

THE MISSION HAS REOPENED!

During tough times so many people have no place to turn.

Then they find their way to Olive Branch Mission...

A clean bed, a hot meal, a shower, a change of clothing...

These are first steps toward dignity restored and hope renewed.



April 2019

Dear friends and partners with Olive Branch Mission,

I thank God for each of you and for your prayers and financial help through a very busy and tumultuous winter. THANK YOU!!! We made it! Literally hundreds and hundreds of lives were touched with genuine love and compassion. Again, thank you so much.

When we had to close the building...how "lifeless" The Mission seemed without the aroma of home-cooked meals, the voices of Mom's with their children heading out to school, and the sound of men laughing and singing with lifted spirits as they help with various tasks...But the silence and emptiness was only temporary. After just a FEW days...The Mission came back to LIFE! The "Resurrection" of The Mission marks a new beginning for so many, where restoration and hope begins...

At Olive Branch Mission we don't judge, preach at, comment on or criticize hurting souls... at Olive Branch Mission we open our hearts and extend real and unconditional love and grace, respect and faith. We don't focus on the past failures and pain, but rather we promote and celebrate the potential in the present and the possibilities for the future. After all, hope begins for all of us with grace – someone defined grace as undeserved blessings at God's expense.

Sometimes I imagine what it must be like for a Mom to go through a drastic circumstance only to find herself with her precious children on the street – no one to turn to, no place to go... Sometimes I wonder what it is like for a homeless veteran who faced death in war on a regular basis only to find shame the greater enemy of 20 years on the streets, in the shadows of the very nation he fought to defend. Indeed there are many reasons for homelessness, and each individual has their own story – but the ultimate reality is that something must be done to provide a safe haven and the very basic necessities in order to heal, reclaim one's dignity and begin again.

Some of you have already heard that across Chicago a number of shelters have closed their doors permanently. Olive Branch Mission remains on duty – yet challenged as never before to take in and provide for many, many more people. When this happens, we feel the impact in at least three tangible ways: 1. Food just disappears off the pantry shelves; 2. Washing machines and dryers begin to break down; 3. We keep running out cleaning supplies and toilet paper. Of course the utility bills go up because we are cooking many more meals and heating lots more hot water for showers...

Spring is here, Children will be on vacation from school – it is time to replenish supplies, stock up the pantry and prepare for the upcoming summer months. Because we have had such an overwhelming number of people through the winter and because we anticipate many more people than usual this coming summer season – the need to purchase food and supplies is immediate. We don't know who will be coming to our doors tomorrow or the next day – we need help to assure we are ready for the homeless, weary and broken men, women and children who will come. I know these are tough times for all of us, but I do hope and pray that you will help Olive Branch Mission as generously as you are able.

Olive Branch Mission is a place where lives are treated with such respect, dignity and love. I also know that God will move hearts to find a way to meet this increased need. I hope that you will help us get our much needed food and supplies.

Sincerely,

La Forice Nealy

La Forice Nealy
President & CEO

**BELIEVING...FAITH...that we can rise...An
angel asked Mary, "Why are you crying?
HE IS RISEN!"**

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Please Help!

Yes, please use this gift to help with the needs of Olive Branch Mission. (04/19)

Please find enclosed my/our gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250

☐ \$500 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please charge to my: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEX Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

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Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____

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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.

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