



Love, Peace, and



July - August 2025

The Manna Cafe Ministries newsletter

Do you know what it's like to watch your vehicle being towed away as it's repossessed? I do. I also know the humiliation of receiving multiple eviction notices. This is because I've known poverty, just like most of our clients at Manna Cafe. If you haven't personally experienced lack, you're truly blessed, and I hope you never do. But the truth is, scarcity can affect people from all walks of life at any given time. One tragic circumstance, from flood or fire to medical emergency, can turn a life upside down. So can one poor decision.

I fell into the "bad decision" category. At 21, motivated by fear (and many years before my dear Kenny walked into my life), I married someone I should have run from. As a result, I know what it's like to live in run-down trailers and ramshackle houses. One was so drafty that if we left a half-full mug of coffee on the counter overnight, there'd be a layer of ice on it in the morning. We even went through a season of transience (a fancy word for couch-hopping), when we had no home to call our own.

My most vivid memory involves potatoes, of all things. At the time, we lived in a dilapidated farmhouse in rural Illinois. Sometimes, upon waking and walking into the kitchen, I'd find a dozen potatoes strewn across the floor. The

The Impact of Kindness

BY VICKI YORK



culprit? Rats. They were invading our potato bin at night as we slept.

What brought me through that season was a new but dogged faith in God, my love for my son, and the help of a few kindhearted souls. We ate veggies from my in-laws' garden, and we lived temporarily with two different couples. My mother and a few close friends offered me encouragement and prayers. I learned that small acts of benevolence are often very significant in shifting one's whole perspective or turning a life around.

God used that period of hardship for good, and, eventually, my story saw a happy ending. Now my goal is to help others find their happy ending as well. Will you join me and my team in doing just that?

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At Manna Cafe, we offer hope daily through things as simple as a plate of spaghetti, hot shower, or clean pair of shoes. Together, we can ignite hope for someone facing hardship ... someone who's losing hope ... someone who needs encouragement ... someone like me.



Thank You for Sprouting Hope

Manna Cafe hosted Sprouting Hope, its annual fundraising gala to support their mission of fighting hunger. The Wilma Rudolph Event Center was filled with community leaders, business owners, and individuals who are passionate about tackling food insecurity. Title sponsors F&M Bank and CDE Lightband headed a group of committed local companies who made the event possible.

Guests were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Maxwell, the Manna culinary staff and interns. Musical entertainment was provided by Joe Padula. The party came to life with an exciting Chicago-style step dancing demonstration by the ClarksVegas Steppers.

The evening successfully garnered \$35,000 in donations as well as 16 generous families who committed to recurring monthly donations. The highlight of the event was dual recognition of Manna Cafe by County Mayor Wes Golden and Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts. Mayor Golden presented Vicki York with a proclamation recognizing Manna Cafe Ministries' 15 years of service; Mayor Joe Pitts presented a street sign renaming a portion of Oak Street as Kenny York Memorial Way.





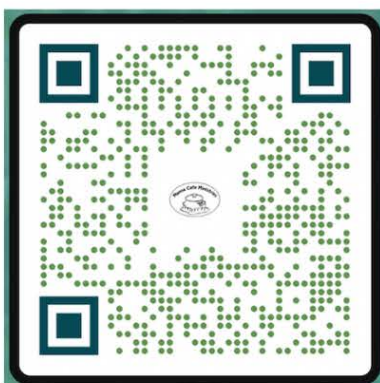
When you give each month, you're not just helping once—you're standing with us every single day. Your steady support means meals are ready when hunger strikes, care is available when hope runs thin, and dignity is restored when it's been lost.

Your monthly gift to Manna Cafe helps your neighbor—right here at home. Every single dollar stays local, directly impacting lives in our own community.

Monthly giving allows us to plan ahead, meet urgent needs without delay, and serve more people with consistency and care. It turns generosity into action—not just today, but all year long ... because compassion isn't a one-time act.

It's a commitment. Give TODAY.

Scan the QR code to start your monthly gift today—and become part of something lasting.



UPDATE

In October of 2024 Manna Cafe announced plans to transition its operations to an innovative method of food distribution that operates like a free grocery store and:

- allows guests to select food according to personal needs & preferences
- reduces food waste
- creates a more personal experience
- promotes dignity

Here's where we are now:

The flooring for the Manna Market grocery store has been purchased and is awaiting installation; and 2/3 of the ceiling is painted. Next up is to paint the walls while awaiting the arrival of six reach-in coolers and three freezers. Much of the material to build a small chapel and three welcome rooms (where clients can receive referrals and/or prayer) has been delivered. Our most immediate need is funding for electrical improvements, as the coolers/freezers will require more power.

Want to get involved? We still need shelving, a parking lot, furnishings, a wheelchair ramp, fire suppression system, lighting, and more.

Contact Laura Montgomery at 931-572-7064



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Be a part of the Manna family

Help us with our mission to serve people suffering from economic insecurity while restoring hope, dignity, self-reliance, community, and the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Make your tax-deductible gift TODAY at
MannaCafeMinistries.com/donate.



***The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9, NIV***



Manna Cafe is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a proud member of United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region and the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce.