



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AS MISSION CELEBRATES 137 YEARS OF NON-STOP CARE.**

***America's Largest Continuously Operating Rescue Mission prepares to bless Chicago's homeless at Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year***

Ethnic Outreach Ministries

Career Development  
Training

Men's Division

Women's Division Of  
Pacific Garden Mission

"UNSHACKLED!"  
Radio Ministries

Medical &  
Dental Clinic

Jail Outreach

Food Services

Deputation Teams

**CHICAGO, IL.** On September 15<sup>th</sup>, America's largest continuously operating rescue mission, Pacific Garden Mission, celebrated its 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since its 1877 opening, the doors to the "Old Lighthouse" have never closed, a total of over 50,000 consecutive days - over half the age of the United States, spanning the terms of 26 US presidents. November marks seven years since PGM relocated to its new building at 1458 S. Canal Street, Chicago IL 60607.

The "Old Lighthouse" has cared for countless hundreds of thousands of homeless men, women and children over the years. The Mission meets immediate physical needs: meals, medical care, clothing, and a comfortable and safe place to sleep. Counseling is provided to help deal with the effects of physical abuse, broken relationships, and substance abuse. Most importantly, PGM seeks to meet each individual's spiritual need: forgiveness of sin and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This past year, due to the increase in number of homeless, PGM refit a number of dorm beds, raising its daily capacity from 992 to 1140, including 325 women and children plus infants. On September 6, the Total Living Network [TLN] began airing a one-hour weekly television broadcast featuring testimonies and teaching from PGM's Saturday evening service. The program, *Pacific Garden Mission*, airs every Saturday at 7:30PM Central Time in the Chicagoland and Northern Illinois area down through the Springfield, IL area. The program consists of preaching from PGM's weekly Saturday evening Praise and Testimony service, as well as uplifting testimonies from those whose lives have been transformed through Jesus Christ. The program re-airs on Tuesdays at 1:00AM Central Time.

PGM Executive Director Philip Kwiatkowski stated, "Because the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays are especially difficult for the homeless, the Mission goes out of its way to show the love of Jesus Christ. A special Christmas service plus special holiday meals are scheduled for all our guests."

As in the past, Chicago Bulls players and staff, plus a crew of volunteers will serve 1000 men, women and children a pre-Thanksgiving feast with beverages and dessert.

On Thanksgiving Eve, homeless guests will again enjoy a hearty meal served by Food for Friends. Since 1996, Levy Cares, charitable arm of Levy Restaurants, will serve a traditional Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings. On Christmas and New Years Day, guests also receive a full course holiday dinner and dessert. Over 150 volunteers will give of themselves on Christmas Day to serve the homeless men, women and children at PGM.

[MORE]→

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Add One... **PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AS MISSION CELEBRATES 137 YEARS OF NON-STOP CARE.**

PGM addresses the physical, spiritual and social needs of Chicago's homeless, guiding them through difficult times in their lives providing shelter, food, clothing, medical/dental/eye care, education, job training, and many other comprehensive support services.

In the most recently completed fiscal year, Pacific Garden Mission provided 342,461 individual shelter days [938 daily avg], served 812,204 meals [67,683 monthly, 2183 daily, 728 per meal average], and distributed 836,493 clothing items. Since occupying its larger new facility, the on-site clinic has provided medical care to an average of 5892 people per year. PGM also provides the *Bread of Life* outreach which delivers surplus food and other donations to nearby needy families.

Thanks to the continuing support from The Chicago Community Trust\*, a generous grant enabled the creation of the Transient Men's Ministry in 2012; it is now in its third year. An earlier grant from The Trust made possible the start of the Transient Women's Ministry in 2009. PGM distinguishes Program participants - those who make faith commitments and join the Bible Education and Career Development Program - from those who, for whatever reason, do not - these are termed transient or overnight guests. Some stay only one day and move on.

These programs enable overnight guests to receive more comprehensive services including job seeking assistance, health care & hygiene classes, basic computer skills, job skills instruction [including resume creation], assistance in locating housing, and many other enabling tools to help them reenter society. They receive job interview tips, salary expectation information, and mock interviews.

PGM is not a soup kitchen, but a place where comprehensive care and programs become stepping stones to the physical, spiritual and social betterment of lives. Mr. Kwiatkowski observes, "We remain committed to the proclamation of the infallible Word of God and will continue to keep the main thing the winning of souls to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

As it has since 1877, the Mission relies on private donations for its day-to-day operations. For more information or to make a donation, contact Pacific Garden Mission at 312/492-9410 or visit [www.pgm.org](http://www.pgm.org).

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[Contact Stephen Welch at PGM to arrange interviews with Phil Kwiatkowski, PGM Executive Director]

\* For 99 years, The Chicago Community Trust [cct.org], our region's community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. In 2013, the Trust, together with its donors, granted more than \$100 million to nonprofit organizations. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust continues to enhance our region.