“I’m having so much fun at camp! My favorite thing is swimming. I also love the food.”
—2011 camper
Dear Friend,

The greatest reward we experience related to Camp CUMCITO is when a child we’ve seen at camp year after year finally comes to the year they can return to camp as a volunteer! In many ways it is the end of one kind of cycle (that of dysfunction and poor choices) and the beginning of the new cycle of walking closely with the Lord and making wise choices. That is truly our desire for each camper.

Camp initially can be a very traumatic experience for some children. Not every child makes it the whole six days. Even if it’s only one child, the camp staff agonize over the thought of having to send the child back home because they just can’t seem to accept unconditional love AND the loving discipline that has to accompany that love. Usually that child simply doesn’t know how to respond to loving and compassionate care—they don’t get it at home and it is just so foreign to them they either clam up or act out. Much prayer is needed for every camper.

Thankfully, most of the children quickly learn to “bask” in that godly and appropriate attention—and they thrive.

Camp staff give sacrificially of themselves for the sake of each and every child. They shed tears of sadness but also tears of extreme joy. Much prayer for these special servants is also needed. Please pray often and give as you are able to make Camp CUMCITO a wonderful and effective ministry of City Union Mission.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director

New “City Thrift” in Kansas Needs You!

A new City Thrift store is set to open its doors at College Boulevard and Antioch Road in Overland Park this August! Like our premier location on Wornall Road, proceeds from store sales help fund the Mission's programs and services. Please help us stock our shelves by donating your gently used treasures—including clothing, jewelry, household items and furniture. Deliver them to our City Thrift at 7740 Wornall Road, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., or call (816) 222-5081 for a pickup.

Team Up and Tee Off to Help the Homeless

Calling all golfers! It’s time to gather your group for the third bi-annual City Union Mission Golf Classic sponsored by Fiorella’s Jack Stack Barbecue. The tournament is scheduled for September 4 at the Loch Lloyd Country Club, 168th Street and Holmes Road.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. An awards banquet and dinner follow at 5:30 p.m. All golfers receive lunch, dinner, a gift package and an opportunity to win great raffle prizes. All proceeds from the tournament benefit the Mission’s programs and services for the homeless and poor, and we’re grateful for Fiorella’s longstanding partnership in this popular event.

For information on sponsorship opportunities and to register your team, visit www.jackstackbbq.com or call Joe Taylor at (816) 305-4088.
Michael Bennett won’t hesitate to tell you he was a troublemaker. He began coming to Camp CUMCITO when he was 7 and was nearly sent home four years in a row! “If someone looked at me wrong, I’d get into a fight,” he admits. Today he understands why. “I have a background where I went through a lot of abuse. I had anger and feelings I stuffed inside myself and it was easy for them to break out.”

He’s grateful for his counselors who wouldn’t give up on him. “I kept coming back and they kept telling me how God loves you and how He can take what you have and make it different. And I really wanted to be different. I didn’t like getting into trouble. It made me feel bad to fight, so each year I would be a little better. Then I was a lot better!” Michael learned to channel his pent-up energy through positive activities like swimming and diving. “And I got to practice here at camp.”

Last year, at age 18, he returned not as a camper, but as a volunteer counselor. “I knew how the counselors had helped me, and because of my experience I wanted to help other kids. I’m having as much fun now as I did as a camper!” Michael says smiling. He’s pleased he was able to teach a little boy how to swim, and he laughs at the pool antics. “When I was a camper, we were always trying to dunk the counselors. Now as a counselor, I’m trying to make sure they don’t!”

He has a different perspective on life, too. “Things happen and they’re just going to get harder if you don’t work through them. Camp was a getaway that allowed me to do that. It made me slow down and think. Sometimes campers can be hard to deal with as I was. But they do listen. And when it seems like they’re ignoring you, they’re watching you very closely.”

Michael is a godly role model for our young campers to observe. Your gift today will provide other boys and girls the opportunity to become the men and women God intends them to be.
2012 Camp CUMCITO Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Camp Session</th>
<th>Ages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 25-June 30</td>
<td>Junior Boys and Girls</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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<td>Tot Lot I</td>
<td>4-6</td>
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<td>July 2-7</td>
<td>Teen Girls</td>
<td>13-16</td>
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<td>July 10-13</td>
<td>Family Camp</td>
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<td>July 16-21</td>
<td>Pre-Teen Boys and Girls</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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<td>Tot Lot II</td>
<td>4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23-28</td>
<td>Primary Boys and Girls</td>
<td>7-8</td>
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<td>Tot Lot III</td>
<td>4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30-Aug. 3</td>
<td>Teen Boys Camp</td>
<td>13-16</td>
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Sponsor a Child and Change a Life

As you glance at the smiling faces of the young campers pictured in these pages, it’s hard to imagine many of them come from environments where domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction, and physical and verbal abuse are daily realities. At Camp CUMCITO, children can escape these horrors and hardships . . . and just be kids.

For six sensational days, boys and girls discover the beauty of God’s creation in the Ozarks. They enjoy activities like swimming, canoeing, crafts and making s’mores around a campfire. Most important, they are surrounded by God’s abundant love, expressed through our amazing camp staff and volunteers.

Because the families we serve struggle to pay for necessities like groceries, utilities and gasoline, we charge them only a $5 registration fee for each child who attends camp. Yet the total cost is just over $80 a day, or $484 for one week. That covers Bibles for every boy and girl; healthy meals and snacks; clean, comfortable beds; arts and crafts supplies; transportation to and from the city; and camp facilities and upkeep. We rely on financial support from caring friends like you to make up the balance and give deserving youngsters this life-transforming experience.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one or more children with a gift of:

- $484 to cover an entire week of camp
- $242 to help with three days of camp
- $80.67 to help with one day of camp
- $25 to complete other sponsorship gifts

A week of camp is an amazing gift for a child who needs to experience God's unconditional love and to learn He has a plan for their lives. Please send your contribution today.

It Takes a Community to Make Camp Happen

Last year, Camp CUMCITO opened its doors to nearly 500 children and teens, one of our busiest seasons ever. This year we expect to provide a life-changing camp experience to even more children! If the Mission had to rely on staff alone to accomplish this feat, it would be nearly impossible. That’s why we’re so grateful for the community of volunteers that make camp happen.

These compassionate individuals represent every age group and assume a variety of responsibilities. They serve as counselors, cooks, crafts directors—even nurses. Sewing groups make laundry bags for our young campers. Church groups clean up the camp between sessions. Loving friends donate clothing boys and girls need at camp but may not have at home. “In the basement of the chapel is a little ‘store’ where the children can pick out shoes, swimsuits and shorts. It’s like Christmas for them,” says volunteer Amy Garate. And generous donors provide a foundation of financial support.

Some volunteers, like Cindy Barrichter, return to help year after year. What has kept her coming for a decade now? “To see people walking with Jesus and to experience the other volunteers’ excitement at being servants to God and the children. It’s what it does to your heart.”

If you or your group is interested in volunteering at Camp CUMCITO this year, visit www.cityunionmission.org for a list of opportunities yet to be filled!
Youngsters not attending Camp CUMCITO won’t miss out on summer fun. Now in its third year, City Union Mission’s City Camp gives urban youngsters a safe and constructive alternative to spending summer days idle, on the streets. The 10-week day camp is free to boys and girls, ages 7 to 17, who are residents in the Mission’s Family Shelter, who have participated or are currently enrolled in the Mission’s youth programs, or who live within eight blocks of our Family Shelter. Campers enjoy Bible studies and devotions, arts and crafts, and activities that enhance reading, computer and other academic skills. They also take part in field trips and service projects. The program runs weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes a wholesome lunch and snacks.

Last year 118 boys and girls attended this summer-long adventure, and this year we expect even more will take part. Our ability to offer a fulfilling City Camp experience rests on the donations we receive from friends like you to provide transportation and tickets for field trips, arts and crafts materials, swimsuits and sunscreen, and nutritious food for lunch and snacks. Please make your gift online at www.cityunionmission.org or return it in the envelope provided. Thank you for helping us keep our young people safe as they learn and grow in God’s love.

Comments from last year’s City Campers

“Can we register for next summer yet, because I am definitely coming back.” -Marianna

“It was an awesome summer. I love you guys. I’m coming back next year!” -Jayden

When Summer Ends …
our Outreach to Children Continues!

Strengthening young bodies, minds and spirits is vital to helping children gain the confidence and skills they need to become independent and godly adults. Our Saturday Rec Group for boys and girls living in our facilities and Outreach Open Gym for neighborhood youngsters offer kids the opportunity to just be kids, with games, devotions, crafts and snacks under the supervision of Mission mentors and volunteers. We also provide after-school care and tutoring programs for youngsters in our Family Shelter and New Life Program, and for students from two neighboring schools. The program includes assessments in reading and math and a course of study designed for each student. Through the Mission’s programs, children of homeless families in our shelter are assisted with math and reading skills while waiting to get back into school. We also work with the families to make sure their children have transportation to their schools of origin. In addition, our Children and Teen’s Chapel and Bible Club empower boys and girls with God’s Word as a foundation for life.

We’re always in need of mentors and volunteers to help with these year-round youth programs. We invite you to visit www.cityunionmission.org to find out how you can get involved!

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. Their artwork is being printed periodically in this newsletter and will be published in a book commemorating the Mission’s 90th anniversary in 2014.

This drawing was created by 11-year-old Lamara, who shared her story with The Kansas City Star writer Cathy Karlin Zahner:

“In Lamara’s world, violence isn’t limited to TV news. She’s witnessed it both inside and outside her home. Neighborhood break-ins. Drive-by shootings. But the scariest time was when her father, who is divorced from her mother, visited their apartment while she was sleeping.

“He was drinking, I guess, and he stumbled on the stairs and threw a glass bottle on the floor. It woke me up. My mom was laying on my bed and he was choking her. My grandma called the police. We had to move because he said he’d kill my mom if she ever called the police on him again. I’m not scared of anything now; only my Dad.”

As she speaks, she draws a clown’s face. With crayons, she creates pools of blue tears in his eyes; one tear spills down his left cheek. “If you are sad, you can draw a sad clown and it makes you feel a little better because you feel someone understands you.”
Annual Event Benefits Mission’s Programs for Homeless Women and Families

For the fifth consecutive year, City Union Mission honored women whose leadership and humanitarianism have had a profound and positive impact on our community at our Women Who’ve Changed the Heart of the City luncheon. More than 700 attended the April 17 event at the Sheraton Crown Center benefitting the Mission’s programs and services to uplift homeless women and families. Jane Chu, Laura R. Hockaday and Dr. Sharon Lee were celebrated as the 2012 distinguished honorees.

City Union Mission extends its sincere appreciation to these Sponsors and Table Hosts

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Great care was taken to ensure this list was complete at the time of printing. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.

Because You Gave

Financial Update

January-March 2012

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight 447
Daily average of meals served 657
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues 2,704
Approx. number of salvations and rededications 112
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services 268

FY 2012 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) $8,250,000
Amount Raised as of 4/28/12 $5,657,083.50