

## A New Life With A New Smile!



**He will make me  
smile again, for  
he is my God!**

Psalm 43:5 (TLB)

*"My life was out of control, but Sunshine Ministries got me back on track and helped to save my life," Hoang Pham shares as he looks back on his life before coming to Sunshine. He recalls, "I knew God, but I blamed Him for my drug addiction because I thought He gave up on me."*

While incarcerated, Hoang met with Christian mentors who encouraged him to enter the Men's Residential Program at Sunshine Ministries upon release so he could take time to heal and get help to prepare for a rewarding and purposeful future.

Hoang diligently focused on his recovery. *"Every class was like a message from God,"* he said. *"He always knew exactly what I needed for what I was dealing with."* It wasn't long before Hoang was ready to begin to search for employment to get started on a path to independence. He found a great job with a wonderful boss who encouraged and trained him to be a skilled construction supervisor.

Even while working, Hoang is still living and taking classes at Sunshine Ministries. He is also learning to manage his money and to use it wisely. Recently he used his savings to make a dream come true! He had been embarrassed to talk to anyone because his past drug use had destroyed his teeth, but Hoang saved enough money to replace his teeth and put a great big smile back on his face.

Hoang says from his heart, "I thank God for my new smile and for the opportunities I now have to use that smile to help others."



As he is repairing and building solid foundations for homes at his job, Hoang is also repairing his own life and building strong foundations for a solid, rewarding future.



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#### MISSION

Sunshine Ministries is committed to providing high quality Christian social services to the poor and needy of St. Louis by offering healing from the past, help for the present, and hope for the future.

## A Note from the CEO

Dear Friends,

It seems like every time I turn on the nightly news, I end up wishing that I didn't! There just aren't a lot of happy headlines these days and I've discovered that it's way too easy to let bad news turn into bad moods!

But when I'm down in the dumps, I have the perfect antidote right outside of my office door. I often visit the kiddos in Sunshine Preschool . . . their little smiles are contagious and their big hugs are heart warming. They are so proud of themselves when they show me how their teachers helped them stay in the lines when they're coloring and they brag about learning that "A" is for apple! Who could possibly be in a bad mood after that?

The ladies in our CARE Program and the men in the Resident Program may not be as cute as the preschoolers, but they are just as inspiring. A proud mom calls to share the great news that her daughter (who grew up in our Kid's Club) just landed the job of her dreams because Sunshine had encouraged her to succeed. One of our guys thanks us for making it possible for him to rebuild a relationship with a long-lost family member.

Simply put . . . helping others distracts us from our own problems and creates a sense of meaning and purpose. All of us at Sunshine Ministries are truly blessed to have the opportunity to live out our mission every day by offering healing from the past, help for the present and hope for the future to all of the men, women and children we serve.

You, our faithful donors, are the most important part of the good work done at Sunshine. It is your kindness and generosity that makes all of this possible. We can't do anything without your partnership! You are the ones putting the smiles on the faces, the joy in the hearts, and the peace in the souls of our people.

You are helping us!! Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Carol Clarkson*

## HOORAY FOR YOU!!

It doesn't matter if you're three or ninety-three,  
at Sunshine Ministries . . . we celebrate you!



Rosetta has been a member of our ladies CARE Program for more than 20 years and never misses a meeting. This year we all celebrated her 93rd birthday (without candles)!

Three year old Kinsley joined all of her friends at Sunshine Preschool just last month and is already tracing her name. We just celebrated her birthday and she was very excited to blow out her candle!





**HAPPINESS** is  
seeing the  
**SMILE** on a  
child's **FACE** as  
they **LEARN**



After graduating from Sunshine Preschool, Karter gets to join his big sister in our Kids Club. Kids from kindergarten through fifth grade get to come to Sunshine every 2nd Saturday of the month through the school year. The first Sunshine Saturday this year was hosted by Dr. Seuss and his pals, Thing 1 and Thing 2! An awesome group of volunteers made it a **fun-tastic** day for all!



The Sunshine Preschool kids are always ***“full of smiles!”*** Thanks to our caring teachers, the children develop socially and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment. Each day is full of fun activities that teach them language and cognitive skills that will prepare them for a life of learning. And best of all, they learn that God loves them and will never leave them. He created them to be very special so they can prepare to do great things when they grow up!



# Congratulations, Darlene!!

In 1983 at the age of 15, Darlene dropping out of high school to have her first baby. Through the years life was not easy for her as she struggled to raise two children without a lot of help, but she says, “with determination and will power I wanted to be a good mom and make sure my girls finished school.”

Darlene always regretted not getting her diploma, so when her girls graduated they said, "Okay mom, you did this for us and now it's time for you to go back to school!"

After hearing a commercial for a new adult high school, Darlene applied and was one of the first students to be accepted. She had to take time off to care for her husband who had COVID, but she didn't give up. And on December 15, 2021, at the age of 53, Darlene donned her graduation gown and received her high school diploma!

"I had to do this for me," Darlene said, "and I'm so thankful to God and everyone at Sunshine Ministries. They were always there to encourage me and help me believe in myself."



# ***Our Pantry Shelves Are Nearly Empty!!***



## **SPECIAL HOLIDAY ITEMS**

- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Boxed Dressing
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Turkey Gravy
- Jellied Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Boxed AuGratin Potatoes
- Canned Pineapple chunks or rings
- Jiffy Cornbread Mix
- Brownie Mix
- Cake Mixes and Frosting
- Variety of Christmas Candy Bags

## **MOST NEEDED ITEMS**

- Cereal and Oatmeal
- Canned Vegetables and Fruit
- Canned Soup, Chili and Stew
- Canned Pasta Meals like Spaghettios
- Canned Meat, Tuna and Manwich
- Canned Baked Beans
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Pasta, Rice and Rice-a-Roni
- Boxed Potatoes
- Boxed Meals like Hamburger Helper
- Soda Crackers
- Snack Crackers and Cookies
- Jiffy Cornbread Mix
- Cake, Frosting and Muffin Mixes
- Flour and Sugar
- Powdered Milk and Coffee Cream
- Drink Mixes like Lemonade
- Coffee
- Fruit Gummies
- Grocery Store Gift Cards to buy fresh meat, fruit, milk, cheese, bread and frozen food

***Be the reason  
someone smiles  
today.***

Roy T. Bennet

I would like to give a financial gift to support Sunshine Ministries as they continue to serve our St. Louis neighbors in need during these challenging times .