

# THE LIGHT.

An Invitation  
to a Banquet of  
Restoration  
and HOPE



YOUR CITY.  
YOUR MISSION.  
CITY UNION MISSION.

**YOUR CITY.  
YOUR MISSION.  
CITY UNION MISSION.**

**Administrative Offices**  
1100 E. 11th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
(816) 754-9992  
www.cityunionmission.org  
info@cityunionmission.org

**From the  
Executive Director**

# Connecting with You

Dear Friend,

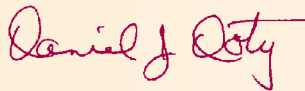
People want to be accepted. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. That desire often leads us to join destructive groups that can demand a high price for entering—including drug or alcohol use or even violence.

Jesus, on the other hand, turns this upside down. He decides to pay the price with His death and give hope through His resurrection. He makes a way for people to be a part of a community of grace and love. Furthermore, He calls us to compel those who desire acceptance to come to Him. At City Union Mission, we offer a place where the homeless and hurting can do so—through your faithful prayers and financial gifts. Your partnership in our ministry couldn't be more important than today.


**Our fiscal year ends September 30—and as of July 31, we are \$157,980 behind in donations compared to last year and our current budgeted needs to care for our community's homeless and poor.**

If you're able to contribute above and beyond what you might typically give at this time, we'd be so deeply grateful. We thank you and our many other supporters and volunteers who make the Mission a community that invites those who are poor, crippled and lame to a better tomorrow filled with hope.

For His glory,



Rev. Daniel J. Doty  
Executive Director



Executive Director Dan Doty and everyone in the Mission kitchen know a nutritious meal can bring our guests comfort and hope.

*When Jesus was a guest for dinner, He spoke, saying "... when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed."*

—Luke 14:13-14 (NIV)

## Touching the Lives of Impoverished Young People



Nearly 600 students and their families "shopped" for free school clothes July 23 through August 10 at a back-to-school store set up at the Mission. Each income-qualified student received an outfit made up of items required by the Kansas City Missouri School District, including a blue polo shirt, khaki pants, two pairs of white socks and two pairs of underwear.

The shirts and pants were provided at a reduced cost to the Mission by **Dennis Uniform Manufacturing Company**, and Overland Park Branch Manager Pat Mayer was on hand to help with the distribution. "I know City Union Mission has supported area students for years, and our goal has always been to partner with schools and programs that benefit education and encourage students to excel," she said. We're grateful to Dennis Uniform for this wonderful contribution that will empower youngsters to feel good about themselves so they can do their best work in school.



More than 530 youngsters attended City Union Mission's summer camp, June 25 through August 3. Despite the record-breaking temperatures, the eager campers had no trouble staying cool. "There was plenty of time for swimming in the pool and lots of activities in the lake," reports Travis Bradburn, Youth Ministries Administrator. "It was a way to cool off. Plus many of these kids don't have access to a swimming pool at home or have never been canoeing or gone fishing. They tell us the fun they have around the water is the best part of their stay."

There was also time for chapel, reading the Bible and singing songs about Jesus' love—and especially for our Christian staff and volunteers to listen to what is on the hearts of our campers. One counselor recalls sharing a challenge in her own life with the girls at her breakfast table. "As they began to tell of their own similar heartbreaks, they all agreed God is real and is giving them the strength to make it through," she said.



# Where Hunger Ends

# Hope Begins

## Join Our Fight Against Hunger!

When your stomach aches and your body's weak from hunger—worse yet, when your children are suffering the same way—undertaking the hard work of uplifting your life and your family's from the depths of poverty and homelessness is just too much to comprehend.

But where hunger ends, hope begins. At City Union Mission, feeding people is perhaps the most important of the many programs and services we offer to homeless and struggling men, women and families. Because once their hunger is relieved and their hearts have been opened to God's Word, they can begin to rebuild their lives.

The Mission's comprehensive food outreach touches thousands of people each year, all across our city. We serve three meals a day to guests in our emergency shelters, residents of our recovery programs and any hungry person who needs help and hope. Children of impoverished families in our area receive nutritious meals and snacks as they take part in our summertime City Camp and Camp CUMCITO. We also provide hundreds of grocery boxes from our pantry for working-poor families and offer special holiday meals and food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas.



*"I am always grateful for what the Mission gives us for our meals . . ."*

—Darrell L. Young, a man staying in our emergency shelter

The number of meals we serve on an annual basis has grown to more than 277,000. Between September 1 and December 31 alone, the Mission will be called on to provide more than 80,000 nutritious meals for the guests and residents in our shelters and to our hungry and homeless neighbors. We can't do this without friends like you! Here are three ways you can help:

- **With Funds**—Send an extra financial contribution to provide as many meals as possible at just \$1.90 per plate (see the checkbox on the enclosed reply card)
- **With Food**—Hold a drive to collect and donate the foods we need most (see "Help Fill Plates with Hope" below)
- **With Family and Friends**—Sponsor and/or help us serve meals in our three facilities (see "Share Meals of Hope" below)

**Thank you for your generosity. As you take part in one or more of these important activities, know that hope begins with YOU!**



## Help Fill Plates with Hope

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of food to prepare the hundreds of meals we provide daily. But just how much? The numbers might surprise you! The list below offers a glimpse into the quantities of items we use the most. Because much of the food we use is donated by individuals, churches and businesses, we can fill a plate for just \$1.90. If you or your group would like to hold a collection drive for any of these items, it will ensure we have enough on hand to meet our needs now and through the end of the year. Visit [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org) for a complete list of the items needed and delivery instructions.

### Items We Use Most

**Milk:** 60 gallons per week

**Eggs:** 270 dozen per week

**Green beans and corn:** 28 cases (48 cans each) of 15-ounce cans per week

**Fruit juice:** 56 1-gallon cans per week

**Rice:** 50 pounds per week



## Share Meals of Hope

Groups of all sizes—from neighborhoods, businesses and churches—can be part of the miracle of turning hunger to hope by helping us feed men, women and children in our facilities. Here are two ways your group can participate:

**Share a Meal**—Sponsor breakfast, lunch or dinner for the cost of approximately \$1.90 per plate. Your group can choose to cover the cost of the meal only, or join us on site at one of our locations to help prepare the food, serve it and clean up afterward. At our . . .

- **Men's Center**, feed approximately 300 men for \$600.
- **Family Shelter**, feed approximately 100 people for \$200.
- **Christian Life Center**, feed approximately 75 men for \$150.

**Bring & Serve**—Your group may also choose to prepare a meal of your choice at your own facility and bring it to serve at one of our facilities for the number of people outlined above.

For more information or to sign up for a meal and select a location, fill out the volunteer application at [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org).

# The Need is Growing

Number of meals the Mission served in:



*"The food is going to feed and help us until great times. Thank you!"*

—A single mom with a young daughter who receives food assistance

*"My children and I have enjoyed the nutritional and delicious meals offered at the Mission. We have been very grateful and blessed."*

—A resident of our New Life Program

## Williams Foods Adds Spice to Mission Meals

About six times a year **Williams Foods** of Lenexa, a subsidiary of **C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc.**, donates leftover raw ingredients used in their seasonings—like oregano and chili pepper—as well as salt and pepper. "With the amount of food the Mission prepares every day, they can do something with 43 pounds of basil," said Marketing Brand Manager Jean Pfalser. The company has also donated finished and packaged items the Mission distributes in their food pantry boxes. "We were dedicated to finding a place that could use what we have to offer," Jean says. "The Mission's commitment to helping people break the cycle they're in and getting on the right track long term, that was very convincing and made us realize it is an organization we wanted to be involved with."

# Ways to Give

There are many ways you, too, can be part of our ministry to the hungry and homeless. Please partner with us . . .

**In Prayer:** Your prayers are vital to this ministry and those we serve. Please include us in your daily devotions.

**Through Financial Contributions:** Your monetary contributions help provide food, shelter and recovery services for the homeless. Learn more about our **Bed & Bread Club** monthly giving program and planned gift opportunities at [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org).

**With In-kind Gifts:** Your donations of food, new and gently used clothing, and other household goods help us meet the basic needs of those we serve.

**By Sharing Time and Talent:** Your partnership with the Mission as a volunteer allows us to serve and care for an increasing number of hurting men, women and children.

## Covenant VBS Students Reach Out to CUMCITO Campers

Children at **Covenant Chapel's VBS** learned God calls all of us to be missionaries and seized the opportunity to put their faith into action. The Mission's Church Relations Specialist Dennis Ellis spoke to the group about the children and families the Mission assists and presented a video about Camp CUMCITO. The youngsters agreed to take on camp as their "mission," donating water bottles decorated with special verses and creating bookmarks for the campers to use in their Bibles. They also collected over \$500 to send a child to camp. We're grateful to these young missionaries who opened their hearts to other kids in need.



## Your Group Can Prepare Meals for the Mission through CCKC

Through its "All Hands for Hunger" team building program, the **Culinary Center of Kansas City (CCKC)** has donated more than 11,000 servings of soups, entrées and desserts to City Union Mission. Under the direction of CCKC instructors, participating organizations create and package the meals for the Mission as part of a unique experience that combines team building and community service. The expertly prepared dishes are then delivered to the Mission. "I always had the need to feel that I'm giving back, and this is a way to make the Culinary Center a part of that and to share it with our clients and others in the Center," says CCKC Manager of Merriment Maria Dickson. "This program touches so many areas and the end user is so deserving of this wonderful meal. Everyone wins."

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences employees prepare delicious and healthy meals for homeless guests at City Union Mission.





# A Father and Son Rebuild a Shattered Relationship

When John Allen Sr. graduated from our Christian Life Program, his son and namesake, John Allen Jr., wrote him a letter. It expressed the anger and shame he once felt toward his father, then an addict and a felon, and how proud he is of the godly man he has now become. Below are excerpts from John Jr.'s moving message.



**John Jr.'s letter begins,** "For many years now, 'Jr.' has been the most important part of my name. I didn't want to be confused with my dad. He wasn't a good man. He wasn't someone I wanted to be. He was someone who, at times, I wished no longer existed. You see, growing up as the son of an addict/felon sucks."

**John's letter goes on to recount his childhood days,** developing a relationship with his father through sports. "My dad coached every team I played for," he recalls. But then things changed. "I began to realize the man I thought I knew wasn't him at all." He came home from school one day to find his grandmother sitting in the street with her car running. His dad came out of the house with a suitcase and got in. "A few days later I learned he had checked into rehab. Back then it didn't make sense to me. My dad wasn't an addict. At least that's what I thought." That was just the beginning.

"Throughout the next several years, things really fell apart for my dad. In and out of prison, lies, stealing—you name it, we were living it. It sucks to write letters to a man behind bars . . . to take the woman you love to meet him as he wears gray prison pants and a white T-shirt . . . to be asked what your name is and have to clarify because they think you are him."

Each time his dad was released, he hoped the family would never have to go through the heartbreak again. "Why am I and my sisters and his grandchildren not enough to make him change his ways?" he always asked. "And then it happened. Back he went."

**John had no communication with his father for several years.** "I didn't want to have anything to do with him." But when he was released once again, his wife encouraged him to visit his father. "I still don't know why I agreed to it. I wanted to hate him, to fight him, to hug him, to cry to him. I wanted to ask why." That day something was different. "For the first time since I was playing catch in the front yard, I felt I had my friend back."

"I don't know what the future holds, but the Mission has been good for my dad and I'm proud of what he's accomplished there. The man who sits there tonight (at graduation) isn't the same man I was once ashamed to be the namesake of. I don't emphasize the 'Jr.' in my name as I once did. I'm happy to say that I'm proud of Johnny Allen, I'm proud of my dad, and I'm proud of my friend. Being the son of an addict/felon sucks. It really does. But being your son is something that I would never ever change. Congratulations, and I love you."



## John Allen Sr. tells of his transformation ...

### from his graduation interview

"What brought me to the Mission was a desire to completely change the way I used to live prior to my incarceration. Not wanting to be a part of my old 'hometown'—to change 'playthings, playmates and playgrounds.' Here I found a group of godly people who were really concerned about me and went out of their way to make me feel wanted. It didn't take long for me to figure out I was part of something very special."

"The Mission made me see my failures as learning experiences, not disasters. They show mercy, grace, forgiveness and love—something I've never found anywhere else. I've experienced new skills for living a productive life, from communicating to being a good steward to representing myself as a godly man."

"Today I trust God to provide what I need and the staff has guided me to a point where I can once again care for myself in a godly manner. I came here expecting only a transition back to society and what I have received is a complete, new exciting way to live a Christ-centered life."

Your continued generosity and prayers allow the Mission—through God's grace and mercy—to empower men like John Allen Sr. to rebuild their lives in Christ and restore broken family relationships. Thank you for your kindness.

# The Joy of Giving and Receiving through Vehicle Donations

Through City Union Mission's vehicle donation program, a kind and thoughtful gift eases the burdens of a program graduate as she transitions to independent living.

Sondra Gentry, 70, knew there was a lot of life left in her 1993 Plymouth Grand Voyager. It had been with her for many years and she'd taken good care of it. So when she got a new car, she decided to donate her "old friend" to City Union Mission. "The Lord provided for me when I needed help long ago. Maybe this is a way for me to bless someone else in return," she thought, hopeful the minivan might be given to a graduate of one of our life-recovery programs. "They deserve it," she said. Her hope was realized.

Karen and her three children joined our New Life Program last March when her alcohol abuse had cost her a job, her apartment and her health. She graduated from the program in April, found a full-time job and began saving money to get her family an apartment. But being a responsible employee and mother was challenging without a car. "I was taking the bus—leaving at 5:45 a.m. to be to work by 7 a.m. Transportation was over three hours per day." On top of that, it was difficult to get her children to activities and appointments without relying on someone else.

When Karen received the van Sondra donated to the Mission, she was relieved. "I have my sense of freedom back. Recently I was able to take one of my children to a medical appointment and another to a movie. To my kids, it's a sign that we're headed in the right direction. We're transitioning and the next step is a new home."

"I hope it provides good transportation so she doesn't have to get another vehicle for a long time," says Sondra, after learning all that Karen has been through. "I hope the Lord blesses her in such a way that she sees she deserves a better life."



"This van was a treasure to someone else, and now it's a treasure to me," Karen says. "I want the person who donated to know what a blessing it is!"

## If You Once Drove It, We Can Use It!

Providing personal transportation for our graduates is just one of the ways the Mission uses the cars, truck, vans—even campers and motorcycles—it receives from friends and supporters. The vehicles also provide transportation for Mission activities or are sold to provide funding for our programs and services.

**The process is simple:** You must have a clear title, and all persons named on the title must have signed where indicated, authorizing transfer of ownership. If the vehicle is located in the Kansas City area, we'll even pick it up! In return for your generosity you'll receive a tax deduction.

For more information on our vehicle donation program, visit [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org).

## Estate Planning Made Simple

planning, and one of the most common ways is simply naming City Union Mission in your Will or trust. Called a charitable bequest, this type of gift offers these benefits:

**Simplicity.** Just a few sentences in your Will or trust are all that are needed. The official bequest language for City Union Mission is "I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give devise and bequeath to City Union Mission, Kansas City, Missouri, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate for its unrestricted use and purpose."

**Flexibility.** Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.

**Versatility.** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, or to leave a percentage of your estate to us.

**Tax Relief.** Your estate is entitled to an estate-tax charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

For more information on how to plan for your future and ours, visit [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org) or contact Dennis Chapman, Chief Development Officer, at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476, or [Dennis.Chapman@cityunionmission.org](mailto:Dennis.Chapman@cityunionmission.org).

A common misconception is that estate planning is complicated and only for the "wealthy." The truth is, even people of modest means can make a difference through gift

## Because You Gave Financial Update

FY 2012 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) **\$8,250,000.00**  
Amount Raised as of 7/31/12 **\$7,139,513.44**

## January-June 2012

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight	<b>417</b>
Daily average of meals served	<b>630</b>
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues	<b>706</b>
Approx. number of salvations and rededications	<b>250</b>
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services	<b>233</b>