



"In everything give thanks."

-- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

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www.wsmission.org

Thanksgiving 2015

Dear Friends:

We have so much to be thankful for. We are so grateful to God for giving the Mission a powerful ministry to so many diverse people with such diverse needs. As we serve coffee and pass out clothing and offer showers and laundry services and provide housing and support for men who are struggling with recovery, we thank God for these opportunities to serve each day. Some days are filled with disappointments here, but we remain thankful.

I was rather surprised recently to discover the word "thanksgiving" as I was reading in the biblical book of Jonah. From the belly of the whale that swallowed him, Jonah prays about giving thanks. What does he find to be thankful for? Even in desperate circumstances, he is thankful that God is still with him. God has not abandoned him, even when it might seem like it. Here we remind people every day that God has not abandoned them either. He still loves each of us with a relentless love.

We thank God for his relentless love that will never give up on anyone. We thank him when he allows us to see his work in the lives of the people we serve here, but we also thank him when the results are not so visible. He continues to provide and guide and encourage us in his own way and in his own time. And we are thankful for all of you who make this ministry possible by your generous support. We thank you and together let us thank God.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director



The big table in the parlor at the Mission is set and decorated for Thanksgiving dinner. The children in the Mission's afterschool tutoring program ate and gave thanks around this table each year for the past ten years or more. It reminds us that we hope to expand our ministry to children in the coming years.



DONATE GOODS A major coffee drive spearheaded by Board member Larry Aldag this past spring filled the Mission's shelves, but we go through coffee quickly and we can always use more donations. You can support the Mission's ministry by donating sugar, creamer, laundry detergent, paper towels, and personal hygiene items as well as coffee. We can also use clothing of all kinds -- men, women and children -- and household items. It is all given away without charge to people in need. Your donations will help.

INCLUDE THE MISSION IN YOUR WILL Over the past several years the Mission has significantly drawn down its financial reserves, but we recently received several bequests to restore these reserves. We are very thankful for these gifts. Remembering the Mission in your estate planning is a tangible way to extend the impact of your giving. Please consider helping us in this way as well.

**YOU CAN HELP US
IN MANY WAYS**

CONTINUE TO GIVE REGULARLY Our first-ever Farm to Fork Dinner held on a Sunday evening in September in the middle of Fourth Street was incredibly successful. The invited guests were free to tour the Mission and enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the fresh air. Donations at the dinner totaled about \$40,000 and many of the gifts were given by individuals who had never given to the Mission before. We plan to do another dinner next fall and look forward to introducing even more people to the ministries of the Mission. Generous and regular giving is essential to sustaining and expanding the outreach of these ministries.



OUR MISSION
To share the love of Jesus Christ with the people of Springfield by providing opportunities that meet their spiritual and physical needs.