church. "The Church sponsored a number of Missions," Tom remembers. "The former Executive Director had lunch with me to talk about building the relationship between the Mission and the church, and eventually asked me to be on the Board of Directors."

Tom had worked with other organizations, but saw this as God giving him a chance to be more involved in the community. Within a year, Tom was Treasurer of the Board, and his financial background as an investment counselor and business administrator gave him the opportunity to become more **deeply involved with the growing ministry at the Mission.**

Tom's involvement expanded as the Mission began to focus more and more on its primary goal of caring for men, and in 1995, just as the Mission opened its state-certified Drug and Alcohol Program, Tom became President of the Board of Directors.

"There was a certain amount of pride in having that program," Tom

remembers. "It was one of only two D&A Rescue Mission programs in all of Pennsylvania that was state certified. There are certain standards the state requires, and we were able to establish and maintain them...to produce a professional program."

The next decade would see tremendous growth at the Mission. We began teaching computer classes and helping men to create resumes and find jobs. We added a work force development program called the Clean Team that would offer job training and paid employment to our clients. For graduates of the Christian Living Program, we are also able to offer affordable housing to men who were once homeless.

Today, Tom's focus is on "bringing people in to feel and taste the Mission." "Everyone who comes here has their eyes opened," he says. "They learn more about us and realize the work that goes on here."

"Many people really don't understand that we do so much more than feed the homeless. We are Christians and **we are in the business of trying to help people get back into the community and be productive citizens.** And, we share faith with them...what it means and why it makes life richer."

We're looking for groups to adopt our Gateway Center

On any given night, as many as 48 men call the Mission's Gateway Center emergency shelter home. Most of them have come to us off the streets, having exhausted all other means of support.

The Center provides food, clothing and meals for up to 14 days while these men look for jobs, find other housing or make a decision to enter our long-term recovery program that **addresses the root causes of their homelessness.**



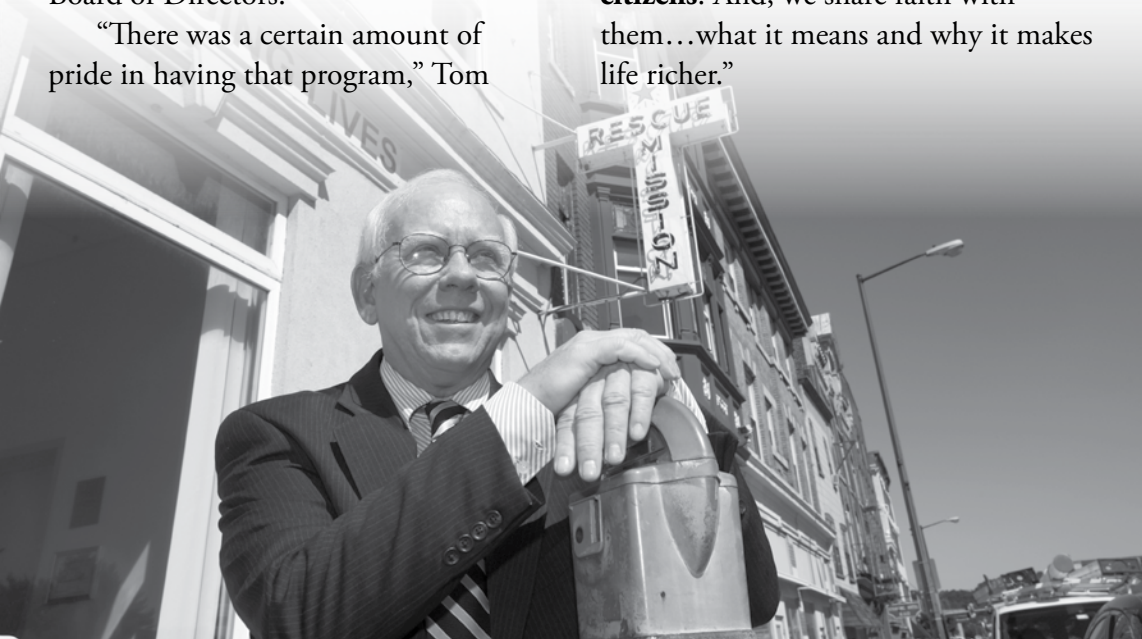
As each man enters the Center for the first time, he receives a kit of personal care items including travel size shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste and disposable razors.

Because more than 750 men come to the shelter each year, we go through a large quantity of these items each month. The Adopt-A-Month program provides an opportunity for your church or civic group to help those most in need.

Here's all you need to do:

The Mission will provide a bin which you fill with travel-sized personal care items. You can deliver the bin to the Mission, or we will pick it up.

For more information, call Dawn Godshall at (610) 740-5500, ext. 14 or hspear@armpa.org.



Congratulations Graduates!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

We want to congratulate the more than 40 men who graduated from the Christian Living Program last year!

These men spent 8 weeks in Life-skills Education classes, morning devotions, evening chapel and Bible study. They received assistance with basic computer skills, résumé writing, interview techniques and tools to help them find and keep a job. They participated in money management and budgeting

classes to prepare them for a responsible, debt-free life.

They’ve come from a life of homelessness and hopelessness to hope for a prosperous future!

We take our hats off to you!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Need help? Hire the Clean Team!

Whatever your project, the Allentown Rescue Mission’s Clean Team will clean it up, pick it up, spruce it up or haul it away.

No job is too large or too small:



office moves, interior demolition, light landscaping, property cleanouts, dumpsite cleanups, carpet removal,

interior painting, event setup and teardown and trash removal.

Our list of satisfied customers includes: the City of Allentown, Mayfair, Kutztown Folk Festival, the Great Allentown Fair, Dorney Park, and Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, just to name a few.

When you hire the Clean Team, everyone benefits. You get an ambitious group of workers who are eager to please. Clean Team members get valuable job skills, carried out under the supervision of a full-time Mission staff member as they work their way out of homelessness.

Contact Mike Mauro, Clean Team Sales, at **(610) 740-5500, ext. 32, (484) 266-8829** or **mikemauro@armpa.com** for more information.

Introducing our New Director of Development

The Allentown Rescue Mission is pleased to welcome Tom Mohr as its new Director of Development. Mohr will be responsible for organizing and directing all aspects of fundraising, donor and community relations, as well as all other activities of the department that enhance or expand streams of revenue



and other resources for the agency.

Mohr comes to the Mission with extensive community involvement and over 40 years of experience in business, non-profit, government, education and management.

To find out more about Tom, visit **AllentownRescueMission.org**, click on the “News” tab and read the full release. To reach Tom Mohr, please email him at **tmohr@armpa.org** or call him at **(610) 740-5500, ext. 34.**