

Market Street Mission **Messenger**

Changing Lives Since 1889

W I N T E R I S S U E 2 0 1 4



A Message from G. David Scott

As we celebrate our 125th year of caring for people who are hungry, homeless and in need, I want to thank you for being a “door opener.”

For many of the people who come to the Market Street Mission, life has been so hard for so long that it’s often difficult for them to believe that there is another way to live, “a door to a better life.”

You are the person who helps open that door!

It may start with a simple meal or a night of safe shelter. A chapel message. Or a conversation with a staff member.

Tomorrow, new faces will come through our doors. They will be hungry, homeless and lost.

Please continue to feed them, give them a warm place to sleep and begin the work that returns them to their homes, their families and their communities. Use the enclosed gift slip to make your gift or give online at www.marketstreet.org.

Your support is a great blessing that is never taken for granted.

G. David Scott
Executive Director

“My heart has changed!”

John grew up around drinking. “My mother was a bartender. I did my homework after school at the bar,” he says. “I went right down that road and **battled with addiction for many years.**”

John went through a number of detox and recovery programs, struggling to rid himself of this life-destroying addiction. One of his last stops before the Mission was on suicide watch in a psych ward detox. When he found himself drinking again only three weeks after his release, he’d had enough.

It was then that **John’s fiancée suggested the Market Street Mission’s Life Change Program**, and John agreed. “The day she dropped me off, she didn’t think I was going to make it,” he says. “Through 12 years of watching me have some sobriety, relapse, sobriety, relapse, she said I was never as bad as when I came here.”

For the first several weeks, John wanted to leave. Then, one day, while he was praying, something changed. “I was asking God to reveal Himself to me and ...I felt a very strong presence. I broke down... cried like a baby,” he says. “That day...the compulsion left me.”

Through Bible studies and support groups, classes like Relapse



Prevention and Fatherhood-Manhood, and sermons at his local church, John has continued to grow spiritually and emotionally. “God has put some amazing, powerful Christian men in my life – guys who teach me how to be a man, in the Biblical sense,” he says. “**My heart has changed. My desires of life are totally different.**”

After graduation, John hopes to use his changed life to help others, beginning with a church trip to Guatemala to build houses. “For the first time, I’m prepared to live a life beyond what I thought I could be,” he says. “**The most amazing thing to me now is just waking up every morning knowing I have a purpose.**”

Thank you for your support in 2013!

These are truly wonderful reminders of all the great work you've made possible here at the Market Street Mission during the past year.

If you volunteer, you may find yourself in one of these pictures! Dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies and families donated more than 5,000 hours of their time to make life better for homeless men, women and children.

Emergency Food & Shelter

More than 30,000 nights of safe shelter were provided for people who might otherwise be sleeping in cars or on the streets of Morris County.

Nearly 90,000 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.



1,100 boys and girls started school worry-free with new backpacks filled with school supplies provided by loving individuals, churches and businesses in our community through Project Backpack.



Coat Giveaway. Thousands of new and gently used winter coats and other items of clothing were distributed to less fortunate men, women and children at our 23rd Annual Coat Giveaway. Attendees also had an opportunity to learn more about Mission programs and services. A big thanks to volunteers who organized, set up and helped distribute donations!



More than 200 men, women and children feasted on traditional holiday fare here at the Mission at our Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquets.

Life Change Recovery Program

48 men graduated from our year-long rehabilitation program ready start new lives, reunite with their families and return to being productive, contributing citizens.

Chapel

Over 1,000 chapel services, Bible studies and classes for men in our shelter and long-term program were led by staff and volunteers from dozens of local churches who shared God's love, healing and hope.

Help for Families

Clothing, furniture and household items from the Mission's Thrift Store are given free of charge to needy families or individuals referred by local churches, social workers and the Morris County Shelter.

125th Anniversary

Changing Lives – **Yesterday**, Today & Tomorrow

While Louisa Graves Owen was holding women's Bible study classes in her home on Franklin Place in Morristown, she came to the realization that most of the wives in her classes were married to alcoholics.

So in 1889 she and her husband, Dr. Frederick W. Owen, rented a building at 9 Market Street to set up a program for alcoholic men. [Market Street was then known as "rum alley" because of all the bars and saloons located there.]

From the beginning, the Market Street Mission provided meals, lodging, clothing and temporary employment for homeless men. Other programs included a jail ministry, family visits and children's activities.

Ten years later, fire destroyed the Mission's rented quarters, but a new building quickly rose on the present day site and was opened on November 21, 1898.

While the Gospel and recovery have always been the central focus of the Mission, responding to the needs of the community we serve is another important tradition. In 1926, a series of explosions at the Picatinny Arsenal left many families without

shelter or clothing. The Market Street Mission played a large role in helping those displaced after that disaster. The Mission reached out again during the Great Depression by greatly expanding the emergency services from providing 1,117 nights of lodging and 1,751 meals in 1930 to 9,164 nights of shelter and nearly 19,000 meals by 1932.

The Industrial Department was added in 1931. Just as is the case today, a truck went to pick up household articles and clothing donations at people's homes. Those items were then sold in the Thrift Store.

The operation was so successful that it became self-supporting within two months. It also provided much-needed jobs during a time of unprecedented unemployment.



Next issue: The Mission grows and expands its outreach to the community.

A Special Invitation

You are cordially invited to help Market Street Mission celebrate 125 years of providing meals, shelter and hope to homeless, helpless, hopeless neighbors in Morristown and Northern New Jersey.



Please mark your calendar today to join us Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m. at the Westin Governor Morris Hotel for a very special celebration. Call Nancy Motley at **(973) 538-6337** to make your reservation.

2014 Forecast



The Mission never closes. Ahead of us are 365 more days of providing food and shelter, healing and hope, to homeless, abused, addicted and poor people.

What the statistics do not count are the tens of thousands of hours of care, counseling and classes that help people get back

on their feet. Or the tremendous amount of compassion and generosity shown by our donors, volunteers and staff – gifts of time, talent and treasure that help achieve such outstanding successes.

Please continue to partner with us to create a better life for people who are hungry, homeless and in need of your help.

You change people's lives and give them hope!

As we marvel at all the good works that have been done in 2013 and look forward to 2014, one thing is crystal clear: **None of this would happen without your support.**

Your generosity provides meals and shelter. Your gifts make it possible for people who are homeless, hungry and suffering from addictions to receive the help they so desperately need. Your donations get people off the streets and into programs that will change their

lives and give them hope.

Morris County has an enormous number of people in need right now. We need your generous support today to feed, clothe and shelter them, heal them physically and show them

the love of Christ that will mend their broken hearts and souls.

Please help us start the New Year off strong. Use the coupon below to send your gift today. Or give safely and securely online at **www.marketstreet.org**.

Thank you in advance for your compassion and love.

