My Beloved,

Thousands of years ago, with the birth of my Son in a manger, I gave a gift to all mankind. Empty hearts still hunger to receive it. Yet many are unwilling to accept it.

Every day I feel the anguish of families whose livelihoods have been stripped away and who, for the very first time, can’t provide a safe place for their children to lay their heads. I know the regret of addicts who traded their self-esteem for the hollow comfort of a drink or a drug. I hear the cries of the homeless and destitute who believe their futures are no longer within their control. But I’m in control. And when I lead these hurting souls to the Mission, they come to know they are my children . . . and worthy of my grace, hope and love.

I’m honored by your compassion for the poor and your sacrificial support of this special place called City Union Mission. Inside the pages of this newsletter, you’ll read how, together, our love transforms lives and restores futures through guidance, counseling and training, with my Truth as the core and foundation. My hope for you this holiday season is that you, too, receive my gifts in your heart and know that I love you unconditionally and am with you always.

Your heavenly Father,

God
Many of our residents and guests will tell you if it weren’t for City Union Mission, Christmas would be just another day filled with heartache, fear and loneliness. But here, there’s no celebration more important than the birth of Jesus, because He is at the heart of all we do! Every day we watch as His love and mercy open hearts and transform lives. And each holiday season, our supporters give generously so hurting souls discover—some for the very first time—the Truth of Christmas!

Individuals staying in our shelters will receive presents chosen especially for them and families will be given an opportunity to select items for their loved ones from our Christmas Store. Warm coats, sturdy boots and blankets will warm the bodies and souls of homeless men. Gifts of new pajamas and body lotion will seem like luxuries for women in our recovery program. Children in our Family Shelter and Vanderberg Youth Center will get new school and play clothes and the toys, books and games that are on every child’s Christmas list.

For impoverished families here in the metro area, we’ll give much-needed household items like towels, sheets, small appliances, and soothing Christian CDs. Their little ones will be delighted with baby dolls, board games, sweatshirts and even bicycles. We’ll also hold a community Christmas dinner for our needy neighbors and deliver candy, socks, journals and other personal gifts to nursing home residents and men and women in prison.

With your help, we’ll share the hope God sent through Christ’s birth with more than 17,000 gifts shared with hurting families this Christmas. Please turn to Page 6 to learn how you can be a part of our Mission: Christmas!
Before my family and I came to the Mission last year, I thought the Family Center was just a bunch of cots in one room like you sometimes see in the movies. I was so impressed by how the staff here knew the names of everyone in my family before we knew theirs. At Christmas, my children wouldn’t even have had gifts to open, and my husband and I wouldn’t have been in the Christmas spirit, knowing we had no means to get something for them.

My kids are at an age where they are getting into Christmas more, so I’m looking forward to it this year. I just want to be around others and fellowship about how God is good. Now I look at Christmas as how I can give to others who are less fortunate.

To be honest, if my family didn’t have City Union Mission to come to, I probably would have had to give up my children because they wouldn’t have been safe on the streets. Knowing people took their time to help me get on my feet again makes me want to help others in need after I have stable housing. I value the things we do have more because it could always be worse.
Mission: Christmas

While we can never match the amazing gift God gave to us that first Christmas, we do everything we can to share the message of hope He delivered through Christ’s birth with the men and women in our care and struggling families and individuals in our community.

The thousands of gifts we distribute give our staff, volunteers and faithful donors many opportunities to show homeless and hurting people of all ages they are worthy of love, acceptance and respect. Here’s how you can take part in Mission: Christmas 2011.

We invite you to purchase items from our gift lists on page 7 or make a donation toward their purchase. To contribute funds, send your gift in the envelope provided.

Through Mission: Christmas 2011, you’ll help ensure income-qualified children and adults in our community have a holiday that warms their hearts knowing Jesus loves them . . . friends like you care about them . . . and God’s promise of a bright and joyous future extends to every one of them.

Gifts a Family Receives

- One item from the household list and a food basket
- Adult—two gifts and three stocking stuffers
- Teenager—two gifts and three stocking stuffers
- Children—three gifts and three stocking stuffers
Gift Lists

Please provide items that are new and not gift-wrapped.

**Household:** Small appliances such as crock pots, toasters and irons; full- and queen-size sheet sets, blankets and comforters; bath and towel sets; dinnerware, flatware and glassware or plastic drinking-glass sets; throw rugs

**Men:** Cologne and aftershave sets; socks, underwear and T-shirts; dress shirts, blue jeans and belts (all sizes); wristwatches and wallets; hand and power tools

**Women:** Bath and body gift sets; perfume; manicure sets; wristwatches, jewelry and purses; journals and stationary sets; clothing of all sizes, including pajamas, robes, sweatshirts and pants

**Teenagers:** CD, MP3 and DVD players, bath and body sets, handheld electronic games; wristwatches, clothing (all kinds and sizes), footballs, basketballs and soccer balls

**Children:** Ethnic dolls for girls and action figures for boys, handheld games, art sets, bicycles, toys, clothing (sizes 6-20)

Simply deliver your gifts to 1700 E. 8th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, November 1 through December 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thank you for your help—you’re love and compassion are the best gifts of all!

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**Your Kindness is Appreciated!**

“Thanks to everyone who donated items in such a needed time. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to ‘shop’ at City Union Mission’s Christmas Store. My children will love it!” —Liz

“I want to say thank you for giving my children Christmas gifts. Without you guys my kids wouldn’t have gifts this year.”
On October 1, City Union Mission launched our annual CELEBRATE HOPE 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 outreach to the poor and homeless well into the year ahead.

As a Mission friend and supporter, you’re aware of the complete scope of our services—which extends far beyond food and shelter and offers programs few other agencies can provide. Our staff includes professional counselors trained to assist men and women challenged with addictions, mental illnesses and other issues that prevent them from living independently. Our case managers are experienced in the areas of vocational training, job-placement assistance and housing resources. And our facilities include a learning center equipped with computers, textbooks and other tools necessary for adult education.

As stewards of your gifts, we don’t provide these programs as entitlements or without expectation. Once physical needs have been met, men and women are required to meet personal milestones in their progress. And because we accept no state or federal funding, we’re never forced to compromise the Christ-centered values that form the nucleus of our comprehensive curriculum.

This holiday season, when the needs of the less fortunate are heavy on our hearts, we invite you to join us as we Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless with the love and guidance that transforms lives. Read “Ways to Give to Celebrate Hope” on Page 10!
Lee is a graduate of the Mission’s Christian Life long-term recovery program

Lee’s Truth: It’s Never Too Late ...

My parents divorced when I was 8 years old. When my father left, there was a void in my life. Growing up in the mean streets of North St. Louis was the type of life my mom didn’t want us to live. I went to Arkansas when I was 12 to live with my grandparents who were very disciplined.

I got a football scholarship to a small school in Kansas. But I quit to get married, raise a family and work at Cessna. My drinking started heavily after that. When I was laid off, I started working as a bartender and bouncer. My wife stuck with me, taking the kids to church and trying to keep the family together. But I chose to do what I wanted to do.

My marriage fell apart. My father was never in my life and I said I’d always be there for my children. But I ended up being just like him. That’s what I regret the most.

I made a lot of money and wasted everything on drugs and alcohol. I was kicked out of my apartment and a police officer brought me to the Mission. I joined the Christian Life Program (CLP) and reunited myself with Christ. I was doing great until a background check showed I had outstanding warrants in St. Louis. I knew I was innocent, and the day I was incarcerated I got on my knees and prayed. I went to trial and when the verdict came back I was acquitted of all charges. God came through and I completed the CLP program.

I thank the people who give guys like me a second chance. I’m 53 and I know I have a lot of work to do, but God has shown me it’s never too late. This is a short life compared to the life that awaits me in heaven!
You receive this newsletter because you support the Mission with your contributions, prayers, in-kind gifts or time and talents and are considered a partner in our ministry. That’s why we want to make you aware of opportunities to extend your generosity in the critical months ahead.

**Your contribution today, in support of our CELEBRATE HOPE campaign, will have a tangible and transformational impact on thousands of men, women and families.** Here’s how you can help the Mission reach our $4.1 million goal:

- Respond to our mailings from now until January 31, 2012, with generous gifts or donate online at [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org).
- Become a campaign ambassador, encouraging others to get involved.
- Bring your church for a service project or tour, or invite a friend to an *Awareness Luncheon* held the third Friday of each month. Please RSVP to info@cityunionmission.org.
- Ask coworkers to make a holiday gift in honor of a client, vendor or associate.
- Contact Dennis Chapman, Chief Development Officer, to discuss “challenge” or “matching” gift opportunities. Or ask how a donation of stock and collectibles such as coins, artwork or antiques could benefit the Mission, as well. Email give@cityunionmission.org or call (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476.

Please continue to give as God leads—and know every dollar touches lives with God’s Truth! Thank you.
When I realized my daughters and I had no place to go, a bolt of frustration rushed through me. Not wanting my emotions to get the best of me, I took a step back from my situation and began to talk to God. I sincerely prayed and cried out to God seeking His help. I remember asking Him to humble me and to guide my steps. I was compelled to call the Mission’s Hotline for the Homeless—(816) 474-4599. It was important for me not to depend on family and friends any longer.

I was grateful to learn City Union Mission had one room left. I explained to my 4-year-old that we could no longer look to others to support us. It was really time for us to step out on faith and put ourselves in a position where we look to no one but our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Being homeless has been a physical, spiritual and emotional journey. But at the same time, you can’t imagine how rewarding this experience has been. Thank you, City Union Mission, for allowing the Holy Spirit to flow within your walls, for Christian fellowship, praise and worship time. Thank you for the countless life-skills classes taught with the Gospel in mind, beginning and ending with prayer. What more could I ask for?
This holiday season City Union Mission will provide Thanksgiving meals to our residents and guests—and poverty-stricken members of our community—who face hardships of all kinds.

Homelessness and hunger. Layoffs and evictions. Abandonment or abuse. And countless other challenging circumstances. The outpouring of compassion from our friends and volunteers enables us to provide these important meals—and so much more! For some, “so much more” means safe refuge from the streets. For others it means unconditional acceptance and Christian guidance and counseling. For still more it means addiction recovery, vocational training and the opportunity to turn their lives around. But regardless of the situations that brought them to our doors, “so much more” always means feeling loved!

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, loving volunteers from The Church of the Resurrection in Overland Park will serve a traditional feast to the men in our emergency shelter and residents of our Christian Life Program. Women and families in our New Life Center will enjoy a delicious meal provided by Northland Cathedral. Representatives from Royals Charities will serve dinner during the week of Thanksgiving. And volunteers will pack and deliver Thanksgiving food boxes to qualified low-income families so they can prepare a meal at home.

Our gratitude goes out to all the individuals, churches, businesses and organizations who make these activities possible through their donations of funds, food and time. Because a nutritious meal—no matter what the season—is often the first step toward a new beginning!
Lloyd’s Truth: I was called to Serve ...

My sister and mother and I began our contact with the Mission in the 50s and we obtained physical and spiritual nourishment. Mrs. Bulkley taught the families there and we used to sit and listen to her speak. As a young boy, I distinctly remember going to the Vanderbergs’ home and being ministered to by those kind and sharing people. I grew up without a father, and to this day I credit Rev. Vanderberg (former Mission Executive Director) and other pastors the Lord sent for being stable influences in my life.

I started going to the Mission’s Camp CUMCITO when I was 7 or 8 years old. Mrs. Bulkley planted the seeds in my heart to be a blessing to those around me, and by the grace of God, I’ve been able to serve in many ways for many years. Mom tried very hard to provide for us, but I dropped out of school at 17 and went into the Army and began sending money home. I volunteered to serve in Vietnam and I re-enlisted to help mom with her bills. At one point I fell away from God’s path and began using alcohol and drugs. When I came back from active duty I was baptized again and rededicated my life to Jesus Christ.

Today I’m retired with a disability from my service to our country. Words can’t express what the Mission means to me and to give back in some small way for what has been so richly given to me is a blessing.
In February, employees from Compass Group USA, subcontractors in the food-service industry, volunteered in our warehouse where donations of canned goods, staple goods and other food items are received and stored. These energetic and enthusiastic individuals sorted over 8,000 pounds of food—that’s four tons!—in less than three hours. We were grateful for their hard work and rewarded them with a photo plaque to commemorate their day of service.

Homeless Veterans Honored for Their Service

U.S military veterans who are guests and residents of the Mission’s shelters and recovery programs were honored at a special chapel service on Veteran’s Day in 2010. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Bruce was the guest speaker and offered an inspiring message of how God is at work even in war. Sgt. Bruce served 30 years in the Army Reserve and spent a tour of duty in Iraq and Kuwait in 2004. Currently he serves in the 4204th United States Army Hospital in Topeka and is also a longstanding member and deacon of Grace Baptist Church. We’re grateful for his participation and for the efforts of dozens of other staff members and volunteers who showed our veterans they haven’t been forgotten. We will once again host a special Veteran’s Day chapel on November 11, 2011, in our Men’s Center at 10th and Troost.
Employees’ Snacks Ensure Others Eat!

Last year, Kay Johnson began using her own money to buy snacks to sell to her coworkers at UMB Financial Corporation. She then donated the proceeds to City Union Mission. “Kay’s Snack Bar” soon became a hit with her coworkers. They appreciate the candy, chips and cookies and also enjoy the good feeling they get in return, knowing they’re supporting the Mission with their purchases. Kay began the project again this summer with the goal of raising $600 by the first week of December—enough to provide 300 meals for hungry people during the holiday season! Kay and her team are well on their way; they’ve already raised $400 towards this effort! Our thanks go out to Kay, and to her UMB associates, for assisting the Mission in this way!

Baker Blesses Our Residents and Guests

Brownies. Cookies. Cupcakes. Baker Patty Kenslow has a sweet treat for nearly every occasion! She has delighted Mission residents and guests with her baked goods on Valentine’s Day, Easter and Father’s Day, and even made cupcakes for the children at Camp CUMCITO! Our kitchen staff says Patty is also great for taking last-minute requests and always comes through. Thank you, Patty for your heartfelt and homemade gifts!
Each year we recognize and honor special Mission friends who relieve the burdens of the homeless and hopeless through their involvement in our ministry. This year’s celebration luncheon was held on September 29, at Fiorella’s Jack Stack Barbecue. We thank each one of our 2011 Service Award recipients for their faithful partnership.

Matthew 25 Award for Outstanding Corporate Involvement

The Mission presents this award in recognition for the many years of commitment and excellent service a corporation has provided to Kansas City’s poor and homeless through partnership with City Union Mission. The award reflects key verses found in Matthew 25: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of the Lord.” (Verse 21) And, “In as much as ye have done it unto one of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” (Verse 40)

- Assurant Employee Benefits
- Frito-Lay
- Huhtamaki
- Inspired Occasions
- Land Specialties
- Real Media

A Cup in His Name Award for Exemplary Church Involvement

This honor is awarded to local churches in recognition of their many years of commitment and participation with City Union Mission in serving the least of these. The award is named after a key teaching of Jesus found in Matthew 10:42: “And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

- Calvary Chapel Kansas City
- Westbrooke Church
AGRM Rescuer Award for Outstanding Volunteerism

Annually an Association of Gospel Rescue Mission (AGRM) member mission can recommend to the AGRM a volunteer to be presented with the Rescuer Award. This honor recognizes supporters, volunteers or donors for their loyalty and dedication to the work of the local RESCUE ministry.

- Harriet Sore

The Mission also awards other volunteers for their enthusiastic and faithful support.

- Gary England
- Dorothea Griffin Mackey
- Ken and Rebecca Ramey

2011 award recipients (L-R): Dorothea Griffin Mackey, Ken and Rebecca Ramey, Clint Hall (Westbrooke Church), Marcia & Lon Lane (Inspired Occasions), Keith Rogers (Land Specialties), Molly Turner (YMCA), David Byrd (YMCA), Becky Lawrence (Huhtamaki), Bob Young (biz2biz connections), Nichole Williams (Assurant Employee Benefits), Pastor Jim Stewart (Calvary Chapel), Linda Hawley (Entercom Radio), Brad Burrow (Real Media) and Harriet Sore.

CEO Award for Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership

This recognition goes to an individual with a record of exceptional generosity and who has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility by their philanthropic leadership role in our community.

- David Byrd, president and CEO, YMCA

Associate Director Award for Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership

The recipient of this award is honored for fulfilling a leadership role in our community that demonstrates selfless generosity and a high standard of civic and charitable responsibility.

- Linda Hawley, former account executive, Entercom Radio

Compassion for the Homeless Award

This award is presented to an individual who exemplifies compassion to an extraordinary degree and works to extend this value as broadly as possible through dedication to those the Mission serves.

- Bob Young, owner, biz2biz Connections
One of the simplest forms of giving—and most beneficial for the Mission—is a **cash donation**, which can be used immediately to buy goods to meet the daily needs of our guests and residents. You can make single cash gifts as you’re moved to do so by sending a check or credit card information in response to mailings like this one, or by donating online any time at [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org). Members of our **Bed & Bread Club** pledge to send cash gifts of $15 or more each month to help provide one day’s worth of food, shelter and care for one man, woman or child. This allows the Mission to count on a consistent flow of donated income all year-round. Our **Builders for Life** partners share their means at a very significant level.

Many loyal donors wish to plan now to continue their legacy of giving beyond their lifetimes. Through **estate planning**, including gifts of securities or real estate or life-income tools such as charitable gift annuities, you can ensure your charitable wishes are honored.

Often local companies have the opportunity to share **products they manufacture or distribute**—like paper goods, food items or computer equipment. While not direct financial gifts, these contributions provide the same benefit to the Mission by offsetting our budget so that funds that would normally be spent on these goods and can be used to touch more lives through our programs and services.

The Mission also appreciates donations of **cars, trucks and vans**, which can be used by the Mission in our daily activities, provided to our graduates for transportation to employment, or sold for funding to further our Christ-centered outreach.

*For more information on giving options, contact Dennis Chapman, Chief Development Officer, at [give@cityunionmission.org](mailto:give@cityunionmission.org) or 816-474-9380, ext. 1476.*
Jesus was born anonymously without the world noticing. I tell the homeless and hurting men and women who come to City Union Mission that God has something for them, too, that the world cannot see. They are not anonymous to God. He sees their needs even if others don’t. He sees their need for love and grace no matter where they are—like He saw the needs of the world over two thousand years ago.

Just as Mary and Joseph were turned away time and time again and God found a place for them, He has a place today for those who are homeless and living in despair. They can have hope that He loves them and sees them this Christmas.

The first Christmas was stressful and painful. It was filled with travel, rejection and fear. The holidays often remind people of what they don’t have or what they have lost. Yet, God can make even the most humble and stressful times magnificent. He can bless us with joy, love and laughter when we are least expecting it. He can surprise us just as He surprised the world with the birth of His Son.

Your gifts allow the Mission to be a place where God surprises those in need with joy, love and laughter, not only at Christmas, but all year long. Thank you for sharing the Christmas Truth through your generous and faithful giving.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director
Because You Gave
January-August 2011

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight 409
Daily average of meals served 777
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues 5,587
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services 257
Approx. number of salvations and rededications 286

Give with Confidence!

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability
A higher standard. A higher purpose.

City Union Mission is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (www.ecfa.org). ECFA is an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public’s trust through adherence to seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship. Every member organization shall . . .

1. subscribe to a written statement of faith clearly affirming its commitment to the evangelical Christian faith and shall conduct its financial and other operations in a manner that reflects those generally accepted biblical truths and practices.
2. be governed by a responsible board of not less than five individuals, a majority of whom shall be independent, which shall meet at least semi-annually to establish policy and review its accomplishments, and shall review the annual audit and maintain direct communication between the board and the independent certified public accountants.
3. obtain an annual audit performed by an independent, certified public accounting firm.
4. exercise management and financial controls necessary to ensure resources are used in conformity with applicable federal and state laws and regulations to accomplish the exempt purposes for which they are intended.
5. provide a copy of its current audited financial statements upon written request and provide other disclosures as the law may require.
6. avoid conflicts of interest.
7. comply with each of the ECFA Standards for Fundraising.

Stats/Financial Update
FY 2011 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) $7,864,565
Amount Raised as of 9/30/11 $7,876,096

Financial Stewardship

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