



MUNCIE MISSION  
Ministries, Inc.

# SPOTLIGHT

FALL 2020

## CELEBRATING **90** YEARS OF COMPASSION



(continued on next page)



# FROM A COMA, BACK TO LIFE

Brad is glad to have a second chance at life.

## Brad knows how quickly life can fall apart...

Within just a couple of years, five people he loved passed away, including his mother.

After his girlfriend died of bone cancer, something inside Brad seemed to break from so

much grief. He suffered a series of seizures that led to heart failure. Twice, he had to be resuscitated before he got on life support. Brad lingered in a coma for nearly a month.

"I was reeling against the ropes," says Brad. He had to re-learn how to walk and talk again. Doctors told him it would take months or even years. He might never fully recover.

To everyone's amazement, Brad recovered within just a few weeks. "Through it all, I never lost faith in my God," says Brad.

But Brad still didn't know how to deal with the grief of losing so many people he loved. He started drinking heavily to numb the pain.

A caring intervention from his pastor helped save Brad's life. "You need to come back to Muncie," his pastor told him. "There's people who love you here and can help you get through this."

Brad had received help from Muncie Mission Ministries when he

hit hard times in the past. He was grateful to be welcomed again where he would have safety and support while he regained stability.

"Grief counseling was really great for me," says Brad. "I was scared to love people. If I loved them, I feared they would die." Brad slowly opened his heart again.

**"The people here at the Mission care about me and listen to what I'm going through," says Brad. "There's definitely hope."**

Your gift today will help more men like Brad turn their lives around – and it can all start with a hot meal and safe shelter at Muncie Mission this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Gifts from 6/21/2020 through 8/31/2020

### HONOR

**Ann Baldwin**  
Mrs. Alberta Hicks

**Ashley Fults**  
George Grogan

**Terry Grim & Jason Sours**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Marquell

**Craig & Heidi Johnson**  
Mr. Earl Muterspaugh

### MEMORIAL

**John A. Abrams**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry E. Hobbs  
Chris Hofherr

Diadra O. Miller  
Mr Charles C. Murray  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Smith

**Linn Backus**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Whitehair

**Janette Butts**  
Mr. Patrick & Dr. Cami Jones  
Carolyn Landis

**Joe D. Cox**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Cox

**Tim Foley**  
Hon. & Mrs. Thomas A. Cannon Jr.

**DeWayne Goldman**  
Muncie Quilters Guild

**Alice Huffman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas A. Ferguson

**William K McCoy**  
Mr. William R. Mc Coy

**Amy Nuckols**  
Robin Nuckols

**Bill & Rick Turner**  
Mrs. Barbara D. Turner

# GIVE HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## HOLIDAY HELPERS

Sharing God's love - while wearing a mask! Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals at the Mission will look a little different this year, but the need for volunteers could be greater than ever.

While our COVID response requires us to limit the dining room to Mission residents, we will expand our home deliveries this year and serve carry-out meals to all walk-in neighbors - over 800 meals expected!

- **Bake A Pie** - Help us gather 100 homemade pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving Day!
- **Prepare Meals** - Arrive early to cut vegetables and fill the ovens.
- **Serve Dinner** - We'll need two production lines to package for carry-out!
- **Deliver Meals** - More drivers are needed to complete extra routes, delivering warm meals to homebound neighbors.

To volunteer for Thanksgiving (November 26) or Christmas (December 20) dinners, contact **Shannon at 765.288.9122, x109 or sbryan@munciemission.org.**

## CHRISTMAS GIVING

From your family to someone in need! The best gifts bless both the giver and receiver. You can brighten the holidays for someone who is hurting this year.

- **Men, Women, and Family Wish Lists** - Each year the Mission works to ensure everyone in our care can experience the joy of Christmas. Resident wish lists come from the men at the Mission and the women at Beauty for Ashes. Family wish lists for neighbors are compiled through interviews with our staff.
- **Family Blessing Baskets** - Donate a laundry basket full of hygiene or household cleaning items to bless a family in need. You can fill your basket with soaps, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, washcloths and towels, or toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, cleaning wipes, trash bags, and laundry soap.

To request a Christmas wish list, contact **Melissa at 765.288.9122, x104 or mavery@munciemission.org.**



# STILL GIVING HOPE TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

As the Great Depression gripped the country, Rev. Eddie Thomas opens a soup kitchen for homeless, jobless, and destitute men in the basement of the former First Baptist Church. On cold evenings, dozens of men gather for a hot meal and a message about God's redeeming love.

Chloe Thomas, who had played active roles in managing the delivery of meals and clothing, is pressed into leadership of the Muncie Mission after the unexpected death of her husband Eddie.

With the old church slated for demolition, the Muncie Mission secures a lease of the Dixie Hotel across the street from the Mulberry boarding house. The hotel offers individual and dormitory-style sleeping rooms, plus crucial kitchen, dining, and chapel spaces.

The Muncie Mission joins the war effort, planting Victory Gardens and collecting scrap metal, rubber, paper, and rags for salvage. Meal counts drop as young men are drafted into the armed services and older men take up factory jobs in local industries.

Upon the passing of Chloe Thomas, Charles Reece is called to become the third director of the Muncie Mission.

Oct  
1930

Aug  
1934

Feb  
1936

May  
1942

May  
1962

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

May  
1931

July  
1935

April  
1941

April  
1952

Dec  
1969

The new Muncie Mission quickly expands to offer 3 daily meals, a worship service, counseling and job referrals for the men, plus distribution of donated clothing, shoes, and household furnishings to those in desperate need.

Under Chloe's leadership, the Muncie Mission purchases a former boarding house on S Mulberry St to provide lodging for homeless men who were older, infirm, or unable to support themselves. Meals and worship, plus clothing and furniture distribution continues from the nearby church basement.

The Mission Board of Directors celebrates securing a new truck for circulating food, clothing, and furnishings from donors to families in need.

The Muncie Mission Women's Auxiliary is organized to raise funds and support important projects. Over the next 40 years, the women will purchase hundreds of items from bedsheets to kitchen appliances and host wonderful Christmas and birthday parties for the men.

After exploring several options, the Muncie Mission purchases and moves to the former Eagles Lodge located at 520 S High Street. The two buildings that had served the Mission for more than 30 years were razed to provide additional parking for Ball Stores.

# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF COMPASSION

The Mission purchases an adjacent warehouse building to house the New Life Recycling Center and Attic Window Thrift Store, operations that generate revenue to support programs and services for those in need.

The Attic Window Thrift Store moves to a former Marsh grocery property at the corner of Liberty and Memorial. Over the next 3 decades, growth leads to additional stores opening on the north side of Muncie, and in Winchester, Hartford City, and New Castle.

Following decades of planning and a successful, multi-year capital campaign, the new Muncie Mission residential facility opens on Liberty Street with housing for up to 100 men.

Upon the retirement of Ray Raines, after 29 years of leadership, Frank Baldwin becomes the fifth director of the Muncie Mission.

Beauty for Ashes, a transitional home for women located in Alexandria, becomes an affiliated ministry of the Muncie Mission, marking the first housing for women in the organization's history.

Nov  
1974

April  
1989

Jan  
2009

Sept  
2014

Jan  
2018

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

Aug  
1985

Sept  
1998

July  
2010

Sept  
2016

Oct  
2020

Ray Raines follows the retiring Charles Reece as the fourth director of the Muncie Mission.

Muncie Mission dedicates the newly constructed New Life Recycling Center and Attic Window Thrift Store at the Liberty and Memorial location, increasing capacity for these business enterprises by three-fold.

Fire! A devastating fire engulfs the residential areas on the 4th of July. 61 current residents are evacuated and moved to a make-shift dorm in the adjacent New Life Center. An outpouring of community support from churches and concerned citizens keeps the men fed for months while the building is rebuilt.

Muncie Mission begins acquiring adjacent houses and lots for development of a Recovery Village - transitional homes for graduates of the residential addictions recovery program.

Muncie Mission celebrates 90 Years of Compassionate Care for our neighbors in desperate need!

# YOUR RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS



**As the whole world adapted to the challenges of the COVID pandemic, Muncie Mission was blessed with an outpouring of support.**

Emergency response grants from the Ball Brothers Foundation, George & Frances Ball Foundation, and The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County enabled us to quickly boost cleaning and safety measures to protect Mission residents and staff. Additional funding from General Motors Corporation (via the 8 Twelve Coalition) supported the shift of our daily neighborhood lunch service to a carry-out model.

**As the pandemic wears on, Muncie Mission continues to collaborate with the local network**

**of food providers to ensure resources are being distributed effectively to those in need.**

The Mission received generous surplus contributions from Second Harvest Food Bank, Ball State University Dining Services, Muncie Community Schools - Chartwells Dining Services, Purdue University Cooperative Extension - Prairie Farms Dairy, and multiple local restaurants. Distribution partners have included Blood N Fire Ministries, Ross Community Center, and other food pantries.

As food lines grow longer, we are continuing to work together to feed hungry neighbors. **Your continued financial support fills the gaps to feed desperate families!**

**Thank you!**

# LOVING EACH OTHER LIKE FAMILY

**For Charlotte, volunteering has become a way of life. Her own personal loss has deepened the compassion she feels for neighbors going through tough times.**

Charlotte had been a dedicated volunteer at the Attic Window, our thrift store, for several years. But then tragedy struck. "I had to give up volunteering due to illness in my family," she says. Three of her close family members died in a short time.

Though she was grieving, Charlotte still wanted to help out at Muncie Mission. "The Mission gave me a place to serve when I really needed something to fill my life. I just enjoy being here."

Charlotte has eagerly helped in whatever way is

needed – working at golf outing fundraisers, serving Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, or wrapping Christmas gifts for children.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Charlotte has been a faithful presence. Every Tuesday and Thursday, she welcomes people and distributes groceries at our Family Services food pantry.

"We see people come back every week. They know who we are and we call them by name," says Charlotte. "They look forward to seeing us. We pray with them, talk with them, and just listen. I think we have a big impact in the community."

**We're grateful to all our volunteers who make Muncie Mission a place of warmth, hospitality and loving compassion. Thank you!**



# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF COMPASSION

**When Muncie Mission Ministries began in 1930, Muncie, Indiana and the surrounding area looked quite different than it does today.**

Poverty and joblessness were rampant due to the Great Depression. In response, Rev. Eddie Thomas opened a soup kitchen to care for men who were destitute and hungry.

90 years later, our community has been gripped by strikingly similar setbacks. Due to COVID-19, unemployment has skyrocketed to astounding levels. Once again, many of our neighbors are struggling financially and are in desperate need.

**With your support, Muncie Mission Ministries will continue our legacy, providing practical help and spiritual guidance to people who are hurting.**

Every day for the past 90 years, God has spoken to folks seeking purpose, hope, and

redemption — and He has used ordinary vessels like you and me to deliver the message.

We share God's love in simple ways — a hearty meal, a smiling welcome, clean clothes, a hot shower, and a safe place to sleep.

From there, many men and women find a pathway toward rebuilding their lives in our variety of programs that meet them at their point of need.

In this issue of our newsletter, you'll read about one of those guests, Brad, who suffered devastating loss and medical tragedy. It has been an honor to help him regain stability in his life, and he is deeply grateful for your generosity.

You can also read a bit about our history and learn how the needs of guests have changed over the years,

And I'm so glad to show you photos of how your generous support has helped specifically with COVID-19 response.

Thank you for the special role you have played in Muncie Mission's journey. We're grateful for your continued support as we serve our community for many years to come!



Frank Baldwin, President/CEO

**Please donate today to help with meals and care in this time of great need.**

[www.MuncieMission.org/Donate/Online](http://www.MuncieMission.org/Donate/Online)



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