



**SPRINGFIELD  
RESCUE MISSION**

SERVING GREATER SPRINGFIELD SINCE 1892

CHRISTMAS 2015 | VOL. 28, ISSUE 4

# EXPECTATIONS

SERVING THE HOMELESS IN JESUS' NAME SINCE 1892

[WWW.SPRINGFIELDRESCUEMISSION.ORG](http://WWW.SPRINGFIELDRESCUEMISSION.ORG)

## Give the Hope of Christ this Christmas!



**“God saw I wanted to change my life, and He changed it!” —Kenn**

“I came back to the Rescue Mission the day after Christmas,” Kenn recalls. “I had slipped back into feeling despair in my life. I was getting older and had nothing to show for all my years.”

Kenn also found himself falling back into addiction, and it was devastating after having recovered here years ago from depression and dependency in the wake of his wife’s sudden death.

“I knew I needed to return to the Rescue Mission to work on my relationship with God—and with myself,” he says. “I needed to rebuild my life, my heart, my temper, and my patience. And coming back here,” he nods, “I knew I could do it. Because God can turn your life around.”

And with his heart once more turned toward the Lord, Kenn made a rapid recovery and soon, “I was allowed to give back here at the Rescue Mission—to serve others, and to serve Him!”

In fact, after working faithfully with our residents, he’s been promoted to House Coordinator, “a position the Springfield Rescue Mission has never had before in 123 years!” he smiles proudly.

Yet, Kenn is also humbled at God’s grace, “He saw I wanted to change my life, and He changed it! He keeps me safe. Keeps me healthy. Keeps me strong,” for himself and for others. “I have so much now,” Kenn adds. “But I can do nothing without Him.”

Smiling, Kenn looks around at all the holiday preparations at the Rescue Mission and says, “This is from my heart: God has really changed everything here for me since that day after Christmas!”

**Together, we change lives with Christ’s love, at Christmas and all year long!**

When Kenn came here at Christmastime, he knew he’d find the help he needed.

**“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”  
—Matthew 1:21 NIV**

# Christmas Needs List

## Christmas Dinner & Meal Delivery

Turkeys, Dessert pies  
Butter, Cheese  
Juice, Milk  
Cranberry sauce  
Hot chocolate, Coffee  
Potatoes, Rice  
Fruits, Vegetables  
Stuffing, Soups  
Dinner rolls

## Christmas Breakfast

Sausage, Bacon, Eggs  
Butter, Cheese, Juice, Milk  
Hot chocolate, Coffee  
Potatoes, Fresh fruit  
Pastries

Your support during this season of giving can help provide gifts and food items like these for the people who need us most, and your time volunteering to serve or deliver meals is just as valuable!

For how you can help, call 412-732-0808 (ext. 102) or go to [www.springfieldrescuemission.org](http://www.springfieldrescuemission.org)

# Because of You . . .



## Neighbors in Need Have Food, Help, and Hope in Christ This Christmas!

Thanks to the compassionate caring of Springfield Rescue Mission's generous family of friends, like you, our homeless neighbors who are suffering and struggling have a reason to celebrate this season! *Their smiling, grateful faces are all thanks to you . . .*



Nothing means so much to those in need during the holidays than the "family-style" love of our faithful volunteers. *If you've never joined us to serve, you're missing a blessing!*



Even the youngest of our struggling neighbors can enjoy a nutritious, delicious, holiday meal and the warmth that comes from knowing hearts like yours truly care about them!



People coming in from the cold streets have the opportunity for a Christmas feast, prepared and served by volunteers and staff who go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome.

With your compassionate action, more than 20,000 meals and countless hours of care will provide real help and hope to those in need from across Greater Springfield during the holidays. **And every person whose life you touch this Christmas is grateful for your help—thank you!**

# Mark Your Calendar: Holiday Activities at Springfield Rescue Mission

## NOVEMBER

**November 19, Thursday 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
**“Race to 100” Radiothon at The Q 99.7 FM**

Tune in to The Q 99.7 FM and listen to this year’s exciting Radiothon. Pray about being one of 100 special callers to pledge \$100 or more! You can also gift your time by answering calls. Go to [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org)

**November 25 & 26, Wednesday & Thursday**  
**Thanksgiving Meals**

Wednesday is the day for our Great Thanksgiving Banquet at 4 p.m. and Thanksgiving meal delivery at 2 p.m. Our breakfast meal is at 7 a.m. Thanksgiving morning, and you can sign up to deliver or serve meals at [springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer](http://springfieldrescuemission.org/volunteer)

## FEBRUARY

**February 6, Saturday**  
**Coldest Day 5K,**  
**Race Start Time at 10 a.m.**

Register online at [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org) or send the form below in the envelope provided to join us for the 2016 5K run/walk starting at 10 Mill Street, to 148 Taylor Street, Springfield, then back to 10 Mill Street, snow or shine! *Prizes for 1st – 3rd places!*



## DECEMBER

**December 1 – 2, Tuesday & Wednesday**  
**9th Annual Online Auction**

Get ready to bid starting at 9:00 a.m. December 1, to benefit the Rescue Mission! Your bids will help feed over 20,000 hungry and homeless people this Christmas season. You can also donate gift cards to the auction. Email [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org) to find out more.

Visit [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org) to join in on the bidding.

**December 23 & 24, Wednesday & Thursday**

*Christmas meal delivery Wednesday, December 23 at 2 p.m.*

*Christmas Dinner Wednesday, December 23 at 4 p.m.*

*Breakfast Thursday, December 24 at 7 a.m.*

Volunteers needed to serve and deliver meals.

We’ll celebrate Christmas in a big way this year by delivering and serving hundreds of “family” meals to our community’s hungry, homebound, and homeless—thanks to caring friends like you! And if you’re interested in sharing “good tidings of great joy” directly with those in need, please contact us about driving meals to elderly and disabled neighbors or serving dinner Christmas Eve, or to serve breakfast on Christmas Day.

*Go to [springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org) to sign up now.*

### Coldest Day 5K Walk/Run REGISTRATION FORM

Clip and complete this registration form and bring it with your \$25 registration fee by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the 5K. You can also mail it to: Springfield Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 9045, Springfield, MA 01102-9045.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORS – Participants are encouraged to find 5 sponsors so we can shelter even more of our community’s homeless this winter!

| Name & Address | Email | \$ Donation | Payment          |
|----------------|-------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. _____       | _____ | _____       | [ ] cash [ ] chk |
| 2. _____       | _____ | _____       | [ ] cash [ ] chk |
| 3. _____       | _____ | _____       | [ ] cash [ ] chk |
| 4. _____       | _____ | _____       | [ ] cash [ ] chk |
| 5. _____       | _____ | _____       | [ ] cash [ ] chk |

*Make your check payable to Springfield Rescue Mission. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.*



# GIVE THE HOPE OF CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS!

“For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.’”  
—Deuteronomy 15:11 NKJV



Springfield Rescue Mission

P.O. Box 9045

Springfield, MA 01102-9045

413-732-0808

FAX: 413-732-5512

Visit us on the web at:

[www.springfieldrescuemission.org](http://www.springfieldrescuemission.org)

Email us at:

[info@springfieldrescuemission.org](mailto:info@springfieldrescuemission.org)

No person is denied services based on race, creed, gender, or nationality.

Dear Friend,

Merry Christmas!

My wife, Cathie, and I wish you a very special greeting this holiday season, because this is always one of our favorite times of year at the Springfield Rescue Mission. Thanks to hearts like yours, our community's hungry, hurting, and homeless are receiving mouthwatering meals, caring gifts, and genuine hope in the name of Christ our Savior.

Yet, beyond the daily miracles we are blessed to experience here each holiday season, sometimes God touches a life in a truly special way, as he did with Terry, a hurting, homeless man who made his bed each night on the porch of the church next door.

Repeatedly, we had invited him to join our Rehabilitation Program and come in and be part of the Springfield Rescue Mission family, but he refused. Something held him outside, kept him trapped in his suffering. Then one morning, something changed in Terry's heart and he stepped through our doors for a meal—and stayed to go through our Men's New Life Rehabilitation Program.

As Terry approached graduation, we offered him the room of his choice to stay in on the third floor of our building. Smiling, he said, "I'd like this one because it has a window looking out on the church porch where I spent so long before coming into the Rescue Mission. I want it as a reminder of where I've been, and where God has me now, and how God has changed my life."

That kind of life change is largely thanks to faithful friends like you. And if you want to join me in seeing more miracles happen here this Christmas, I urge you to generously give again today!

Won't you help us give our neediest neighbors a Christmas to remember? Your Christmas gift of \$25 or more, returned with the enclosed reply slip, will make an immediate impact!

Thank you again for your partnership and prayers, and may your days be filled with peace, joy, and love for giving the hope of Christ at Christmas!

Thanking God for you,

  
Ronald and Cathie Willoughby

## MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Springfield Rescue Mission since 1892 is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the hungry, homeless, addicted, and poor by introducing them to Christ and helping them apply the Word of God to every area of their lives.



**You can donate your used cell phone, ink and laser cartridges to the Rescue Mission!**

Like us on  [hope4springfield](https://www.facebook.com/hope4springfield)

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