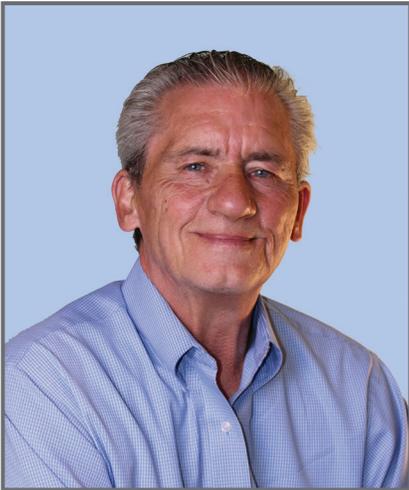


A Season of New Beginnings



“To tell the truth, I really didn’t like being at Sunshine Ministries when I first got here!” This is an honest response from Daniel Mills when asked how he liked Sunshine’s Resident Program.

Most of the men who come to our programs come with a lot of baggage. Not a suitcase full of clothes and personal possessions, but a heart full of shame, fear, regret, and broken relationships . . . a totally shattered self-esteem. They come because they finally realize that they need help and that’s a hard thing to admit. Of course they don’t want to be here!

After several years serving in the military, Daniel found himself homeless, hopeless and in need of help. His daughters found Sunshine Ministries and encouraged him to apply for our Resident Program. Although he was quite skeptical in the beginning, Daniel decided to give it a try. As he began to hear the encouraging message of God’s love and forgiveness as well as the opportunities that God provides for fresh starts in life, he began to believe in himself and the chance of a brighter future. He diligently worked on his personal growth, life skills and job readiness classes while learning many practical skills through the on-site Work Program to prepare for a job.

“I have gotten so much closer to God while I’ve been at Sunshine Ministries,” Daniel shares. *“Now I know that God really has a plan for me and He will always be there to help me succeed in whatever He wants me to do.”*



Today, Daniel has a job fabricating metal window frames for a company in University City. *“I love getting up every day and going to work,”* he says with a big smile. *“I like what I do and I’m proud of myself for doing a good job!”*

Daniel’s two daughters and three grandchildren are also very proud of their dad and “pappy” as they cheer him on toward his goal of saving his money and getting his own apartment.

With a restored faith in God and renewed hope for a brighter future, Daniel has a new beginning in life!



Daniel gets up very early every morning to catch the bus to get to his job in University City. He is tired when he gets back to the Resident Shelter late in the afternoon, but he is always in a good mood when he comes in the door. He is experiencing the joy and self-esteem of “an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay.”

GOD SPECIALIZES
in giving people
A FRESH START

Rick Warren

When Daniel isn’t on the job or catching up on his classes at the Resident Shelter, he enjoys serving others. While helping with the Easter dinner giveaway for the ladies in the CARE Program, he also got a chance to get an encouraging hug from the Easter bunny.



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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.



LIKE US!

Sunshine Ministries
of St. Louis

A Note from the Director

Dear Friends,

As the trees seem to explode with radiant pink blossoms in Forest Park and the daffodils and tulips pop up to decorate my drive to work on Hwy 40/64 each morning, I'm always reminded of God's promises of new life and new beginnings. But this year is different . . . dramatically different.

Professionally and personally, this past year has been quite challenging for me. As with so many others, my life has been turned upside down in many ways and the desire for a fresh start and a new beginning is palpable. The pandemic has robbed us all of our "comfort zone" and we long to find a happy, safe and secure place once again.

But as I reflect on this past year, I also realize that this time of uncertainty and sense of helplessness has allowed me and my co-workers to truly experience many of the hurts and fears of the people we serve. Their lives were challenging and desperately distressed even before the pandemic!

Now, more than ever, we have walked a mile (or a year) in the shoes of the men, women and children who come to us for help. We are now better equipped to empathize and meet their needs. God used the challenges we have faced to teach us and to call us into a deeper relationship and dependence on Him. And it's within that relationship that we and those we serve can find the safe and secure place that we both long for.

I also have an even deeper appreciation for the many friends who support the work of Sunshine. Yes, we need support to offer the basic needs of food and shelter for our people, but much more importantly, we need support to help them turn their lives right-side up! As displayed in the life transformation of Daniel in our front page story, Sunshine Ministries exists to draw those in need into a relationship with God that will offer the safe and secure place that allows them to become all that He has created them to be and accomplish all that He has called them to do . . . truly, a new beginning!!

Starting this month we are also able to stage a new beginning for our outreach programs. The ladies are back in-person for their CARE meetings. The men are off of lockdown and were able to attend their own churches Easter morning. We added our first new student in Sunshine Preschool and we're excited to be making plans for the return of our summer camps for the Kid's Club kiddos once again.

Thank you for your support and your prayers as, together, we strive to make a difference in the lives of others!

Sincerely,

Carol Clarkson

A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOSHI!



After waiting for almost a year due to the pandemic, Yoshi Ubukata finally received his certificate of citizenship at a formal ceremony in March.

Yoshi came to the United States from Tokyo, Japan in 2005 to attend seminary and prepare for planting Japanese speaking churches in North America. And in 2006, he and his family moved to St. Louis to establish the Japanese International Harvest Church in Brentwood, Missouri.

In addition to his responsibilities as a pastor, Yoshi serves as a Bible teacher for the men in our Resident Shelter. The staff and residents got together to celebrate Yoshi's new beginning as an American citizen! With a grateful heart he shared, "I am full of joy to be a citizen and Sunshine made me feel so welcomed."



Celebrating Easter with...

Faith, Family and Fun!



As he ponders the significance of Jesus' crown of thorns, Jeffrey is grateful for God's grace and mercy. The men in the Resident Shelter prepared themselves for their Easter celebration by studying, "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado.



The Sunshine Preschool boys and girls were surprised by a visit from the Easter Bunny. All decked out in their "silly bunny" or "colored egg" masks, the kids were able to tell Mr. Cottontail all about their Easter egg hunt and thank him for the toys and candy that he put in their Easter baskets every night before they got to school.



For our annual Easter ham dinner giveaway, the Sunshine Ministries' Family Center parking lot was transformed into a festive Easter party for the young and the young-at-heart. As all the families posed for this year's picture with the Easter bunny, cars paraded by to pick up a ham and all the fixings for their Easter Sunday feast.



Making sure that all of the details were handled right down to straightening up the bunny's ears, the Sunshine staff "hopped to it" as they worked to prepare a fun day and a memorable Easter celebration for the families that we serve. To top it off, God added His own special touch by providing a beautiful, sunny spring day.





We're making our plans for a . . . Super Fun Sunshine Summer

Our kids are **more** than ready to get back to summer camp at Eagle Lodge and we will also begin adding new kiddos for summer preschool! You can help us make it a super summer for them or our CARE families by provided any of the items on our needs lists:

URGENT!!!!

NEED FOR FOOD PANTRY

Any variety of boxed cereal



We are on the lookout for a reliable SUV for picking up and transporting all of the supplies to and from camp. Are you aware of anyone looking to donate a reliable four-door SUV in good condition?

Sunshine Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity organization. A donated car that is being used by the charity is tax deductible for the full fair market value of the vehicle.

SUNSHINE PRESCHOOL

- Hand Sanitizer
- Gummy fruit snacks
- Boxed Teddy Grahams, Goldfish, Pretzels and cheese crackers.
- Peanut butter and jelly

COMMUNITY CLOSET

- Men's underwear and under - shirts (new)
- Kids underwear (new)
- Kleenex
- Dish soap
- Washcloths

KIDS CLUB CAMP

- Individually wrapped snacks such as Goldfish, Cheez-Its, Teddy Grahams, Rice Krispie Treats & popcorn
- Individually wrapped chips
- Beach towels
- Goggles
- High level SPF sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Kleenex
- Toilet paper & paper towels
- Gift cards for Sams, Walmart or any grocery store for fresh meat, fruit, bread & lots of ice cream and popsicles!

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Please consider a financial donation to support our continuing efforts to serve every man, woman and child who comes to our door seeking healing, help and hope. As we begin to reopen many of our programs and get back to offering all of our in-person activities, your generosity will help us get back to "normal." **Thank you!!!**

I would like to give a financial gift to support Sunshine Ministries as they continue to serve our St. Louis neighbors in need of a new beginning in life!

I want to support Sunshine Ministries with a gift of \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

I want to partner with Sunshine with a new monthly gift of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

My gift by check is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please clip and mail to Sunshine Ministries, PO Box 66880, St. Louis, MO 63166-6880

You may also make your secure donation online at sunshineminstries.org.

To charge your gift by phone, call us at (314)231-8209.

