

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION



Serving the entire Lehigh Valley since 1900

## From Gary's Desk:

### The Lost Thanksgiving.

Dear Mr. Sample,

For most of us, if we just wait, Thanksgiving will arrive at our doorstep.

Family members will call to say they are coming to your house, or invite you to theirs. We will gather, exchange hugs, look at the new babies and how the kids have grown. We'll catch up on each others' lives. Someone will bring a pie, and someone else will bring special dish from a family recipe.

After the big dinner, maybe we'll run around in the backyard with the kids, or watch some football, and maybe take a nap.

But it's not that way for everyone.

Homeless men are stuck in a shelter with a bunch of strangers. They have no money, no family to gather with for the big meal, and nothing but sadness for the day and worry about the future. They wonder silently to themselves, "How did I get in this mess!?" The hallmarks of Thanksgiving – family, fellowship, that holiday feeling around the dinner table, giving thanks for all that we have – will not be there. It's like Thanksgiving is a place and they are lost and can't get to it. So, it will be missed.

We can do better than that here at the Mission. What once seemed like the low point of their lives can become a turning point. We can transform their lost Thanksgiving into new opportunities, discoveries, new learning and hope fulfilled in the months that follow. During the time of their lost Thanksgiving, they will find Jesus Christ, a new home church, and many answers to problems that have been dragging them down for years.

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## “God Didn't Abandon Me... He was just waiting.”

The street life...gang activity, drinking, bouncing in and out of jail. For Anthony, it all ended January 12 when he came to the Mission!

There was nothing “positive” in Anthony's life before he came to the Mission. He was “living on the streets” and headed back to jail.

Then, a counselor asked him the million dollar question: “What would you be willing to do to change?” And Anthony answered, “Whatever it takes!”

He started in our Life Recovery Treatment Program, a unique approach to the treatment of drug and alcohol problems that combines clinical treatment with faith in Jesus Christ.

*“When I prayed,  
good things started  
happening!”*

At first, Anthony didn't pay much attention when the group went to Bible study. “I had it in my mind for a long time that God had abandoned me...but then, I started reading Job.”

Anthony really related to Job. “I feel as though this has been a test. I know a lot of people who have failed in the

outside world, but that didn't make me want to fail. That just pushed me harder.”

Anthony went on to learn more about God's plan for his life in our Christian Living & Values Transitional Program, and today, he's a “totally different person.” “My family tells me, ‘Whatever you're doing, just keep on doing it.’”



Anthony has even reconnected with his 10-year-old son who is looking forward to having a non-drinking father back in his life. When Anthony talks about his son, his eyes shine as he relates the boy's latest pronouncement: “I like you, Daddy, when you don't drink beer.”

Anthony's reply? “I told him that's good, 'cause he's going to be liking me for a long time!”

## From Gary's Desk...

(continued from front page)

Your support of the Mission makes a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of men. Thanks to your help, the lost Thanksgiving faced by homeless men will be a turning point and abundance will follow. It will be a different kind of abundance than they wanted before Thanksgiving (when they thought the answer was lots of money, a great job, a car, and lots of impressive things filling an apartment). The Mission will show them how to attain an abundance of faith, spirit, fellowship, hope and confidence.

I hope you find your Thanksgiving filled with abundance, among family, with friends and many blessings. Thank you for helping the Mission save the lost Thanksgiving for many who will be homeless and in great need. And, thank you for helping us create a life of abundance for them now and for years to come.

Gary F. Millspaugh  
Executive Director

## Our Community Partners!



Each day, hundreds of people throughout the Lehigh Valley go without basic necessities like warm meals and safe shelter.

Through our Community Partner Program, the Mission has teamed with local businesses to help provide secure shelter, food, counseling and the opportunity to transition into permanent, affordable housing for some of our community's neediest individuals. If your business is interested in becoming a partner of the Mission, please contact Bill Dickinson, Director of Development, at (610) 740-5500, ext. 14 or [wdickin@rcn.com](mailto:wdickin@rcn.com).

We want to thank the following businesses for their continued partnership!

### Contributing Partner



We are collecting thousands of pounds of food and hundreds of cleaning products during our annual Thanks for Giving Supplies & Food Drive. Join us on Friday, November 18th (4-7 p.m.) and Saturday, November 19th (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) at area Giant Food Stores and Walmart locations. All donations will be used locally to help needy people. This year, we need help more than ever as the economic downturn has increased the need for Mission services.

To make a donation of non-perishable food or cleaning supplies,

Reserved for you:

## 2012 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community's neediest people would not exist.



As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying "Thank you!"

To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

### Associate Partners



please visit our donation collection sites at local Giant and Walmart stores. A complete list of sites is available on our website, [AllentownRescueMission.org](http://AllentownRescueMission.org).

Volunteers are also needed.

If you can help, e-mail [info@allentownrescuemission.org](mailto:info@allentownrescuemission.org) or visit our website to sign up or request more information.

## TIDINGS

Rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration for people in crisis.

Executive Director  
Gary F. Millspaugh

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The Allentown Rescue Mission is a registered Pennsylvania charity. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Dept. of State by calling toll free, within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

TIDINGS is funded by private donations, not government money.

## Unwashed. Unloved. Unwanted.

It's not "hunger and homelessness" you see in people's eyes when they come to the Mission. It's the pain of being unloved and unwanted. Of being avoided, or worse, being treated as if you're invisible.

**Can a smile, a prayer and a meal change all that? It's a good start!**

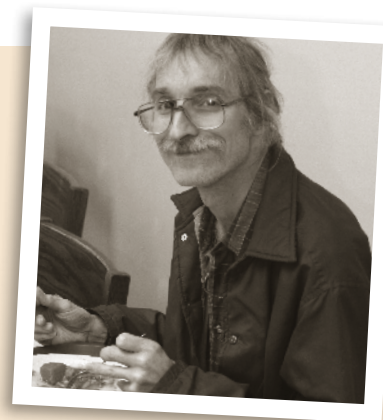
With your help, we'll have 10,500 chances to find out during the next 90 days.

Whether it's our big November

26th Thanksgiving Dinner or a simple meal here at the Mission, **because you care, everyone will be welcomed.**

Some will smile back. Many will return. They may even decide to leave the streets and enter one of our programs. Others will come to accept Christ as their Savior and their lives will be changed forever!

So as you make your gift to the Mission, do it with a smile, knowing that you truly are blessing and



changing people's lives.

**Please mail your special Thanksgiving gift in the enclosed envelope, or give online at [www.AllentownRescueMission.org](http://www.AllentownRescueMission.org).**