

## Thank you for your Partnership!

**2022**

- 109,946 nights of shelter provided
- Over 261, 000 meals served
- 202 Individuals remained in permanent supportive housing
- 979 Health/Mental Health appointments
- 2713 referrals for education, job placement/training, housing

**It would not be possible without  
YOU!**



6310 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60636

*“Your gifts, your prayers and your kindness makes what we do possible.  
Because you care enough to sow seeds of love and compassion into the lives of  
complete strangers, transformation occurs.”*

**Jeremy Glenn, Board Chair**

**Olive Branch Mission’s 156<sup>th</sup> year of serving Chicagoland!**

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OLIVE BRANCH  
MISSION



February 1, 2023

Dear Friends and Partners with Olive Branch Mission,

I am blessed to have served as Chair of the Board of Directors at Olive Branch Mission for several years, and I would like to personally **thank you** for your continued support of The Mission! Your gifts sustain Olive Branch Mission, which has continually served the Chicagoland area for over 155 years.

I love history. The Mission has battled human suffering and need throughout Chicago’s colorful history – predating even the Great Chicago Fire and the Cholera epidemic and Spanish Flu pandemic! The Mission assisted the European immigrants upon their arrival, as well as the African Americans during the Great Migration. The Mission was there to aid the residents of Chicago’s Skid Row. Every flophouse, gin joint and brothel housed the broken and battered souls who became the recipients of God’s love and provision *through the acts of kindness shown by the Mission workers*. The Mission remained a beacon of light and hope through the Great Depression. Olive Branch Mission stood firm supporting those in need during the prohibition and mob action eras. The Mission workers were fearless. They knew that their calling superseded any threat or danger faced. They went into the darkest of places seeking *“to do good unto the least of these”* in their daily operations. They worked tirelessly to meet the needs of so many hurting individuals. They recounted their stories of hope and transformation to anyone that would listen.

We know that the names, times and faces changed but the needs have become greater. Today, Olive Branch Mission is on the frontlines of the Covid and RSV pandemics, civil unrest, exploding violence throughout the city and the influx of migrant asylum seekers. *We remain the thread of compassion woven throughout the fabric of Chicago*. It is often said, “Serving at Olive Branch Mission is a calling. When The Mission takes ahold of your heart it never lets go.” I can definitely attest to that – my personal journey with The Mission started over 20 years ago sparked by a single conversation with a dedicated Mission worker. Today, Scott and I remain lifelong friends humbly serving alongside several talented and committed members of the Mission’s board.

**You have my deepest thanks and admiration because you support the Mission.** Your gifts, prayers and kindness makes what we do possible. Because you care enough to sow seeds of love and compassion into the lives of complete strangers, transformation occurs. In 2023, we need your help and we promise to share frontline accounts of the transformations and salvation happening within the Mission’s loving walls.

*Please join me for a new year of doing good unto the least of these!*

*Sincerely,*

*Jeremy Glenn, Board Chair*

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

**YOU make the difference!**

**Yes, please use this gift to help provide Continued Support for Olive Branch Mission! (02/2023)**

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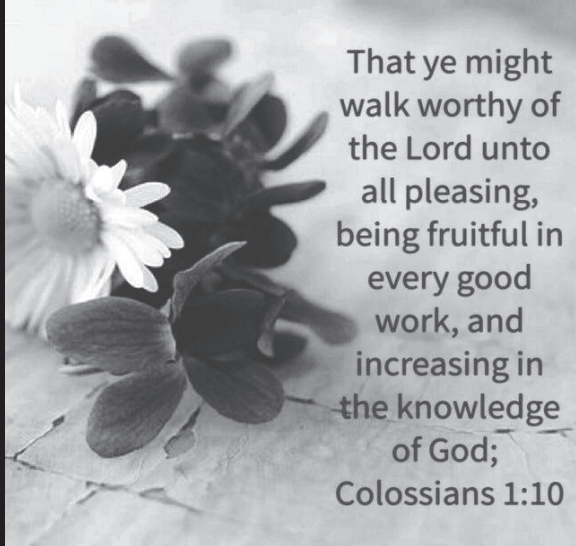
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**Olive Branch Mission Pledge of Accountability**

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

## IS YOUR WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD?



That ye might  
walk worthy of  
the Lord unto  
all pleasing,  
being fruitful in  
every good  
work, and  
increasing in  
the knowledge  
of God;  
Colossians 1:10



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*"What purpose does it serve to do all of the things we do if  
it's not pointing people to Him?"*

*Officer Taglia, Mission Donor*

**Olive Branch Mission's 156<sup>th</sup> year of serving Chicagoland!**

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March 2023

Dear Friends and Partners with Olive Branch Mission,

I have served in various administrative roles at Olive Branch Mission for almost 20 years. I am blessed to interact with staff members, residents, donors and volunteers on a daily basis. I see the spectrum of perspectives regularly. I begin each day with a prayer that God gives me a renewed fervency to serve in the best capacity beneficial to The Mission. I don't ever want to be so "busy" that I lose sight of my calling and purpose. Yes, working at The Mission is definitely a calling. You wouldn't be able to last on the frontlines of human need and pain without realizing this is more than just a job. God has many ways of reminding us that our work is His...

Recently I was scurrying around the building which is common. As I was going through my mental to-do checklist while simultaneously responding to a text I heard someone call out to me. I looked up and saw what seemed to be a familiar face, however I couldn't distinctly recognize him. Although he was wearing a face mask I could see that he was smiling as he approached me. I thought to myself, "Great, just what I need... an impromptu meeting. I'm too busy for this!" Once he got closer I couldn't believe it. This was Officer Taglia! He was thinner and older looking but it was definitely him. He is one of the nicest people I have ever met. He would bring bag lunches for the residents that left before breakfast time to insure they would eat. He provided loaded backpacks for the children's back to school fair. He gave out candy for the Fall Festival and toys during Christmas time. Then all of a sudden he stopped coming around. We haven't seen him in almost 3 years. I gave him the biggest hug and asked, "Where have you been?" He smiled, and said, "Spending time with the Lord." I imagine my puzzled look prompted him to continue. "I contracted Covid in early 2020 and it really took a toll on me. I was in and out of the hospital for 2 years. At one point I even instructed my family to begin funeral preparations. However, about 8 months ago things began to turn around. I'm beginning to feel like myself again." I told him how sorry I felt for him and that I wished I would've known.

As our conversation continue, he seemed to carefully measure his words before he spoke. "I know this may sound strange but having Covid brought me so much closer to God. I had been so busy doing what I thought was good deeds that I lost sight of what *He* wanted me to do. All of those days and nights I spent alone in the presence of the Lord refocused me. I was doing all this *good* with the wrong attitude. I was impatient, frustrated and would complain about how tired I was to anyone that would listen. But during my time with the Lord He made it very clear to me that it is an honor and privilege to represent Him; that I'm required to serve with a *joyous* heart. We're all going to leave this world with things undone. I just want those undone things to be on *my* list- not His. So each day I ask myself, what purpose does it serve to do all of the things we do if it's not pointing people to Him?" His entrancing stare said it all. "Well, I just wanted to stop in to say hello and share that thought with *another extremely busy* person." He smiled, nodded and walked out the door. Officer Taglia was my reminder from God today that **His** list is the only one that matters. That conversation shifted my entire day and perspective on being *busy* verses representing God by doing His work with a joyous heart and purpose. ***What's on your list today?***

Sincerely,

Katrina Coleman, Chief Operating Officer

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**WALK  
WORTHY!**

**Yes, please use this gift to help provide Continued Support for Olive Branch Mission! (03/2023)**

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**Jesus invited a broken, undeserving  
stranger into His house for healing  
and restoration...**



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*“We are blessed that our past deeds are not taken into account in order for the door of The Mission to swing open with love. None of us are deserving but all of us are welcomed...”*

*Grateful Mission Resident*

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April 2023

Dear Friends and Partners with Olive Branch Mission,

The doorbell rang and the security guard buzzed in a lady accompanied by what appeared to be a preteen boy. The officer greeted her with a big smile, "How can I help you ma'am?" She stared angrily at the boy as she loudly exclaimed. "I'd like for him to volunteer in the soup kitchen here so that he'll see where he's going to end up if he keeps misbehaving! I want to show him what happens to people when they do wrong!" The guard had such a shocked look on his face. He knew that her words must've offended the line of men waiting to check-in. But before he could respond one of the residents was face to face with her. He said, "Excuse me ma'am, this ain't no soup kitchen! We eat good meals - filled with love! And to tell you the truth, if your son ends up here, he'd be awfully blessed. We hear people say, "If you make your bed hard, you have to lie in it. Some of us are here because we made our beds hard. But others had genuine misfortunes that were out of their control that brought them here. We're not bad people, we were just a little lost. But now we're found!" He laughed. "This place saved a whole lot of people lives. If it wasn't for them we'd all be somewhere on the street. Maybe even dead." The other men in line nodded their heads in agreement.

The gentleman continued, "I look at it like this, the thief on the cross at the crucifixion was probably thinking that was the worst day of his life; but it turned out to be the best. To be on that cross meant he had done some pretty bad stuff. Yet Jesus never admonished or scolded him. Jesus didn't measure his deeds, only his heart. Jesus showed him love. He was offered help and it was up to him to take it. I'm sure he never thought that he'd find his salvation in such a place. No doubt that cross was the last place he wanted to be, and the only place he needed to be. He was at the right place at the right time. Jesus invited a broken undeserving stranger into His house for healing and restoration. I bet all of those people in the crowd wanted the thief to get what they believed he deserved. How blessed he was that Jesus' idea of what he deserved was so much different. That's how it is here at The Mission. Most of us walk through that door at our lowest point. We think it's the end of the road - but it's just the beginning. We are offered lifesaving help, with no strings attached. And like the thief, it's up to us to accept it. We are blessed that our past deeds are not taken into account in order for the door of The Mission to swing open with love. None of us are deserving but all of us are welcomed. So when you say that you want your son to volunteer as a punishment, it wouldn't work because there's too much gratitude and too many positive lessons to learn floating around here."

At that moment I walked out of the office where I was listening to all of this unfold. The visitor lowered her head; her reddened cheeks revealed her embarrassment. She apologized profusely for her insensitive statement. As she abruptly turned to leave her son whispered, "Mom, do you think they'll still let me volunteer? I promise I'll do a good job. This seems like a really cool place." With a sly smile the resident responded, "Only if you obey your parents and bring us some good grades!" "DEAL!" the little boy exclaimed.

My heart was overjoyed! These men that came from all walks of life felt gratitude. They didn't expect condescending help. They just wanted and appreciated the opportunity of restoration. I am so glad that The Mission is here for them. I truly believe that today was an amazing lesson *for both mother and son.*

Sincerely,  
Hebron Morris Jr., IT Specialist Contract Compliance Officer

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Please help the door of The Mission to continue to swing open with love!

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