

Fall 2023 | Volume 33 | Number 3

# A Heart of Thanksgiving

James wants to share how your support changed his life!



Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun! "I've learned how to live again."



# **Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving**

#### A Message from STUART SMITH

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at the Allentown Rescue Mission, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

Outside, the weather is starting to cool. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as we get ready for the many men who will come to us during the months leading up to the Thanksgiving season. It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

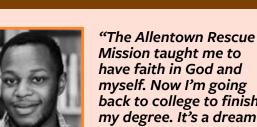
Each time someone comes to the Allentown Rescue Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and struggle that they may not have anticipated and

certainly didn't desire - and they **choose** a season of support and recovery. I truly believe this is God's hand at work through your partnership in this life-giving ministry.

Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 21,600 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every struggling man who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. I'm thankful for you now, and always.

Stuart Smith CEO



**YOU'RE MAKING GOALS** 

AND DREAMS POSSIBLE:

Mission taught me to have faith in God and myself. Now I'm going back to college to finish my degree. It's a dream come true."

"My biggest challenge was to find a good job and a place to live and the Allentown Rescue Mission helped me do that. I'm so thankful."



At the Allentown Rescue Mission, hopes and dreams are born - because thanks to the support of friends like you, men in our Transformation Program can believe that a brighter future is possible.

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives and fulfill dreams, visit AllentownRescueMission.org. Thank you for believing that everyone

deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!



#### **Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season**

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone - longing to overcome homelessness and poverty - wishing they could reunite with their families for the holidays.

For just \$2.95, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting men with loving care that leads to a better life through:











Safe, welcoming Warm clothing, Classes & job shelter coats & shoes

Please help men in need this holiday season! Send your

2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift

today using the enclosed reply

card and envelope OR online at

AllentownRescueMission.org.

God's lifetraining changing love



Meet James – who is thankful for your support!

"The Allentown Rescue Mission taught me how to live again."



James had always been a hardworking and self-reliant man. Then he was in an accident that turned his world upside down. "I got hit by a car and wound up in a nursing home with two broken legs."

For more than four years, he worked hard at his physical therapy, progressing from a wheelchair, to a

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walker and, eventually, a cane. "Learning how to walk all over again was incredibly difficult," he says.

Finally, he was ready to be discharged from the nursing home, but he had no place to go, nor the means to support himself while he continued

to heal. That's when he entered our Transformation Program, where he found shelter, meals and the time and support he needed to grow physically strong. "I get a lot of exercise going back and forth to classes three times a day and doing chores," he says. "I'm healing and getting back into shape."

Meanwhile, through chapel services, Bible studies and faith-based classes, James has reconnected with the Lord, renewing the faith he had as a child. "I'm learning new things and relearning everything I forgot."

With the help of his growing faith, our compassionate counselors and life skills classes, James has also unearthed and processed the emotional trauma that he'd buried after his accident.

Without the Allentown Rescue Mission, I would have been homeless. Now, he plans to join our Clean Team, continue building his strength, and when he's physically able, look for a full-time job. For the first time in years, he's filled with hope for his future. "After I'm totally

rehabilitated, I'm hoping I'll be healthy enough to work 40 hours a week at a regular job and work another 15 years before I retire," he says with a smile.

James is filled with thanksgiving for God's redeeming love in his life – and your incredible generosity and support! "I'm thankful to the Allentown Rescue Mission for giving me a chance to get healthy and learn how to live again."

### Leave a Heritage of Compassion

You have a compassionate heart. You touch the lives of those in need in tangible ways, and you want to continue to be an instrument of God's mercy to bless them now and for years to come.

Planned Giving makes it possible for you to continue ministering to those in need beyond your lifetime. When you include the Allentown Rescue Mission in your will or estate plan, you'll be leaving a legacy of hope and God's goodness for the hurting men who will come through our doors.

For more information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Lori Novak at **Inovak@armpa.org.** 

## **Thanks for Giving Food & Supplies Drive**





Bless those who are facing hunger and homelessness this Thanksgiving season by joining our annual **Thanks for Giving Food & Supplies Drive.** 

It's easy! Just purchase food and other essential items from our needs list at **allentownrescuemission.org/thanks-forgiving**, or donate a store gift card. Drop off your donations at the Allentown Rescue Mission, 355 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, November 17, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. and November 18, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. We will have other off site drop off locations too; please check our website for up to date information on the locations.

With your help, we can make this a Thanksgiving of blessing and hope for those in need!

Thanks for giving!





The Allentown Rescue Mission would like to thank Mr. Dennis Beck and Dun-Rite Electrical Services for your support over the last 30 years. We could not continue to Rescue, Rehabilitate, and Restore homeless men in the Greater Lehigh Valley without your support. Thank you for being an important part of our community and loyal supporter of our Mission!