

Beacon

sunday breakfast Rescue Mission

WINTER 2018

Helping the hungry, homeless, & hurting

Long Road Out of Darkness

Five years ago, couple Andy and Ginger were making calls to their family, genuinely considering suicide after spending a year living in their car. This was not a decision they came to lightly, and looking back, they can barely believe how lost they had become. By the grace of God, a concerned social worker contacted the Bucks County Outreach Coordinator from Sunday Breakfast asking that he check in on them. This call saved their lives!

Andy grew up in a happy and stable family in Croydon, PA with his parents, sister, and brother. Andy shared, "My life growing up was good. I played sports and had a good relationship with my parents. I was spoiled. Like any typical boy, I wanted to play professional baseball when I was older. I learned when I got older that you never know what life is going to throw at you."

For Ginger, homelessness quite literally blindsided her. Ginger went to nursing school while raising her three children. Upon graduation, she worked as a Registered Nurse for Abington Hospital for seventeen years. Ginger



"If it wasn't for Sunday Breakfast we would be dead. We knew we could always reach out for help and prayer." ANDY

experienced life threatening complications caused by a prescription medication. This forced the doctors to put her in a medically induced coma. When Ginger awoke, she was terrified to realize her vision was not the same. She was diagnosed as legally blind. Without her eyesight she could no longer continue in the career she loved. Ginger remembers, “I was mad at God. I was the one who always took care of other people, now I had to be the one to be taken care of.”

Andy made the difficult decision to stay home as a fulltime caregiver for Ginger when she needed him most. Without any income to provide for their needs it was not long before they were evicted from their apartment. That’s when Andy and Ginger began living in their car in a nearby state park and started to consider ending their lives.

The Outreach Coordinator quickly connected the couple to local resources they did not know existed. It would still be a long road to stable housing, but for the first time there was a glimmer of hope. Andy shares, “If it wasn’t for Sunday Breakfast we would be dead. Sunday B was consistently helpful. We knew we could always reach out for help and prayer.”

“I first met Andy and Ginger squatting in an abandoned home without heat in Levittown, PA with another homeless individual. They were using a generator for basic electricity, a small camping grill to cook their meals and a cooler to keep some of their food as fresh as possible,” Nick Otte, Bucks County Outreach Coordinator recalls. “Visits to local food pantries were

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“We are learning to trust in God and we are grateful for the conversations with the staff at Sunday Breakfast, sharing with us about God’s plan for our lives.” GINGER

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a regular occurrence. I frequently received calls asking to refill their generator, propane tank, or to buy more ice for the cooler. Although this situation was an improvement from living in their car, I knew this was not sustainable for me or for them.”

While working with Sunday Breakfast, Andy and

Ginger applied and were approved for disability which opened the door toward permanent housing. The couple now lives in an apartment in the same neighborhood Andy grew up in. Through careful budgeting Andy and Ginger have maintained their independence for the last three years without receiving any financial assistance from Sunday Breakfast!

As Otte has seen firsthand, true life change is often not associated with the services provided but the relationships that are formed. He explained, “Over time I could see that Andy and Ginger felt more comfortable asking questions about my own personal belief in Jesus. Working with them allowed me to share and grow in my faith. I am personally grateful for their presence in my life as they inspire me to keep pushing forward every day.”

For the first time in years, they were able to travel to family for Christmas. Ginger shares, “We are learning to trust in God more and we are grateful for the conversations with the staff at Sunday Breakfast, sharing with us about God’s plan for our lives. We are still learning about that plan and one day we hope to look back and see the ways God used our hardships for good.”

Holiday cards bring Christmas cheer to homeless guests

This Christmas season, families, churches, and offices pulled out the construction paper, glitter, and glue to participate in the annual Holiday Cards for the Homeless collection. Sunday Breakfast collected homemade Christmas cards to distribute to guests who came to the Mission throughout the holiday season.

This Christmas, over 3,000 cards were collected for homeless men and women in Philadelphia. Guests received cards at each meal and those who spent the night with us on Christmas Eve found a bundle of cards in their Christmas gift!

David, an emergency shelter guest, received a handmade Christmas card from a child. David shared, “Being away from family is hardest at this time of year. My daughter could have made this card. I know I need to make changes for her most of all.”

In Philadelphia, more than 6,000 men, women,



and children were homeless this holiday season. For these individuals, Christmas can be full of loneliness and despair. The Mission wanted to change this by ensuring that the hungry and hurting received the kindness that a personalized holiday card could bring.

The community, city officials, organizations, corporations, businesses, and educational institutions of all types spread holiday cheer this year when they sent a Christmas card to homeless guests at Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission.

This year the Mission asked that each participant prayerfully craft and submit one beautiful, thoughtful Christmas card with an encouraging message. The cards were then given to a Sunday Breakfast guest to lift their spirits during this special time of year.

Every evening, an estimated 180 homeless individuals spend the night at the Mission. During the holiday that number increases due to the colder weather.

“This year we asked the community to make an even greater impact in the lives of the homeless, hungry, and hurting in Philadelphia,” explains Director of Development Rosalyn Forbes. “We wanted participants to

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DAVID, EMERGENCY SHELTER GUEST

make one special holiday card and enclose \$2 to sponsor a Christmas meal at Sunday Breakfast. Through this effort, guests experienced the joy of the holiday season, as well as a hearty meal Christmas Day. This simple act made a huge difference to help change lives this Christmas.”

It just costs \$1.95 to sponsor a meal at Sunday Breakfast. Participants in the Holiday Card campaign sponsored thousands of meals this Christmas. Thank you for your sending in cards and don't forget to add Sunday Breakfast to your Christmas card list next year!

BECAUSE YOU CARE...
BECAUSE YOU GIVE

SEPTEMBER 2017 THROUGH
NOVEMBER 2017

Men's Ministry

Nights of emergency
shelter provided



10,492

Nights of lodging provided
for program participants



1,718

Meals served



33,951

Women's Ministry

Nights of safe lodging for
women and children



1,550

Meals served



2,290

Your support makes these
services possible. Thank You!
www.sundaybreakfast.org



SUNDAY BREAKFAST RESCUE MISSION

HELPING THE HUNGRY, HOMELESS, AND HURTING EVERY DAY



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

EMAIL: volunteer@sundaybreakfast.org

CALL: (212) 922-6400 x 1007



DONATE TODAY

www.sundaybreakfast.org/donate

CALL: (215) 922-6400 x 1003

MAIL A CHECK TO:

Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 297 | Philadelphia, PA 19105

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@phillyhomeless



Make a Difference: *Consider joining a Sunday Breakfast Giving Society in 2018*

When asked why he decided to join the Burpee Giving Society, one of our members responded, "I decided to become a Society Member because it provided an opportunity to associate with the Christian leaders who were inspired by God to begin the Mission. The Giving Society Program is important because it has empowered Society members to not only directly assist those in need, but to achieve that goal as the good stewards God has called on us to be."

You can join a Giving Society by sending in one or multiple donations within a calendar year of designated amount. No paperwork is required! Prayerfully consider dedicating yourself to join a Giving Society in 2018 to help more homeless and hurting people than ever before.

GIVING SOCIETY LEVELS:

- Pollock Society- \$1,000
- Burpee Society- \$3,000
- Stetson Society- \$5,000
- Wanamaker Society- \$10,000

For more information, please contact our Director of Development Rosalyn Forbes, at (215) 922-6400 x 1005 or rforbes@sundaybreakfast.org.

