

# TIDINGS

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION

Serving the Greater Lehigh Valley since 1900

Summer 2024 | Volume 34 | Number 2



## The love **YOU** share

gives neighbors like  
Robert hope for a  
better life

**Don't miss:** **2** Transforming lives is possible this summer

**3** "I've been given another chance at life."

**4** The backbone of our ministry



# A meal for \$2.95 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**

## A Message from STUART SMITH

### Thank you for REMEMBERING your neighbors this summer

*“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.”*  
- John 13:34b-35

What does summer mean to you? Family vacations, lazy mornings and afternoons at the park or by the pool. As a kid, you probably remember time standing still over summer. Yet, now these months seem to be busier than ever.

Between work, family and community responsibilities, endless “to-do” lists crowd our days. In some ways, the “lazy days of summer” may be a thing of the past.

We’ve seen this at the Allentown Rescue Mission for a while now. As supporters in our community stay busy with summer plans, donations tend to drop off. I’m thankful you haven’t forgotten about the needs of homeless men – and that you respond with a heart of compassion – which is why I need your help.

As we enter **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign, I hope I can count on you. Please give generously each month of this season** to help the men in the Greater Lehigh Valley who are hurting and homeless.

Thank you for remembering to share love with men in need this summer – no matter how leisurely or lively these months may be.

Stuart Smith  
CEO



### CORPORATE *Spotlight*

## Nester Funeral Home, Inc.

*Our Family, Serving Your Family Since 1905*

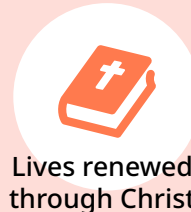
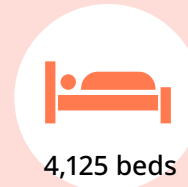
**Thank you, Nester Funeral Home for being a faithful supporter of the Allentown Rescue Mission for over 20 years!**

Serving people in the Lehigh Valley area during their most difficult times since 1905, Nester Funeral Home has a longstanding reputation for compassionate care and support that goes back generations.

We applaud the work and service they provide the community and the generous support given to the Allentown Rescue Mission as we Rescue, Rehabilitate, and Restore homeless men in the Greater Lehigh Valley!

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

is possible this summer... **thanks to YOU!**



**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**  
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

*At every step of their journey... YOUR gift helps change their lives.*

*Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild lives!*

**Give now! AllentownRescueMission.org**



“The Allentown  
Rescue Mission  
has given  
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life.”



**R**obert grew up in a strict Catholic home, resentful of the boundaries his mother set around him. “I thought I knew better than she did. I wanted to stay out later, didn’t care about my grades, just wanted to coast through life without any responsibilities,” he says. “When I was 14, I ran away from home and that structure.”

But he wasn’t prepared to face the world on his own. Before long, Robert found himself homeless, began running with the wrong crowd and was introduced to a world of drinking and drugs.

Over the years, his addiction escalated, and when he was 28, Robert stepped onto the highway while intoxicated. “I got hit by a car and sustained a traumatic brain injury. That was a game-changer for me.”

He spent the next 14 years healing at a brain injury rehabilitation center. Then that spirit of rebellion rose up again. “I was unable to conform to the rules and regulations anymore,” he says. “I got kicked out and was dropped off here.”

That’s when Robert entered our Transformation Program, where chapel services and Bible studies led him to surrender his life to Christ.

Through guidance and life-skills classes, Robert has addressed the root causes of his rebellion and learned a new way to live. “I got clarity about my underlying issues and it helped me overcome my addictions and see that I still have worth.”

He’s on disability, and when he’s saved enough, Robert is looking forward to getting a place of his own, getting planted in a church and growing in his faith. “The Allentown Rescue Mission has given me another chance at life.”

“ **I stopped leaning on myself and started leaning on my faith in God.** ”

**Robert now has strength for his future because of your heart of compassion for him and other neighbors in need. Because you chose to share God’s love, he has a path forward in life.** “I’ve been given everything I need to be a better man.”

# The backbone of our ministry: CHANGED LIVES CHAMPIONS monthly partners

## CHANGED LIVES *Champion*

Most men walk into the Allentown Rescue Mission with just the clothes on their backs. They're homeless, abandoned by friends and family. They have nowhere else to turn.

Our job is to take them into our family and make them feel at home. Feed them. Shelter them. Share the love of Christ.

Thanks to a very special group of people who have great faith in our work here in the Greater Lehigh Valley, we have the resources to do just that through the support of their monthly gifts.

These people are members of our Changed Lives Champions monthly giving club, and we would like to invite you to join them.

To learn more about becoming a member of this extraordinary group, contact Lauren at  
☎ (610) 740-5500, ext. 339, or  
✉ [changinglives@armpa.org](mailto:changinglives@armpa.org).

**Thank you!**



## Gift Horses and Your Giving



You may have heard the phrase don't look a gift horse in the mouth, meaning you should accept a gift as-is because you might be surprised (or disappointed) if you look at it more closely.

What if you thought about that idea differently, especially when it comes to giving?

You may have appreciated assets that can make a difference for the organizations you love. When you look this gift horse in the mouth, you'll find:

- Your gift of stock helps you steward wisely. Your appreciated assets can be a tool for stewarding a legacy of generosity, opening the door for conversations with your loved ones about values, giving and the causes close to your heart.
- Your gift of stock makes your giving go further. Donating appreciated stock, bonds or mutual funds can make your gift up to 20% larger because you avoid the taxes you would have to pay from selling those assets and donating the cash.

Examining the "gift horse" of your non-cash assets a bit more closely will show you some unexpected ways to support your favorite charities.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Is it Time to Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth?" 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).*

