

*“The old has gone,
the new is here!”*



THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ME WITH OPEN ARMS

Hi, I'm Phil. My mom grew up in Israel and was a Holocaust survivor. She married my dad after the war and eventually moved to Brooklyn, where I was born and raised.

I had a happy childhood, my parents were very loving and they raised me well. Both of my parents died while I was a young teen. I began to curse God for taking my parents away.

All my friends had their parents and I was left with none. It affected me in a very big way.

I hung out with the cool crowd. I just wanted to fit in. I started experimenting with marijuana and before long other drugs. I was easily addicted.

I started working as an adult and worked really hard. I was functioning well, balancing work and my addiction. After 33 years, that balance was gone and I was spending all of my money on drugs, including heroin.

I became homeless when I ran out of time at a shelter downstate. I was still working and earning money, money to buy heroine. But it wasn't enough to feed my addiction and I became really dope sick.

I knew people who shot heroine, but I sniffed it, which is bad enough. I witnessed people overdosing and that still didn't stop me. I wanted to get high no matter what, it didn't matter.

While hanging out at the library I ran into a friend who was also a drug user and he told me he was headed upstate to Capital City Rescue Mission and that I should come with him.

He told me they have a Christian based program and that "it'll change your life." I thought "whatever" and told him, "You know I'm Jewish, right?"

He said it didn't matter and that they would be happy to have me, but I ignored him. I went to a friend's house to stay and did a lot of heroin. That night it was like God said to me, "Phil, enough is enough, you can't keep doing this!"

So I came to the Mission. I remember crossing the street and seeing the "Jesus Saves" sign and thinking, "This is going to be a challenge for me." But I was welcomed with open arms.

I joined the New Life Program and they gave me a binder. On the cover is a picture and a Bible

verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

I looked at that every day and thought that's me! The old me is gone, this is the new me in Christ!

I had been spiritually numb, not following any religion or even Judaism. I had been idolizing drugs, but that all changed when I came to the Mission.

There is camaraderie with the guys in group. We were all broken, in need of direction. That's the great thing about the New Life Program, we are all here for the same reason. To get closer to God; it's the best thing that's ever happened to me.

I can't do this on my own. I'm connected to a church and surrounded by great people; pastors, staff and other Christians who support me. God has reconciled my relationship with my son and I am able to see my grand-daughter twice a month!

Thank you for giving me a safe place to heal and grow closer to God. It is the best thing that has ever happened to me!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING THOMAS A SECOND CHANCE

Thomas was born in Brooklyn and his mother passed away when he was only 8. He and his twin brother went to live with their aunt, who sent them to private school and otherwise cared for them. Yet, this new home was filled with abuse, a painful reality he sums up simply, "Hurt people hurt people." This led him to run away at age 16, spending years on the streets and in institutions, wrestling with rebellion and addiction. Though he knew of God from childhood, Thomas's life spiraled into addiction, from 'freebasing' (smoking pure cocaine) to using crack cocaine. His 15-year marriage ended, and he was separated from his six children.

When Thomas arrived at Capital City Rescue Mission, he was at his lowest—broken, lost, and weighing just 120 pounds. But the Mission became a place of transformation. Thomas describes how his faith was awakened through daily Bible classes and the loving support of the staff and community here. He faced his past, forgave those who hurt him, including his aunt and wife, and learned to love himself again. He says the Mission showed him that God's love through Jesus Christ is unconditional and life-changing.

Today, Thomas serves others at the Mission as the New Life Program RA. He is sharing the hope and healing he received. He is grateful that this ministry sees each person as a beloved child of God, offering grace freely and guiding men like him toward true and permanent transformation. Thanks to faithful donors like you, lives like Thomas's are being restored every day.



These amazing Free Clinic stories are only possible WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

Allen (pictured) is a 56-year-old Black man who has been a guest and recovery program participant at the Mission on and off since 2019. During that time, he has struggled with cocaine abuse, smoking, and uncontrolled hypertension. Due to a combination of life stressors; including being in and out of work and insurance coverage, the unexpected death of his partner, and poor health literacy, his health continued to suffer. He was absent from the Mission from 2022 until 2024 and during that time had not been treating his hypertension consistently. When he returned to the Mission in March of 2024, he had suffered a stroke leaving him with right sided weakness. Since late 2024, he has been consistent about coming to the clinic and taking his medication. His blood pressure is now within the normal range. He has cut down on smoking from 2 packs/day down to 6 cigarettes/day and hopes to quit with the help of the smoking cessation support here at the Mission.



A 66-year-old man from Albany came to us in urgent need of care—but without health insurance, he faced overwhelming challenges. Just before he became eligible for coverage, he was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, a serious heart condition that greatly increases the risk of stroke. This condition requires careful monitoring and costly medication to prevent a life-threatening stroke. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the Free Clinic is equipped with an EKG machine that was able to quickly confirm his ongoing condition. Because of your support, he was able to see the volunteer cardiologist promptly, who prescribed the critical medication he needed. They were also able to provide enough of this expensive, lifesaving medication to protect him until his insurance coverage began, ensuring no gap in his treatment. Your faithful giving makes stories like his possible—transforming fear and uncertainty into hope and healing.

Thank you for standing with our neighbors in their moments of greatest need!

How You Can Give BIGGER

Two men went fishing with poles, bait, and supplies to cook their catch over a fire. The first fisherman quickly caught a huge fish but the second went hours without a bite. Finally, he reeled in a huge fish...and immediately threw it back.



Bewildered, his friend asked, "Why did you let him go?" The second fisherman replied, "He was nice, but I didn't bring a pan large enough to cook him!"

All too often, we live like the second fisherman—so fixated on a particular outcome or limitation that we miss obvious opportunities right in front of us. We want to make a lasting and generous difference in the world, but don't think we have the money to do it.

When it comes to charitable giving, retirement assets are one of the most significant, yet underutilized planned giving tools.

They allow you to:

Increase your impact. A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a gift from your IRA to a cause close to your heart. Those age 70.5 or older with a traditional IRA are eligible to make a QCD. Those age 73 or older can satisfy their required minimum distribution and avoid taxes on that distribution.

Simplify your giving. Naming Capital City Rescue Mission as the beneficiary of your IRA is one of the easiest ways to make a difference beyond your lifetime. It also spares your heirs a tax burden.

Leave a legacy. When you include a charitable gift in your estate plan to a charity you love, it helps to not only "supply the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God" (2 Corinthians 9:12). It's a beautiful part of the legacy you'll leave behind.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Surprising Instance Where Cash Isn't King" by contacting Mandy Schettini at (518)462-0421 or mschettini@albanymission.com - Visit capitalcityrescuemission.legacywill.org/ccrm to bless your family with an up-to-date will.

Restoring HOPE

Annual Banquet at the Marriott Albany

Tue, Oct 21 @ 6:00PM

Cost: \$40 per person

Online Auction:

Preview: Mon, Oct 20

Bidding Begins: Tue, Oct 21 - 9am

Bidding Ends: Thu, Oct 23 - 9pm

RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

RSVP by October 14... call 518-462-0421 or visit



capitalcityrescuemission.org



Giving Hope... Transforming Lives.

A MESSAGE FROM

PERRY JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Each day, the challenge grows as more men and women come to us hungry, homeless, and struggling with addiction and despair. Our staff is literally saving lives daily—sometimes administering CPR and/or Narcan to those in crisis.

The good news is—God is at work! Lives are being transformed through Jesus Christ. Men like Phil, whose story you'll read in this issue, are walking out their faith in powerful ways. What a blessing to watch his faith take root and grow.

Your partnership is critical in meeting these needs. Please pray for the women in our emergency shelter—that Jesus would stir their hearts toward recovery and following Him. You help give them safety today and hope for tomorrow. Thank you!

I also invite you to join us on **October 21st at the Albany Marriott** for our annual fundraising banquet. We're looking forward to a joyful gathering of partners, along with our much-anticipated online auction.

Come see and hear how God is using you to bring hope to our neighbors who are in need. **Reserve today** (\$40 per person) for this exciting event at capitalcityrescuemission.org or call 518-462-0421.

Blessings,

*"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
~ Romans 5:8*

You are a special friend to the needy . . . especially at Thanksgiving

Because you give so faithfully, you are a valued friend to more neighbors than you know. Summer or winter, you show loving kindness—because you know it makes a difference. Thank you.

Your compassion reflects our Savior's heart. As Thanksgiving approaches, Mission guests feel your care in the abundance of food, clothing, and kindness you provide. We are so grateful for your generosity.

To keep changing lives, please use the enclosed remit slip or give online at capitalcityrescuemission.org. Together, we reach out to the homeless at Thanksgiving—and all year long.

Help us gear up

Drop off by Nov 19:

Turkeys
Boxed/bagged stuffing
Cranberry sauce
Instant potatoes
Canned corn
Boxed dessert mixes
Canned gravy



Clothing

Men's socks & shoes
Men's jeans & pants
Men's/Children's underwear
Women's bras/underwear
Coats

Toiletries

Men's Deodorant
Bar soap/body wash
Shaving cream/razors
Toothpaste/toothbrushes
Shampoo/conditioner
Neutral scented lotion



Join us in this fun new way to support our hungry neighbors this Thanksgiving. Enjoy some delicious coffee too! Check out the 2025 Coffee Trail [HERE](#)



Trail guides go on sale September 15!

I'LL BRING HOPE TO THE HUNGRY THIS THANKSGIVING

YES, PERRY! I'm giving a generous gift to help bring God's restoration and hope to those who come through the Mission doors. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$26 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

Please enclose a check or give via credit card: VISA / MC / AMEX / DISC

Credit Card# _____ Exp. _____ Code _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send me a FREE copy of "The Surprising Instance Where Cash Isn't King"

Donate online at capitalcityrescuemission.org • CCRM | 259 S Pearl St | Albany, NY 12202



I wake up in the morning and thank God that I'm here!



capitalcityrescuemission.org
518.462.0459

THE MISSION: RESCUE

FALL 2025

Stories of hope...lives transformed

