



Summer 2023

Dear Friends and Partners with Olive Branch Mission,

As we've stated many times before, pain transcends all... In the divided world we live in the one thing that transcends any differences is pain. There aren't any barriers that can hold pain and suffering at bay. Unfortunately, nothing allows us to escape experiencing pain. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, social or economic status when pain enters, it becomes the equalizer.

A Single Mom's pain of shame- The **pain** of ending up in the shelter with her 7 year old son because they were evicted due to the unscrupulous acts of her former landlord. She carries the self-imposed feelings of guilt and failure. You can feel her anguish and see the hurt and desperation in her eyes. How does she begin to rebuild a life that was unexpectedly and unjustly snatched from her?

A Single Man's pain of loneliness- The **pain** of knowing that he's ruined every relationship and burned every bridge due to his addiction. There's no one to tell that he's been clean and sober for over 90 days. No one that shares his DNA knows he's alive...would they even care if he wasn't?

A Single Woman's pain of mental illness- The **pain** of being 1000 miles from family and friends, simply because she wandered off. The self-medicating that landed her in the worst possible circumstances, resulting in verbal, physical and sexual abuse. The fleeting days of lucidity that are becoming less frequent. What's to become of her?

A Mission Worker's pain of loss- The **pain** of losing her beautiful daughter to the senseless gun violence that plagues the Nation. The doctor's words echoing in her ear over and over again. Reliving the last moments with her daughter. Clinging to the memories of their last conversation - their last embrace. Trying to come to grips with her new reality- life without her daughter. How does she help clients through their pain when her own is unfathomable?

The Mom, the Man, the Woman, the Worker... They are all connected by the inescapable pain that nearly consumes them. They know personally and understand deeply what the other is going through. Olive Branch Mission specializes in pain recovery. There is an inexplicable peace that permeates through The Mission. Peace and hope that can only be attributed to a gift from our loving Father. We thank God for His comfort and healing power.

*Bear ye one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ
Galatians 6:2 KJV*

✂ Please cut/tear off this section and mail with your tax-deductible contribution.

**Please pray
for peace and
comfort!**

Yes, please use this gift to help provide Continued Support for Olive Branch Mission! (Summer 2023)

Please find enclosed my/our gift of \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1000 Other Amount \$ _____

Please charge to my: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Olive Branch Mission Pledge of Accountability

Olive Branch Mission is governed by an independent Board of Directors. Annually, we are audited by an independent certified public accountant. Our financial statement is a matter of public record. We are registered with the State of Illinois as a non-profit organization. We never have, nor will we ever exchange or sell donor addresses and/or information to anyone. Gifts will be applied to Mission needs and programs where the need is greatest. Your support is greatly appreciated.

6310 South Claremont Avenue. Chicago, Illinois 60636 Tel: 773.476.6200 FAX: 773.476.0222

Email from a Grateful Mission Guest

To: Ms. Annette Mitchell and the team at 123rd, and the “OG” Ms. Markiesha Johnson!

Today is August 14, 2023 and I am unable to put into words how I feel about leaving Olive Branch Mission at the end of the week. I arrived at Olive Branch Mission on April 19, 2023 at about 3:30 am. I had one bag, 2 shirts, 2 pairs of pants and recently spent 22 days on the streets. Meeting with Ms. Mitchell was effortless but a little scary, as my roomies explained, **“She is tough! But she’s fair.”**

Ms. Mitchell was fierce but lent **NOT ONE OUNCE** of judgment as we completed my intake. Nothing I shared about my past or present situation seemed to faze her. She seemed to have a plan for everything I was going through. I realized at that moment that everything my roomies said about her was true. She’s stern but fair. She’s very compassionate and caring.

Medically, I was a mess and needed help. She had a plan for that too. So the first stop was the doctors- Thank You for the call to Heartland! They took excellent care of me.

As months passed, I was able to get back on track and smile again. I learned quickly the power of an honest hustle and opportunity that my voice can have for change. The entire staff was there for me and made life so much more bearable. I received all the help I needed.

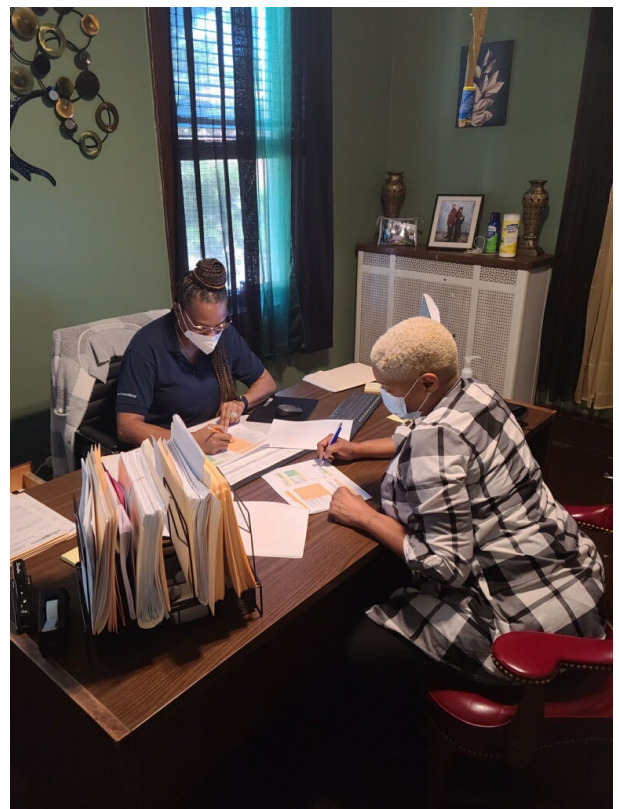
Ms. Mitchell never let me give up or quit. She allowed me to have a brief pity party when things didn’t work out the way I’d hoped they would. But then it was on to the next plan.

I met Ms. Johnson, the head case manager at the housing event and she was nice as well. I playfully call her the “O.G.” because she has the same stern and caring personality like Ms. Mitchell. Every time I saw her she always asked how things were going. I could tell that they both really cared.

As it stands today, I was able to receive transitional housing on the Northside as a result of Olive Branch Mission advocating for me and recommending me into the Rapid Rehousing Program. And I am also in the process of interviewing for an advocate position within Governor Pritzker’s homelessness task force.

The rules and regulations that Olive Branch has in place worked for me and it took me on a journey from survival to human again!

**There is nothing more that I can say besides
THANK YOU and THANK YOU!**



Mrs. Mitchell (Left) and Ms. Johnson (Right)



Chef Lewis and Officer Wandick



**Olive Branch Mission Daybreak Single Men Shelter
544 W. 123rd Street Chicago, IL.
West Pullman/Roseland Area**

“Grandma Sent Me to The Mission”

“I came from a long line of outlaws. The only saving grace in my life was my beloved Grandma and Pops, rest their souls.

I was placed in Grandma loving arms 3 days after I took my first breath inside the walls of the county jail; before my biological mother began serving a lengthy prison sentence. I was raised by Grandma and Pops, her husband of 51 years. He was a good man. A hard worker and a provider. Even with his limited education he managed to get a “good job” buy a house and raise 4 children (5 including me). For as good as he was, his father, grandfather and 8 brothers were real life menaces to society. He often referred to them as “The Outlaws.” He separated himself from them at an early age but they managed to weasel back into his life. They all moved into Pops house. And while he and grandma were busy working and providing for their family The Outlaws began the criminal indoctrination of their children.

It began with petty theft then graduated to full blown thievery. Breaking into neighbor’s cars and homes became the norm. They quickly became known as the neighborhood nuisances. One by one they began their revolving door prison stays - sometimes having what they called family reunions behind bars. They fully adopted and embraced this lifestyle. My grandparents did everything possible to try to disconnect their children from these awful people but to no avail. Pops refused to let me associate with The Outlaws. He would make certain I had very little to no contact with them. He said he learned his lesson and he wished he’d learned it sooner. I spent most of my time with Grandma.

After Pops passed away Grandma put everyone out. She loved her children but she would not condone or support their wrongdoings - often being the first person to call the police to investigate them when anything happened in the neighborhood or anywhere else. Grandma was loved and respected by everyone. She was my-everything. She and my cousin were the only two people at my high school graduation. When she passed away my world was shattered. The grief was unbearable. All of her children and The Outlaws quickly moved back into our home and destroyed everything she and Pops had worked so hard for. They literally desecrated their memories.

That wonderful house of peace and love became a den of iniquity. I was forced out of the house when I refused to join their crime ring. I packed the few possessions that meant the most to me and headed into the streets. I never looked back.

I ended up at The Mission because I remembered those Mission letters Grandma would read to me and the donation checks she would send. She would always say, “We gotta help those folks, cause they doing good work.” When I got to the Mission I was shocked - it was just like the letters. Everyone was so nice. They welcomed me with open arms. Some of the people reminded me of Grandma and Pops and that made me smile.

The Mission provided everything I needed. I was encouraged to apply for college and received an acceptance letter. I will be leaving in a few days to start school. I wish Grandma and Pops were here to see me off but I know that they will always be with me in spirit. I’d like to think that they’re always looking down on me guiding me to do the right thing and protecting me from evil.



Hannah Chapter #10 providing fans for the Mission guests.



Alternative Spring Breakers spend time serving at The Mission.



We are so grateful for the wonderful gift bags provided by Touch Heart Ministry.

WELCOME TO THE MISSION!



WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

Not Your Typical Shelter

When people think of a shelter they generally think of a filthy dirty place that is filled with violence and mayhem. They imagine eating tainted meals and sleeping and showering in unclean areas - if showering is even an option. They envision fighting to hold on to their few remaining possessions. We hear this scenario time and time again.

Imagine their surprise when they get to The Mission and they're greeted by our friendly 24 hour security team. They're given a mask if needed. They have their temperature checked and they begin their intake process. They're escorted to their floor, assigned a bed and given clean sheets and towels. They are provided a toiletry bag complete with all the items they'll need for personal grooming. Next is an offer of a hot shower before a delicious, nutritious and fulfilling meal. Dinnertime is filled with loud conversation and laughter. This is most likely where they will meet their roommates and get the "unofficial Mission orientation" from one of our regulars.

After meal time is "chore time" this is when the entire resident floor take the time to clean and sanitize their areas. They take pride in making their living quarters safe and healthy. Then it's time to relax, socialize, read, study or watch television.

Bedtime is the favorite time for most of our residents. They are nestled into a clean bed in a quiet peaceful place where they succumb to the mounting fatigue of the day; knowing they are protected behind the safety of The Mission walls.

Next it's time to meet with their Case Manager and begin to formulate a plan to address ALL of their needs. We cover everything- physical and mental health, education, job training and life skills; and recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, abuse and trauma. We give them the tools to begin repairing their lives. To begin the voyage to self-sufficiency.

We start them on their journey of recovery. They become family to us so that journey is a family road trip. We celebrate every single milestone and every success. The joy we see and feel when that dream job or apartment was acquired. When a class was passed or a GED certification was obtained.

You may come to The Mission seeking shelter but you will find SO much more.



Homemade Breakfast



Dinnertime at the Mission



Families' Sleeping Area



Single Men's Dorm



Onsite Health Clinic

Olive Branch Mission

6310 S. Claremont
Chicago, IL. 60636
Tel: 773-476-6200
Fax: 773-476-0222

Olive Branch Mission Lamplight Emergency Housing Single Men Roseland

544 West 123rd
Street
Chicago, IL. 60628
Tel: 773-660-8625

Permanent Housing Center

Olive Branch Mission

"Branch of Love"
2115 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, IL. 60636
Tel: 773-476-0900

Olive Branch
Mission Security
Desk
773-476-6200 Ext 10

Olive Branch
Mission Food
Services
773-476-6200 Ext 14

Lamplight
Emergency Housing
Single Men
773-476-6200 Ext 17

Lamplight Interim
Housing Families
And
Lamplight
Emergency Housing
Single Women
773-476-6200 Ext 19

Donor Relations and
In-kind Donations
773-476-6200 Ext 40

Looking for skilled
labor volunteers!
Plumbers,
Electricians and
HVAC licensed
professionals.