GARY And ERIKA

The truth can’t be negated: The needs of the homeless are just as great as in the winter, and this year they may be even more urgent. Right now we’re doing all we can to prepare for a situation that may strain emergency family space in our area that expected in the months ahead. As a result of the lingering cold weather, our staff remains vigilant at all times, where our numbers otherwise would have declined. From now on we count on hours instead of nightly stays. And more homeless and struggling families mean more children entering a summer cottage at our Camp GREENBOO. We’ve added 13 extra spots at camp where we welcome 1,000 children this summer. Please continue to stand alongside us in our ministry as we continue to be so much more than a soup kitchen to our city’s homeless men, women and children. Your financial gifts and faithful prayers are our most powerful resource.

For His glory,
Rev. Daniel J. Doty,
Executive Director

GETTING TO THE ROOT OF HOMELESSNESS

We often say hope begins with a meal, but a bowl of soup alone won’t change a life. The needs of the homeless extend far beyond the basics of food and shelter. The reasons people become displaced are varied, complex and unique to each individual. Yet there are common factors that contribute to the situations we encounter here at the Mission, and we’re addressing these needs and offering through our emergency shelters and long-term recovery programs.

Many of those we help battle addiction, primarily to alcohol or drugs, a tragic combination. But some men and women have lost their lives to gambling, post-traumatic stress disorder, and even unprovoked grief. One man had spent years on the streets for men and New Life Program for families help them understand and overcome destructive behaviors, establish a risk-free prevention plan and rebuild their futures.

Others suffer from mental illness that limits their ability to function in society. Many people with bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia and depression may never have been diagnosed, so the onset of their disease can be devastating. One staff is trained to understand their behaviors and embrace them with patience and compassion. Confronting a disabled person’s disruptive behaviors demands more attention to accommodating success. We work in partnership with Thomas Mullally Center. Real Life Skills, a nationally recognized model and develop a plan that includes Christian counseling and developing skills that reinforce habit patterns to help them rebuild their lives with dignity.

GARY and ERIKA

After years of addiction—after losing their four children—Gary and Erika were homeless. They tried, in their truck in the woods, accepting money to get by. Gary describes the day they found themselves in that situation. “We were tired and hungry. We made a plan. Geneva Miller left the truck.” Instead, Gary walked into a nearby church and asked for help. He was referred to City Union Mission.

“I’ve told all about God that day,” Gary says. “He was with us.” The couple joined our New Life Program and not learning the skills and values that provide the foundation for a stable life. “Communication, money management, relapse prevention—these are all big help,” Erika says. “They’re all of us getting our GED. Gary shares, “But the most important is strengthening our relationship with God. This is a great place to do that.”

Get more information on our City Thrift Stores. Through financial contributions including individual gifts, estate planning and more. To learn about the many ways you can make a difference to the Mission and those we serve, contact Dennis Chapman at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476 or Dennis.Chapman@cityunionmission.org. More Than a SOUP KITCHEN

“Growing up in church, but it was too go to church. No one ever told me that God was a real God. I was a real God. I was a real God. I was a real God. I was a real God.”

KATHLEEN

“Growing up in church, but it was too go to church. No one ever told me that God was a real God. I was a real God. I was a real God. I was a real God.”

KATHLEEN

“You aren’t alone in your struggle,” Kathleen says. Instead, she found a relationship with a man she met during her addiction, endured depression and shared her homelessness. The couple came to the Mission several times, better staying for long. Finally Kathleen came on her own and joined our New Life Program. “At first I didn’t think I needed any of those classes—the communications and money management, but I found out I needed all of it. My goal is to be a different person. I don’t hang out, I keep to myself as an and a.”

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Four Reasons to Support City Thrift Stores

1. Thrift store sales support City Union Mission’s ministry. Because we receive no government funding, the Mission relies on gifts from friends like you and sales from our thrift stores to help pay for food and shelter for the homeless.

2. Working at the stores helps our residents gain experience. "It prepares a person to get to a job on time and put in a full day’s work,” says Mission staff. Men and women in our long-term recovery programs leave here with retail experience they need to land a job.

3. The stores allow the community to share with the poor. "Volunteering at the thrift stores or donating items gives people an understanding of why we’re here and what we do,” our staff explains. Nearly 85 percent of the goods at our Lexington City Thrift—tens of thousands of items each year—are given free of charge to our homeless and impoverished neighbors.

4. You’ll find tremendous bargains! Who doesn’t love to get a great deal when they’re shopping for a new outfit or something fun for their home? Our City Thrift stores are loaded with new and slightly used merchandise and rare finds!

Send Youngsters Back to School in Style

Once again this year City Union Mission’s back-to-school outreach will focus on providing proper school clothing for impoverished children. Our goal is to outfit 500 income-qualified students in grades K through 6 with the items required by the Kansas City Missouri School District. We’re grateful to Assurant for donating new socks and underwear. And we’re inviting the community to help provide shirts, skirts and pants. A gift of $25 will cover the cost of clothing for one child.

If you can help, simply check the box on the reply card and return it with your gift, or make a gift online at www.cityunionmission.org and include “back to school” in the donation comments. Thank you for helping our city’s children return to school in style!

Because You Gave

January–May 2013

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight 357
Daily average of meals served 735
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues 4,193
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services 273
Approx. number of salvations and rededications 289

Financial Update

FY 2012 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) $10,000,048.00
Amount Raised as of Month day $7,783,935.87

CITY UNION MISSION, YOUR CITY, YOUR MISSION.

ADMINSITIVE OFFICES
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Visit CityThrift.org for store hours, locations and donation-pickup information!