



O F F E R I N G H O P E

PGM

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PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS IN NEW BUILDING AND 135 YEARS OF NON-STOP OPERATIONS.
America's Largest Continuously Operating Rescue Mission prepares to bless Chicago's homeless at Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year

CHICAGO, IL. On September 15th, America's largest continuously operating rescue mission, Pacific Garden Mission, celebrated its 135th anniversary. Once it opened on September 15, 1877, the doors to the "Old Lighthouse" have never closed, a total of over 49,300 consecutive days - over half the age of the United States, spanning the terms of 26 US presidents. This month also marks five years since PGM relocated to its new building at 1458 S. Canal Street, Chicago IL 60607.

PGM has grown from its start with Colonel George Clarke and his wife, Sarah, in a small storefront seating about 40 on a few wooden benches at 318 S. Clark Street, to what is now 67 East Van Buren Street in 1880, and then to 646 South State Street in 1923 where it remained until 2007. Chicago evangelist Dwight L. Moody gave it its name after it relocated to the former Pacific Beer Garden by suggesting dropping the word "beer" and adding the word "mission." A contribution from Billy Sunday, a notable PGM convert and former player for the Chicago White Stockings, enabled the purchase of the State Street site.

The "Old Lighthouse" has provided holiday meals to countless hundreds of thousands of homeless men, women and children over the years. The Mission meets immediate physical needs: food, 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, the PGM seeks to meet each individual's spiritual need: forgiveness of sin and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

All services are free, including overnight shelter three nutritious daily meals prepared by licensed food handlers; clothing; and medical, dental and eye care. Of PGM's 992 daily capacity, including up to 257 women/ children plus infants, over 1000 have been cared for on a number of days in recent months. Able to serve up to 3000 meals every day, year-in and year-out, PGM welcomes the help of dedicated supporters. As in the past, Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng, along with other Bulls players and a crew of volunteers will serve 1000 men, women and children a pre-Thanksgiving feast with beverages and dessert. On Thanksgiving Eve, our 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.

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Development Office: P.O. Box 317, Wheaton IL 60187-0317

Add one – PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS IN NEW BUILDING AND 135 YEARS OF NON-STOP OPERATIONS.

Thanks to a generous grant from The Chicago Community Trust*, the new Transient Men's Ministry was created this past year. The Transient Women's Ministry began 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. They may stay only one day and move on.

Male overnight guests now 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.

Many overnight guests have entered the workforce and left PGM. Some receive assistance in obtaining GED's and enter college; some continue to participate in job readiness programs through the Cara ex-offender program.

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. David McCarrell, the Mission's President, observed, "Our goal really is to have people who come to us as overnight guests, to have their lives changed through the power of Christ, get into our Bible program for a year, develop skills and to move back into society as productive Christian citizens. That's our goal for everyone that comes here."

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 or pgmofferinghope.org.

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* For 97 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 2011, 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.