

THE LIGHT.

Putting
the Pieces
Back Together

The Mission has established a direct website link for the homeless and hurting—or those who love them—to request information and assistance. Learn more on Page 3.

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From the
Executive Director

Connecting with You

Dear Friend,


The Bible tells us the poor will always be with us. For that very reason, our mission is and has always been to **meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of men, women, and children who are poor or homeless.**

That means filling gaps in service as we did when we initiated the *Hotline for the Homeless* or constructed our New Life Center for homeless families in recovery. It means growing and changing our programs when a new need is identified—like opening a new facility for our Christian Life Program and renovating our Men's Emergency Shelter, doubling our capacity to care for homeless men.

Today, City Union Mission touches the lives of thousands of men, women and children every year with food, shelter and Christ-centered programs that transform lives. To provide this vital outreach, our annual budget has grown to \$8.25 million and our reliance on our donors' generosity has never been more essential.

With your generous support today, we can empower the homeless and poor with the tools they need to put the pieces of their lives back together. God bless you for your continued gifts and prayers.

For His glory,



Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director

P.S. In our constant efforts to "fill the gaps," we've launched a new page on our website to give Kansas Citians a direct and confidential means of communicating with us about a need they're experiencing—or share concern about a friend or loved one—and to request information and assistance. Please read more about it on Page 3.



Executive Director Dan Doty and the Mission staff work hard to identify and meet the changing needs of the Kansas City community as they arise.

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace.
Acts 20:24

What Homelessness Means to

Me

Youngsters at the Mission's Vanderberg Youth Center, our Family Shelter and Camp CUMCITO were asked to draw pictures of what homelessness looks like to them and describe their drawings. Their artwork is being printed periodically in this newsletter and will be compiled and published in a book commemorating the Mission's 90th anniversary in 2014.

This drawing was created by 13-year-old Harley who shared her story with volunteer Cathy Karlin Zahner:

Insufficient income and an abusive spouse caused Harley's mom to live with Harley in "a lot of shelters." When she and her mom were accepted into the Mission's New Life Program, Harley was thankful.

"At the other shelters, we never got to stay there very long; sometimes it would be a week, sometimes a month," Harley recalls. "I like City Union Mission, because we got to stay there a whole year. Everybody there ends up being friends and gets really close and becomes like family."

After completing the New Life Program, Harley and her mother moved into a transitional apartment last fall. "When things are hard, I keep telling myself, things are gonna get better one way or another," Harley says, her voice firm and her brown eyes steady. "You just gotta keep going and push through."



The Faces of the Poor are Changing ...



One in 15 Americans—about 20.5 million people—now rank among our country’s poorest poor.

According to the Census Bureau, that’s the highest level since it started keeping tabs 35 years ago. The faces are changing, too. An Associated Press article reports that as concentrated poverty spreads to new areas, including the suburbs, those seeking assistance from ministries like ours now are more likely to be high-school or college graduates and experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Those findings come as no surprise to City Union Mission’s staff and volunteers. In fact, a survey taken in our facilities last fall found that **of those in our care on that day, over two-thirds had at least a high-school education. And 43 percent had never before been homeless.**

Although we’ve seen minor improvements in some aspects of the economy, they’re often temporary or not great enough to have any impact. People are still suffering from the lack of affordable housing or can’t make the payments on the homes they do have. Wages can’t keep up with rising prices for necessities like food, clothing and gasoline. And as benefits are being slashed, health care has become a luxury many people can’t afford. No one is immune.

That’s why the Mission must stay tuned in to the current and changing conditions in our city. With God’s help and your ongoing financial gifts and prayers, we will remain prepared to meet them head on.



... the Mission is Responding

Are you hurting? Is a friend or loved one suffering and you don’t know what to do?

In a new service created to allow anyone in need to contact the Mission for specific and personal guidance, we’ve implemented a “Contact the Mission” link on our website. Each request for information or assistance will be answered with Christian love. Here are just a few of the heartfelt messages we’ve received since the service began. Names, locations and other details that could identify the writers have been changed.

“I am incarcerated and have been living a life of sin (drugs and alcohol). I am trying to turn my life around and would like to learn more about your services so that when I’m released I can start a new life and become the man I should be.”

“We live in the area and are aware of families who live in hotels along the highway. They don’t have any place to have a Thanksgiving meal or a stove to cook it on, so I’m trying to find somewhere for them to go.”

“I am currently homeless with my children. My husband was the only one working and he left us.”

“I have a friend who is homeless. He’s an alcoholic and we’re trying to find him a place to stay. None of us know what to do or where to send him. Can he stay there?”

To request information or assistance for yourself, a friend or a loved one, click **“Contact the Mission”** on our home page, select **“Programs and Services”** under **“Inquiry Type”** and complete the form with your specific information. You can expect a reply. God bless you.

PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER BACK

It would be easy for 65-year-old Emanuel to blame alcohol for destroying his life. He could tell you addiction robbed him of his ability to hold a job . . . estranged him from his family . . . and sent him to fend for himself on the streets. But he doesn't. Instead he admits he strayed from God and from the pathway to becoming the man the Lord intended him to be. And he came to City Union Mission to put the pieces of his life back together.

Emanuel entered our Christian Life Program in October 2010. "Since then I've had a lot of instruction. Twice a day I attend classes about restoring my relationship with God and studying the Bible and that has helped me a lot," he says. He's also grateful for the assurance of a safe place to sleep, plenty of food to eat, and the clothing and medical care he needed so he could focus his energy on the spiritual and practical education we provide.

Like Emanuel, men in our yearlong Christian Life Program complete a full curriculum of courses that empower them to return to society. These courses include relapse prevention, anger management and decision-making; life-skills training in budgeting and household management; career development, interview instruction and job-placement assistance.

Emanuel recently graduated from the program and says he feels great about how his life has changed. "I learned how to set boundaries and make positive choices. As a new man in Christ, I want to make amends with my children and ask for their forgiveness. I'm going on job interviews. As soon as I find work, I'll get my own apartment." When he does, through our transitional-living program, we'll help him with furniture, dishes and the other things he needs to establish a household. We'll stay in touch with encouragement and guidance as he begins his new walk with the Lord.

What if the Mission hadn't been there for Emanuel? "I don't even want to think about that," he says. "I'd be without hope and without my relationship with God, which will carry me into the future." To Mission donors, he opens his heart: "Thank you for fulfilling God's instructions. I was homeless and you gave me a home. I had no clothes and you put clothes on me. I was hungry and you fed me. I ask God to bless you for that."

With your fervent prayers and generosity—and God's guidance—we'll continue to empower men and women like Emanuel to rebuild their broken lives, one piece at a time. Thank you for standing alongside us.



At City Union Mission, Emanuel was empowered to rebuild his shattered life, one piece at a time.



Delivering Hope Outside our Walls

Restoring hope and repairing lives doesn't happen only within the walls of our facilities, but all across the city through our community outreach programs.

Displaced families and individuals can call the Mission's *Hotline for the Homeless* for the most current information on beds available at shelters throughout the city. The Mission also offers extensive services to low-income and working-poor community residents including food, utility and medical assistance, and referrals for affordable housing. Life-skills classes and job training and placement are provided for men and women struggling to maintain their livelihoods. After-school programs and summer camps for youth help boys and girls build self-esteem. And items in our City Thrift stores are given free of charge to the homeless, near-homeless and program graduates setting up independent households or sold at reasonable prices to generate revenue to support our life-changing programs.

Celebrate Hope Campaign Needs Extra Support to Reach \$4.1 Million Goal!

As City Union Mission's **CELEBRATE HOPE: Reach Out to K.C.'s Poor and Homeless** campaign draws to a close, we want to express our deep gratitude to every individual, church, business and organization who has contributed generously to help us reach our \$4.1 million goal.

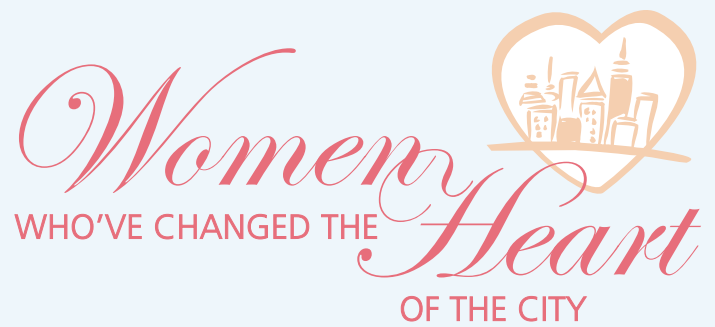
This annual fundraiser is essential in enabling us to fulfill our annual budget, which after 88 years of responding to the needs of the Kansas City community, has grown to \$8.25 million.

That's why we're calling on all our friends and partners to help us close the gap. If you haven't yet given toward the campaign, there's still time. If you've already made a contribution, your extra donation would be so deeply appreciated. Simply send your gift in the enclosed envelope by the close of the campaign, January 31. We also encourage you to visit www.cityunionmission.org for daily updates—and continue to pray with us—as we close in on our goal!



Kansas City Responds to Water Pipe Break

In October, a water main break at the Mission's Men's Emergency Shelter left the facility without water and sent staff scrambling to care for our 300 residents. The Mission is grateful for the individuals, businesses and churches who stepped up on a moment's notice to provide vital essentials, including cases of bottled water. A special thank you goes out to **Deffenbaugh Industries** who delivered eight portable toilets through their affiliate, **Johnny on the Spot**, and to the two generous donors who together contributed over \$25,000 to cover the waterline repairs.



2012 Honorees

Jane Chu • Laura Hockaday • Dr. Sharon Lee

City Union Mission's fifth annual **Women Who've Changed the Heart of the City** luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, at the Sheraton Crown Center (formerly Hyatt Regency). Proceeds from the luncheon benefit the Mission's programs for children and families, including our Family Shelter where we provide emergency lodging and nourishing meals for 100 individuals every day. In this safe and caring environment, moms, dads and children receive hope and a hand up to rebuild their lives.

In addition to recognizing this year's honorees, the event also features a new sponsor benefit called **Hearts United**. This initiative highlights women within the workplace or our local communities whose tireless dedication and generosity inspire goodwill and generate change. Event sponsors at the *Circle of Love* sponsor level and above are invited to nominate the woman who is making their business a better place to work, our community a better place to live and serving the people of *OUR* city in an inspired way.

Plan now to join us for this distinguished event, which has become a hallmark of the Mission. For more information—including sponsorship opportunities and **Hearts United** nominee forms—visit www.cityunionmission.org.

Wilks Broadcasting Group Shares Benefits of Holiday Events

City Union Mission thanks **Wilks Broadcasting Group** for bringing hope to the hungry and homeless through two events the company sponsored this past holiday season. Those who attended the Kenny Rogers concert on December 4 at the Midland Theatre were asked to bring a donation of canned meat for the Mission and received a discounted ticket price in return. And \$1 from each ticket sold for the Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert on December 18 at Sprint Center was donated to the Mission. We extend our gratitude as well to everyone who attended these events and made contributions on behalf of the Mission!

Homeless Care Fund Offers Unrestricted Giving Option

In a preemptive initiative to meet the rising wave of homelessness in our community, City Union Mission established the **Homeless Care Fund of Kansas City** with the **Greater Kansas City Community Foundation**. Contributions to the fund enable the Mission to meet the essential needs of homeless families and individuals and empower them to live independently. The fund allows individuals, businesses, and others who are restricted from giving to Christian organizations to make donations to the Mission that are not spent on programs and/or services that are religious in nature. Instead, their gifts are used specifically to provide shelter, meals, clothing, case management, life-skills training, English and math skills, computer literacy, long-term recovery, and career counseling. This fund also provides community outreach services, including case management and referrals, to prevent homelessness.

If this option could provide an opportunity for your organization to support the Mission, we welcome your partnership! Please contact Dennis Chapman, Director of Development, at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476, or dennis.chapman@cityunionmission.org for more information.



The Mission's Homeless Care Fund of Kansas City provides programs and services, including career counseling, to end the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Bed & Bread Club Offers Steady Year-Round Support

Since its inception in 1985, City Union Mission's **Bed & Bread Club** has grown to become a source of giving the Mission can count on. Today it numbers more than 680 members who pledge to send gifts of \$15 or more each month to help provide one day's worth of food, shelter and care for one or more men, women and children. In 2011, **Bed & Bread Club** members contributed over **\$285,000**. It also enables the Mission to anticipate a more predictable monthly stream of support, which allows us to be better stewards of our resources and, as a result, provide more effective service and outreach.



If you're not already a member and would like to become part of this vital group, we welcome you with open arms! Simply check the box and fill in your pledge amount on the enclosed reply card.

Mark Your Calendars

and visit www.cityunionmission.org for all the details of these upcoming events!

Women Who've Changed the Heart of the City

April 17 • Sheraton Crown Center

A benefit for the Mission's programs for children and families, including Camp CUMCITO

Bikers with a Mission Run for the Homeless Benefit Ride

May 6 • 1108 E. 10th Street

To help provide vital items for the homeless not covered in the Mission's budget

Camp CUMCITO

June 25 through August 4
Warsaw, Missouri

A weeklong Christian camping experience for underprivileged and homeless youth

City Camp

June 4 through August 10
Vanderberg Youth Center

Daily activities in the city for boys and girls

City Union Mission Golf Classic

September 4
Loch Lloyd

A benefit for the Mission's programs and services

Because You Gave Financial Update

FY 2012 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) **\$8,250,000**
Amount Raised as of 12/21/11 **\$2,620,820.52**

January–November 2011

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight	420
Daily average of meals served	753
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues	10,109
Approx. number of salvations and rededications	1,397
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services	263