



Established in 1867 – Celebrating Our 156<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving!!!

November 2023

Dear Friends and Partners with Olive Branch Mission:

Thanksgiving is almost here! The countdown at the mission begins. By all indications, it will be our busiest. It seems only fitting that as we celebrate our **156<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving**, it will be a celebration in favor of each and every homeless guest that finds safety, shelter and the warm/loving comfort of God’s very special house – **Olive Branch Mission**.

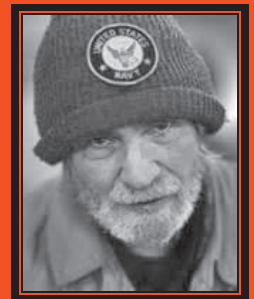
The weather has cooled – and will begin its chilly transition to frost, freezing winds, ice and snow. **Homeless individuals describe the comforts that matter most to them:** good food; warm shelter; a hot shower; a safe and clean bed in which to rest/sleep; a fresh set of clothes (especially underwear/t-shirts/socks); a good pair of boots (that actually fit); a heavy coat (scarf and gloves); a door that opens when they have nowhere else to go...

**If you are able to get them to talk a bit more, they will express some of the other things that matter to them:** the reassurance that God is watching over them and that His grace and mercy is always available to them; that there is hope that things in their lives can change for the better; that they are not completely abandoned and alone. They want to know that at least there is one person in the world who cares about them and what happens to them. That they really want someone to take time to talk to them – and especially *listen* to them (they have a lot to say, a lot to share, and a lot of perspective on life). They want the onlookers in life not to judge them but offer the understanding that although they may have very little- or nothing, their dignity and sense of self remains. Know that they carry many wonderful memories of ‘days gone by’ -and that such memories stir up a lot of regret, shame and emotional pain- because they are days gone by they can never recapture.

However, it might surprise many to know that some homeless individuals **really look forward to Thanksgiving** (and other holidays). It’s a time when they feel like they’re part of a family. Thanksgiving is that one time that all of America sits down around tables everywhere and shares in a spirit of gratitude, and a real thankfulness lifted heavenward. Thanksgiving is a time when all bow as ‘equals’ before the Creator.

As Olive Branch Mission seeks to set the atmosphere at The Mission, as we prepare to set the tables for this Thanksgiving celebration, as we prayerfully set our hearts full of love and compassion – ready to serve-will you please consider this request for help and support?

“Oh that God would move all our hearts this Thanksgiving, that we might GIVE in order that even the most disheartened soul would know that someone cared and that regardless of their station, their circumstance – they truly matter in the sight of God Almighty!”



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

Help provide much needed supplies by purchasing from our Amazon Wish List



Please use this gift to help provide a wonderful Thanksgiving (Meals & Shelter)

For each **homeless man, woman and child** at Olive Branch Mission. (NOV2023)

Please find enclosed my/our gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$750 \$1000 \$1500 Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge to my:

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 in good standing. 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.  
Administrative Offices -6310 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60636 Tel: 773.476.6200 www.obmission.org

Your gift is 100% tax-deductible. You will receive a receipt for your donation.