Celebrate Hope:
There's No Off-Season
Dear Friend,

I’m always moved by the outpouring of funding and time donated by those who reach out to others during the holiday season—those who provide and serve our Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, for example. Yet at the same time, the Mission requires the same kind of support for the breakfast, lunch and dinner we offer to residents and hungry neighbors in September, October and every other day of the year. The desire for hope has no “off-season.”

I’m praying our friends and supporters will take this truth to heart as our fiscal year draws to a close September 30. At this point, we anticipate our donated income will fall short of our budgeted goal. Although giving has increased over last year, our expenses have increased as well. After two years of limiting our spending, we’ve felt it necessary to move ahead with program expansion. In addition, operating costs from our men’s Christian Life Center that were covered by capital campaign funds are now included in our annual budget. I’m praying also that as people respond to those impacted by natural disasters, they won’t forget the burdens of those who struggle to survive on a daily basis right here at home.

I urge you to read about our annual CELEBRATE HOPE: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless campaign on pages 3 and 4 and consider ways you might assist the Mission in completing our 2011 fiscal year on target between now and the end of September—and partner with us in our efforts to begin the new year on strong financial footing. The need for generosity has no “off-season” either, and I’m so grateful for your continued support and prayers. God bless you.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director
On October 1, City Union Mission launches our annual CELEBRATE HOPE: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless campaign to raise a significant portion of our annual donated income by January 31, 2012. This year’s goal is $4.1 million and will lay the financial foundation to continue our programs of rescue, recovery and reaching out. There’s no “off season” for need . . . so there’s no “off season” for giving. We invite you to participate as your situation allows, knowing your generosity will have a tangible and transformational impact on thousands of men, women and families like these every day of the year.

Your support of our CELEBRATE HOPE: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless campaign provides ...

Rescue for Tom

When Tom and his wife moved here from Minnesota, they were forced to separate when he didn’t meet the requirements to join her in subsidized housing. With nowhere to go, the 61-year-old man took to the streets and began panhandling for money to buy food. When the weather turned cold in October, the elements became too much for him to bear. He began having chest pains and was taken to an emergency room. When the medical staff learned he was homeless, they called a cab and sent him to City Union Mission.

While he’s here, he’s showing his thanks to the Mission by assisting in our laundry facility. As soon as he turns 62, he’ll begin drawing his retirement and plans to move with his wife to another home. But for now, he appreciates having a safe place to stay and an opportunity to help earn his keep.

“I couldn’t live out in the streets here in Kansas City. It’s dangerous and just being out there in the weather is too hard. I’m glad this place is here. I’m sure a lot of people are,” Tom says. “Most important, I’ve gotten back with my God,” he says. And he enjoys using his skills as a professional harmonica player to praise Him in our chapel services.

City Union Mission serves over 360,000 meals to men, women and children throughout our facilities each year. Cost: $600,000

Like Tom, the men, women and children in City Union Mission’s emergency shelters receive physical and spiritual “rescue” in the form of nourishing food, suitable clothing and medical care—and people who offer Christian acceptance, compassionate guidance and practical solutions to the challenges that brought them to our doors.

Ways to Help Us Reach Our Goal

You receive this newsletter because you selflessly support City Union Mission with your contributions, prayers, in-kind gifts or time and talents, and are considered a partner in our ministry. That’s why we feel comfortable sharing our financial needs and suggesting several ways you can help us reach our $4.1 million milestone.
Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless

Recovery for Kim

“Anger management, decision making, setting boundaries, transitional housing, I didn’t expect all this,” says 32-year-old Kim, a resident of our long-term recovery program for women and families. Following an example set by her father who abused alcohol and drugs, Kim started using at age 12. Through the years, her habit led to homelessness, divorce from her husband who was also an addict, separation from her three children and finally to incarceration. When she was released, she came to the Mission, ready to change her life.

“Prison was a wake-up call,” she says. “Once you admit you’re doing wrong, then you are doing something right. Here, they’re helping me get back on my feet and stay sober. I need the stability in my life right now.” Her 12-year-old daughter has joined her in our Family Center and she believes she’s becoming a better mother by putting God first in her life. “I’m growing spiritually now—I was never religious until I hit rock bottom. I’m glad to be here. It’s a blessing.”

Our long-term Christian Life Program for men and New Life Program for women and families like Kim’s include addiction recovery and relapse prevention; Bible classes and church attendance; individual and group counseling; life-skills, parenting and budgeting courses; work-therapy assignments and career development. Graduates and their families are encouraged to participate in our transitional living program as they adjust to their new independence.

Would you consider sponsoring one person in recovery for 100 days . . . with a donation of $3,000?

Reaching Out to Charlotte

Charlotte is a loving mother who does her best to care for her seven children. But sometimes she just can’t do it on her own. And when her mother and grandmother passed away earlier this year, she felt even more alone. The family was staying in our Family Shelter when affordable housing became available, and Charlotte and the children gratefully moved into their own apartment. But they had no furnishings or household goods to make it “home.”

We provided Charlotte with vouchers to our Lexington Avenue Second Chance Thrift Store where she received beds for each member of the family, along with a table and chairs, small appliances and linens and blankets. We also referred her to community resources, which are guiding her in finding a job. Charlotte visited us recently and cried tears of joy as she thanked us for helping her get back on her feet.

The Mission provides extensive services to low-income and working-poor community residents including food, utility assistance and referrals for affordable housing; Bible study, life-skills classes and job training; after-school program and summer camps for youth; services to homebound, elderly and disabled people . . . and so much more.

Nearly 90 percent of the items in our Lexington Avenue Second Chance Thrift Store are given free of charge to the homeless, near-homeless and our program graduates.

Track our CELEBRATE HOPE: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless campaign on our website or follow us on Facebook to see how your gifts are allowing us to reach our goal!
We Love Our Volunteers

Everyone has a “gift” that can be used to serve others. Mission volunteers of all ages and backgrounds—and groups of all sizes—provide thousands of hours of service each year, assisting us in caring for our homeless guests and struggling members of our community. Year-round needs include assisting in our Second Chance Thrift Stores, providing meals for our residents and guests, completing maintenance projects and tutoring children. And over the holidays, volunteers hold drives for food, gifts and personal items and in so many other ways make the season brighter for lonely and hurting men, women and children. Your gifts of time and talent are invaluable, and we simply could not offer the services you and other volunteers provide if we had to pay for them at market value!

For a complete list of all the ways you can get involved, visit www.cityunionmission.org!

Student Uses Hobby to Benefit Mission

Kathryn Harlow, a student at Nike Elementary School in Gardner, Kansas, donated $145 to the Mission from proceeds she raised selling her handmade jewelry. Kathryn makes earrings and her teachers and fellow students were eager to purchase them knowing they were easing the burdens of the less fortunate at the same time. Thank you, Kathryn, for turning a favorite hobby into a way to help the homeless. You’re a blessing!

Volunteer Spends Downtime Giving to Others

An employee of Northland Cardiology, Jamie Rutherford rallied the support of the doctors and staff, raising $2,000 to provide and serve dinners at the Mission through our Share A Meal program. The team also volunteered at our Christmas store. When Jamie became ill in January and was unable to work, she used her recuperation time to continue partnering with us. “I was making hair barrettes for my daughter and her friends and saw how excited they were, so I made bows for the youngsters at the Mission this summer,” she explains. She also purchased items like diapers, laundry detergent, razors and deodorant to donate to the Mission.

“It’s all about loving your neighbor,” she says, as she puts a positive spin on her illness. “If I wouldn’t have had this time off, I wouldn’t have been able to do this!”

Walgreens Provides Barbeque Feast

Residents and guests of the Mission’s Men’s Center enjoyed a barbeque feast, donated, cooked and served by 20 general managers of the Kansas City East District Walgreens stores. The event was the inspiration of Steve Marshall, manager of the Oak Grove store, who participates in barbeque competitions. Steve smoked 180 pounds of pork—then spent hours pulling it and packing it up to serve at the Mission. His Walgreens team also provided beans and corn. The meal was a hit at our Men’s Shelter and for the Walgreens group. “Everyone really enjoyed the experience and are already talking about doing it again!” Steve says.

Burns & McDonnell Shares A Meal

Burns & McDonnell volunteers served a meal to homeless residents and guests at City Union Mission’s Men’s Center—with 300 sugar cookies personally decorated by the volunteers! The Burns & McDonnell Foundation covered the cost of the entire meal through the Mission’s Share A Meal program. “Burns & McDonnell encourages our employees to be engaged in our communities and to give back,” says J. David Langford, P.E., Associate Vice President. The company has already scheduled future meals for those who couldn’t participate or who want to help again!

Through our Share A Meal program, volunteer groups pay for and serve a meal at our Men’s Center, Christian Life Center or Family Center. Currently 20 percent of the meals we provide are “shared” in this way, and our goal is to reach 100 percent! If your company, Sunday school class or other group you’re part of would like to Share A Meal with the Mission, visit www.cityunionmission.org for all the details!
A Legacy Gift that Never Ends

You can continue to support City Union Mission’s life-changing programs and services after your death when you endow your gift. Let’s say your average annual gift to our ministry is $250. If you gave a $5,000 life insurance policy or included a $5,000 bequest to City Union Mission in your Will, upon your death we would receive the $5,000 and invest it. Assuming the fund earned 5 percent per year, your gift would “endow” an annual stream of $250—enough to replace the annual support you’ve been providing!

To learn more about planned giving options and opportunities with City Union Mission, contact Dennis Chapman, Associate Executive Director, Development, at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476 or give@cityunionmission.org. God bless you for considering City Union Mission as part of your charitable giving legacy!

Stay Connected with the Mission!

Stay up-to-date on Mission needs, activities and opportunities!
- Visit [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org) for program updates, volunteer opportunities, moving testimonies and to make donations online.
- Text “THRIFT” to 63636 for coupons to our Second Chance Thrift Stores.
- “Like” City Union Mission on Facebook and get the latest news about our programs and services and how your compassion helps others.
- Follow Executive Director Dan Doty’s view on the battle against homelessness on his blog at [www.cityunionmission.org/blogs](http://www.cityunionmission.org/blogs).

Camp is Over ... Now What?

While our Camp CUMCITO and City Camp for kids end with the summer, they’re only the beginning of our efforts to reach out to youngsters with love, compassion and guidance all year long. Camp staff stays in touch with the children via phone or email when possible and provides online Bible lessons and other spiritual resources. And volunteers visit the homes of young campers—this year more than 300 families in all—providing packets of information about the ongoing assistance the Mission provides, including community outreach, holiday activities, school supplies and the after-school program at our Vanderberg Youth Center.

There’s no cost for the after-school program, which targets students in the schools near the Mission’s Family Center and residents of our Family Shelter. The youngsters enjoy a wholesome snack, receive tutoring and help with their homework, and take part in gym activities and life-skills training according to their age groups.

Travis Bradburn, Camp and Youth Department Administrator, believes the program has a very tangible impact on the children’s continued social, spiritual and academic development. “We have a strong academic component and are seeing some kids succeed who were not on track to succeed. With that is the fact that all our staff and volunteers are people who seek to share their faith with the kids and are consistent and relational voices of God’s truth in their lives,” he says.

Because You Gave January-June 2011

Financial Update

FY 2011 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) $7,864,565
Amount Raised as of 7/31/11 $6,651,389

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight 406
Daily average of meals served 837
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues 4,413
Approx. number of salvations and rededications 174
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services 263