

# TIDINGS

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION

Serving the Greater Lehigh Valley since 1900

Holiday 2023 | Volume 33 | Number 4

Thanks to you...

**HENRY HAS  
HOPE THIS  
Christmas!**



**Don't miss: 2** Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

**3** "The Allentown Rescue Mission gave me hope."

**4** Celebrating 15 Years of Employing Homeless Men

## Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

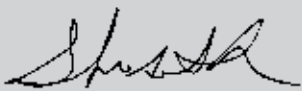
**How comforting it is to know that our Lord Jesus Christ has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of homeless men too!**

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at the Allentown Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting man who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness, poverty and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

**This Christmas season, I invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to homeless men – like Henry (whose story is on the next page).** Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.

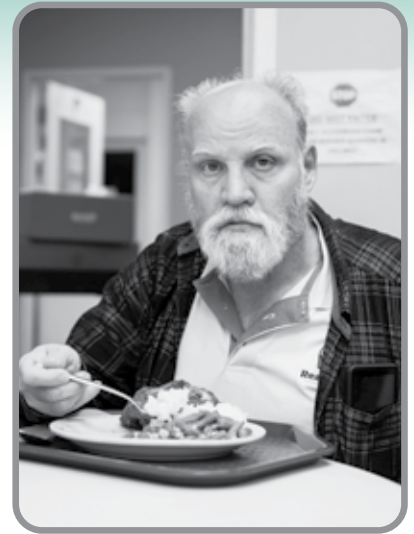


Stuart Smith  
CEO



## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It’s hard to have hope when you’re struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas season a time of celebration for homeless men with your gift to help them today!**



**\$2.95**  
for 1 hot meal



**1 night**  
of safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**

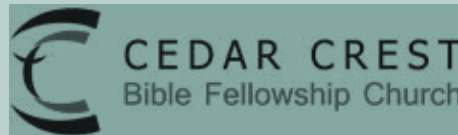


### Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



## SPONSOR *Spotlight*

**We are so grateful for our Sponsor,  
Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church!**



Since 1992, Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church and its members have helped meet the needs of our struggling men through their generous support of the Allentown Rescue Mission.

It’s donations like theirs that allow us to continue to Rescue, Rehabilitate and Restore homeless men in the Greater Lehigh Valley. Thank you, Cedar Crest, for 31 years of faithful support and friendship!

# “THE ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION rescued me and gave me hope.”

Henry was a hardworking, self-reliant man with a nice home and a steady, well-paying job. Then he fell for the wrong woman and his life spun out of control. “She was using drugs and offered me some. I tried them so she’d like me,” he says. “But I quickly fell into the trap of addiction and messed up my life.”

Over time, Henry developed drug-induced psychosis, and while hallucinating, committed a crime that landed him in jail. But God used his incarceration for good. “I turned my life around,” Henry says.

After he was released, he stayed clean, but he continued struggling with mental illness. “Eventually, I couldn’t hold down a job because of it.”

When all his savings were gone, Henry was facing homelessness. Then he remembered a sign outside the Allentown Rescue Mission. It said “God is love.” Those words spoke to his heart, so he entered our Transformation Program.

Through devotions, prayer, Bible studies and church attendance, Henry’s faith has grown strong. “Now I seek God’s will before every step I take and it’s helping me become a better person.”

With the help of doctors, therapists and medication, Henry’s mental health has been improving as well. “Everything is going great. I’m happy with my progress.”

He’s now attending life-skills

classes that are preparing him to stay free from addiction and make a successful transition to independent living. Soon, he’ll be ready to join our Clean Team Workforce, and when he’s saved enough money, Henry will move into a place of his own, find work and continue growing in his faith. “The Allentown Rescue Mission has given me the tools and resources I need to become a productive citizen again.”

**Henry has hope this Christmas season – and he wants to thank YOU for supporting his journey toward a new life.** “I was about to become homeless, but the Allentown Rescue Mission rescued me and gave me hope.”



“Jesus Christ  
is at the  
center of my  
life now.”



# Share Your Story this Christmas

More than 600,000 people have recorded stories with StoryCorps, an organization founded to capture stories and preserve them at the Library of Congress.

You also have a story your loved ones want to hear. Here are three ideas to share it this holiday season:

**Interview yourself.** Find interview templates online or simply come up with your own questions to answer and share.

**Go online.** There are a number of tools like Storyworth or Remento available to prompt and capture stories. You may find these helpful if you want to turn your story into a keepsake book or video.

**Impact others.** At the heart of your story are the values important to you, as well as the causes you care about deeply. Including a gift in your will to the Allentown Rescue Mission is a meaningful way to share that with your family – and impact others.

Your faithful support makes you a significant part of *our* story. When you share your story, you embody Psalm 78:4, “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “4 Ways to Share Your Story this Christmas” by contacting Lori Novak at (610) 740-5500 or [lnovak@armpa.org](mailto:lnovak@armpa.org) – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at [allentownrescuemission.legacywill.org](http://allentownrescuemission.legacywill.org).*

# Celebrating 15 Years of Employing Homeless Men

## The Clean Team Workforce Development Program



Employed nearly  
1,000 men



789 Customers  
served



1.2M pounds of trash &  
recyclables removed  
from our streets



53% secured  
permanent jobs  
outside the mission



Time is running out to help our men in need this holiday season. Your generosity can give them hope in their darkest hour and the chance at a new beginning.



Scan to see how you can offer a helping hand before the year is over! →

