

# TIDINGS

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION

Serving the Greater Lehigh Valley since 1900

Easter 2024 | Volume 34 | Number 1

Jon is  
celebrating  
Easter  
with **JOY** –  
because of you!



Thank you for  
showing him that  
new life is possible.



**Easter**<sup>2024</sup>  
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

**Don't miss:** **2** The Promises  
of Easter

**3** "I've found the  
path to Jesus."

**4** Our Commitment  
to You

A Message from STUART SMITH

## THE PROMISES OF EASTER

Have you ever seen the realization cross someone's face the first time they understand the gravity of Christ's death and resurrection? It's one of my favorite things about Easter at the Allentown Rescue Mission. It's a privilege to be a small part of their story, as our guests celebrate the promises of joy and hope this season brings.

**You too are a part of our guests' stories, as you share God's love with them by providing nutritious meals, safe shelter and other services to change their lives.**

Your faithful prayers and generosity help homeless men in our community find a home through our doors. They also find HOPE – hope for their future, and hope in the promises we celebrate at Easter.

Thank you for showing homeless men that you care about them – in their present circumstances, for their future and for eternity. You show them they are loved. You help restore their dignity, and ignite in them a desire to change their circumstances.

**Together with God's faithfulness, you help turn stories of pain into promises of new life in Christ.**

Thank you. Happy Easter, and God bless!



Stuart Smith  
CEO



## How Creating a Will Shows You Care

Before Dr. Gary Chapman was a bestselling author, he was a husband in a struggling marriage. His wife was frustrated that he didn't help around the house. He was disappointed she didn't respond to his encouraging words. When they realized they expressed love differently, the discovery led to Gary's book *The Five Love Languages*, a resource that has helped millions of people.\*



Have you ever thought about legacy planning as an act of love? It's a loving deed that:

- **Serves your family.** Creating a will ensures your financial house is in order, your final wishes are clear, and your family is saved stress and expense.
- **Shares what matters.** Your will allows you to communicate with your loved ones about your cherished beliefs and values.
- **Spreads the love.** A gift in your will to the Allentown Rescue Mission helps us extend God's love to the men we serve. Your loving generosity embodies Jesus' words in John 13: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

\*Story taken from *The New York Times*

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Legacy Planning is an Act of Love" by contacting us at (610) 740-5500 or [changinglives@armpa.org](mailto:changinglives@armpa.org) – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at [allentownrescuemission.legacywill.org](http://allentownrescuemission.legacywill.org).

## SHARE JOY THIS EASTER

Help meet the needs of our hurting neighbors!

With Easter coming early this year, we need your help to welcome every homeless man who comes to our doors! YOU can help meet their needs and fill hearts with joy.



7,560 meals –  
just \$2.95 each!



2,948 nights  
of shelter



Life-changing care  
& healing in our  
programs!

**Easter**<sup>2024</sup>  
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 🌟 Give online anytime at [AllentownRescueMission.org](http://AllentownRescueMission.org).

# “I was a lost soul, but now I’ve found the path to Jesus.”

The day his stepfather died, Jon’s childhood died, too. “I was 7 years old and, suddenly, I was the man of the house, responsible for raising my brothers and sisters because my mom was always working.”

He lived in constant fear that he would fail his family. Then, when he was 16, Jon went to work to help support them and his boss taught him a way to cope with his anxiety. “If I was aggravated,

“A volunteer cardiologist checks my heart and gets my prescriptions.”

With his physical needs met, Jon’s heart has been healing and he’s developed the clarity and determination to change his life. Our Transformation Program’s Bible studies and chapel services have helped him find that new life through a relationship with Jesus Christ. “I’ve learned to let Him guide me.”



“  
Following Christ is  
my new way  
of life.

”

he would tell me to go get high,” Jon says. “That’s when my addictions started.”

For 47 years, he was a functioning addict, holding down jobs, but growing distant from his children and damaging his health. Finally, he wound up homeless. He was living in a tent in the woods when he had a heart attack. “I didn’t care if I died,” he says.

But the ambulance got him to the hospital in time, and when he was discharged, hospital staff referred Jon to our Emergency Shelter, where he found a comfortable bed, nutritious meals and medical care at our DeSales Free Medical Clinic.

Jon has also found emotional healing and learned healthy coping skills through our life skills classes. Now, his relationships with his children have been restored and he’s serving on our Clean Team, saving money and making plans to retire so he can spend time with his children and grandchildren. “Now, I want to live because I know there are wonderful things in store.”

**Thank you for sharing God’s love with Jon this Easter. His life has been renewed through the joy and hope of the Gospel!** “I was a lost soul, but now I’ve found the path to Jesus.”



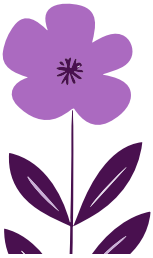
# Our Commitment to **YOU**

At Easter, and all year, **you can count on the Allentown Rescue Mission to follow Christ's example of serving our neighbors in need**, especially those who don't know where their next meal will come from, where they'll sleep at night or how they'll overcome impossible situations.

The generosity of dedicated friends like YOU makes it possible to continue our ministries in the Greater Lehigh Valley!

We want to share our commitment to you, to the homeless men we serve and to our community:

1. We will **honor and thank God** for His abundant blessings and share His provisions with our guests. Regardless of their struggles, each is made in God's image and worthy of dignity, compassion and love.
2. We will **boldly share the hope of the Gospel and extend Christ's love** to each man we serve.
3. We will **invite our supporters, volunteers and friends to help** meet the needs of our community throughout the year, asking only for what we know homeless men truly need.



## God's Promise of Joy

*"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." - John 15:10-11*

# GIVE MONTHLY. **SAVE LIVES ALL YEAR!**

You can make a lasting difference in our community when you become a monthly partner!

These days, it costs more than ever to provide the life-changing care homeless men at the Allentown Rescue Mission need. By becoming a Changed Lives Champion, you can help save lives with your monthly gift to provide:



**MEALS**



**GUIDANCE**



**SHELTER**



**JOB TRAINING**

Start giving monthly now to help provide the building blocks our residents need for a better life!

*Start giving  
monthly now!*

