

## JOEY: LASTING CHANGE AT LAST!

Joey says, “CityTeam has given me the chance to really turn my life around.”

Some people might have called Joey a “functioning addict,” if there is such a thing. For most of his adult life, he was able to hold a job, pay his bills, and be active in his tight-knit family.

Looking back, Joey can see that the drugs were just a symptom. The real problem was how he handled the negative experiences of his childhood, including hurt, resentment, and disappointment. They nearly destroyed him.

Eventually, Joey’s habit took control of his life. He could no longer hide his addiction. The night and weekend binges spilled over into the days. His sloppy work on the job caught up with him. Finally, Joey was fired from his good-paying construction position.

It was all downhill from there.

### Focusing on change through faith

“I was scared that I was either going to die or do something that I’d regret,”

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he says. “I started seeing myself on a path to destruction.

“I just knew I had to make a change. But the most I would last sober would be two or three weeks. Eventually, I’d go back to my addiction.”

Since coming to CityTeam, Joey has learned more about what makes him tick — and why he turned to drugs. “Drugs are just a symptom,” acknowledges Joey.

“The real problem is how we handle life. And it all stems from what we go through, and the things that we need to break free from, the people we need to forgive. Holding on to those resentments leads us to destruction.”

CityTeam’s focus on faith has enabled him to connect with God. “I don’t have to be alone again, because now God is in my life. In the four months that I’ve been here, so much has changed.”

### A bright future through education and job training

In addition to spiritual mentoring to help him grow in his faith, Joey has been able to take advantage of classes to help him sharpen his educational skills and prepare for gainful employment.

Right now, through our CityTeam @ Work program, Joey is taking courses that will enable him to get good-paying work as an electrician. CityTeam’s partnerships with employers and vocational training schools are central to our programs, helping to ensure that our graduates can attain a living wage, have more stability, and don’t fall back into addiction.

*This is the kind of life-changing impact you can make in the life of a hurting neighbor in need. And right now, with the Easter season of hope just around the corner, there’s no better time to share your love.*

**Every \$1.89 you give today will provide an Easter meal and care that just might bring someone like Joey back from the brink of hopelessness.**

“I’ve never done anything like this. I just want to get this right and continue my life without drugs or alcohol. It just feels amazing.”



## YOU CAN BRING LOCAL FAMILIES HELP AND HOPE THIS EASTER

This Easter will be a wonderful opportunity to reach out to families in our community that are struggling to overcome poverty.

Many will come to CityTeam for help with groceries, clothing, household supplies, referrals to local services, and other needs.

We’ve found time and again that the offer

of a meal and other care opens the door to lasting change for these households . . . the chance to find financial stability and more.

Your gift right now of meals — now and throughout the year — will be a great blessing to hard-working families in our community that need a helping hand during their difficult days.

### EASTER AT CITYTEAM

#### Community-wide Easter Celebration

In addition to providing more than 27,800 Easter season meals to those experiencing homelessness and poverty in our community, CityTeam will serve a special Easter meal on Sunday, April 12.

Easter baskets filled with candy and other fun treats for the children will also be provided.

*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”*

— John 11:25



## A GREAT WAY TO SHARE YOUR VALUES

Times change. And trends do too. But spiritual values don’t. That’s why they should be shared.

What values, beliefs, or life lessons do you want to pass along to your loved ones? And what’s the best way to do that?

As in all things, our values are best reflected by what we do, the actions we take.

One action you can take is to update your estate plan to communicate what you value most — including trusted charitable causes, like CityTeam.

Please consider including us in your estate plan as a bequest in your will or as the beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, investment account, charitable trust, or donor advised fund.

**If you’d like to know more, a good first step might be a conversation with CityTeam’s Director of Planned Giving:**

**Bill Fitzgerald**

**Email:** [bfitzgerald@CityTeam.org](mailto:bfitzgerald@CityTeam.org)



## Moving in the right direction at Easter



Kwinn Tucker

Most of us have learned this lesson: People don't naturally move toward trouble.

But Jesus does. You remember the story . . .

Christ's friend Lazarus from Bethany was seriously ill. His sisters sent word to Jesus, asking Him to come. Of course, Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead before He even began the trip.

What's more, the last time Jesus was in Bethany, he'd almost been killed by religious leaders who hated him.

Still, He was determined to go.

Misunderstanding Christ's motivation, His disciples said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." They hadn't yet realized that when you follow Jesus — when you move toward sickness, sin, and even death — the result is just the opposite: healing, restoration, life.

That's what you do when you support CityTeam. You join us in moving toward people in great need to help them experience restoration and new life. And there's no better time than Easter to share in that way — the way Jesus always did.

Thank you for being a friend and a partner in this work. Happy Easter!

Gratefully,

*Kwinn Tucker*

## GIVE HOPE THIS EASTER!

Between now and Easter Sunday, CityTeam expects to prepare more than 27,800 meals for our neighbors experiencing poverty and homelessness here in our community.

Every \$1.89 you give now will provide a meal and care to someone who is hungry and desperate.

But each meal does so much more than just satisfy hunger. That meal will be an investment in the life of someone in great need . . . someone who needs the opportunity to experience the miracle of a new life!

Please give as generously as you can today to provide meals and care this Easter to those who are starving for a fresh start.

Thank you!

**To put your Easter gift to work even faster, give online at [CityTeam.org/easter](http://CityTeam.org/easter)**



CityTeam • 634 Sproul Street, Chester, PA 19013 • 610.872.6865

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