



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

PGM

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**PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AS MISSION
CELEBRATES 136 YEARS OF NON-STOP CARE.**

***Phil Kwiatkowski Takes the Helm as America's Largest Continuously Operating Rescue
Mission prepares for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year***

CHICAGO, IL. Coinciding with its 136th anniversary, this past September saw Philip Kwiatkowski named as President of Pacific Garden Mission, America's largest continuously operating rescue mission.

Pastor Phil has been with PGM for 25 years, serving as Vice President of Ministries since 1997. Of his new role, he said, "I want to ask you for your continuing prayers for me as I take on the new role of leading this ministry, your ministry, on which God has purposefully placed His hand."

Once its doors opened on September 15, 1877, the "Old Lighthouse" has never closed, a total of over 49,700 consecutive days - over half the age of the United States, spanning the terms of 26 US presidents. This month also marks six 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.

PGM's daily capacity is 992, including over 300 women and children plus infants who currently reside there. Christmastime is especially difficult for the homeless, so during the Christmas season, the Mission gathers donated items, most of them new: men's and women's clothing, toiletries, electronics, and toys. During the Christmas season, hundreds of these items go into the PGM "Christmas Store" where everything is free to those men and women in the Bible Education and Career Development Program. They are given the opportunity to visit the store and select presents, whether toys for children who wouldn't receive a gift otherwise, or items for themselves. They also can select wrapping paper and ribbon to wrap the items themselves. This personal touch means so much when so many of the homeless are forgotten by others.

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.

[MORE]→

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Add one – PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AS MISSION CELEBRATES 136 YEARS OF NON-STOP CARE.

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 second 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.

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* For 98 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 2012, 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.