Christmas... 
A GIFT LIKE NO OTHER
Dear Friend,

Christmas is one of those special holidays that most of us long to keep centered on that most special of gifts—the Christ Child! Yet, so many of us get overly caught up in the gift-giving and receiving side of Christmas that we crowd out that Baby born to bring salvation and eternal life to the world.

Many of those we serve each day here at the Mission have come from increasingly secular homes. They’ve had limited exposure, if any, to genuine Christianity and come with either no knowledge, limited knowledge or a distorted understanding of the Good News of Christmas. We begin early to emphasize to our special guests why we celebrate Christmas. We intentionally plan each event and dinner so as not to secularize it or cause our guests to be overwhelmed, but to stay focused on “the Reason for the Season.”

Some of the ways we try to emphasize family during the Christmas season is to allow the dads in our Christian Life Program to shop for their children and, as you’ll read more about in these pages, we open a free Christmas Store for families in our shelter and in the community to “shop” and choose special gifts for their entire family. And throughout the season we emphasize over and over that Christmas is special because of the birth and life of the One who loves them.

Would you help us again this year as we provide special care to many in our community who need the encouragement and assistance that often results in a new or restored relationship with the Savior? Your partnership and support are so deeply appreciated.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director

Executive Director Dan Doty and his wife, Vannie, enjoy sharing the blessing of Christmas with their grandson, Grady.
When Tonya lost her job and then her home, she was relieved when a man she considered a friend invited her and her 12-year-old son, Braylen, to stay with him. Sadly, however, he eventually became abusive. Tonya was devastated, and she and Braylen then moved to Kansas City to be near her family. But when living arrangements with her mother and sister fell apart, she realized she needed to become independent and provide for Braylen on her own. So she and her son came to City Union Mission.

Tonya grew up in church and says she knew right from wrong. “But I straddled the fence here and there. I’d been led astray and I didn’t want to continue down the same paths,” she explains. She joined our New Life Program and rededicated her life to the Lord. She is also taking part in classes that are helping her with life skills, relationships, parenting, money management and more. “I thought recovery was just for drugs and alcohol, but it’s also for people with issues like I have,” she says. “The counselors and teachers are helping me realign myself with God and to think better of myself so I can be a better parent.”

Braylen too is being uplifted by his time at the Mission. This summer he attended Camp CUMCITO and City Camp, and now he is participating in programs at the Vanderberg Youth Center. “They go on outings and talk about the Lord and now he’s getting help with his homework—so many things I would never have been able to expose him to on my own, or that I could even afford,” his mother shares. Tonya says her greatest gift this Christmas is simply having been accepted into our New Life Program. “It has been an amazing experience,” she says. And it has changed her perception of a “mission.” “It’s not just a place where you go to eat and sleep. It’s a place where you go to get renewed—to feel different than you’ve ever felt.”

Through the pages of this newsletter you’ll find many ways to help us bring Christmas... A GIFT LIKE NO OTHER to thousands of people in Kansas City who need Christ’s love and hope.

Thank you for your generosity and partnership!
Donate Gifts...

Our Christmas Store opens to our residents and needy neighbors the Monday after Thanksgiving, and we must make sure our shelves are stocked and ready for the first excited shoppers! We need donations of the items listed on these pages to provide through our Christmas Store and our other holiday distributions. Please purchase the items you wish to donate and bring them to the Mission starting November 20.

GIFT LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Items</th>
<th>QUANTITY NEEDED</th>
<th>Girls 12 &amp; under</th>
<th>QUANTITY NEEDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-qt. crock pots</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Dolls</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toaster ovens</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Disney® princess dolls</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baking sheets</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Frozen® theme toys</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum sticks ($25 value)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Minions® theme toys</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbermaid® storage</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Pajamas (all sizes)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Underwear (all sizes)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Art sets</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Men & Teen Boys          |                 | Infants & Toddlers |                 |
| Bath & body sets         | 300             | Toys for ages 0-3  | 100             |
| Slippers (all sizes)     | 160             | Bottles, pacifiers, sippy cups | 100 |
| Pajamas/lounge pants (all sizes)| 160 | Baby blankets | 100 |
| Headphones               | 80              | Disposable diapers | 100             |
| Wallets                  | 80              | Wipes              | 100             |
| Underwear (all sizes)    | 200             | Pajamas, sleepers, onesies | 100 |

| Women & Teen Girls       |                 | Other Items       |                 |
| Bath & body sets         | 900             | Board games       | 100             |
| Slippers (all sizes, including 2XL-4XL)| 200 | Handheld electronics | 100 |
| Pajamas/lounge pants (all sizes)| 400 | Footballs    | 100             |
| Purses                   | 100             | Basketball(s)     | 100             |
| Watches                  | 100             | Skateboards       | 100             |
| Underwear (all sizes)    | 200             | MP3 players       | 300             |
|                          |                 | Digital cameras   | 200             |

| Boys 12 & under          |                 | Stocking Stuffers |                 |
| Nerf® toys               | 400             | Small toys        | 3,000+           |
| Sports balls             | 400             | Colorful socks    |                 |
| Action figures (Star Wars®, Marvel®) | 400 |                 |                 |
| Remote-control cars      | 400             |                 |                 |
| Hot Wheels® track sets   | 100             |                 |                 |
| Pajamas (all sizes)      | 200             |                 |                 |
| Slippers (all sizes)     | 200             |                 |                 |
| Underwear (all sizes)    | 200             |                 |                 |

Please provide items that are new and not gift-wrapped. For updated information about gifts we need most, visit www.MissionChristmas.org.

STUFF OUR STOCKINGS!

Encourage your Sunday school class, work group or civic organization to hold donation drives for these stocking stuffers—practical items our Mission guests and residents need and appreciate all year-round. Simply follow the delivery instructions above.

- toothbrushes • full- & travel-size toothpastes
- full- & travel-size shampoo/conditioner • deodorant
- colorful socks (adult or child) • small children’s toys
- small tools • fingernail polish/simple make-up items

GIFTS EACH FAMILY RECEIVES:

- One item from the household list and a food basket
- Adults—two gifts & three stocking stuffers
- Teenagers—two gifts and three stocking stuffers
- Children—three gifts and three stocking stuffers

We’ll be blessed to receive your donations at our

Christmas Store
1700 E. 8th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
or at our
Family Center
1310 Wabash
Kansas City, Missouri
after 3:00 p.m. weekdays, anytime during weekend

Compassion in Action

Last year Fritz’s Chili co-owner Diana Fritz and her granddaughter Kendal held a toy drive in the Overland Park diner, with a goal of securing 550 princess and superhero toys for the Mission’s Christmas Store. Generous patrons and customers rallied and donated nearly 1,000 toys as well as over $450 in cash. But that wasn’t the first successful drive this dynamic duo has designed. They began partnering with us several years ago when Kendal wanted to forgo the cost of a Christmas tree to help people who were less fortunate. Since then they’ve orchestrated collections for coats and clothing as well. “Kendal gets excited when the final count comes in and she knows how many people are really going to be helped,” Diana says.
While we’re grateful to all the individuals who donate items for our Christmas store, our Mission: Christmas program also incurs significant financial expenses. The Mission is calling on businesses, civic organizations or other groups to consider these opportunities for support.

Purchase Gifts to Stock our Shelves

Items that aren’t donated must be purchased to make sure our shelves are stocked when the Store opens and throughout the first few days of operation. It costs approximately $7,000 per day—or $35,000 per week—to maintain our inventory. Please consider a contribution to cover a full or partial day of gifts.

Sponsor Our “No Family Forgotten” Program

Families who are unaware that assistance is available through our Christmas Store or who don’t realize they have a need until after the Store has closed aren’t forgotten! Each income-qualified family receives an item for their home and age-appropriate gifts for members of their household. This year we expect to assist as many as 400 individuals at a cost of $25 each. Your group can help by making a gift of $10,000 to underwrite the 2015 project.

“Adopt” the Mission

Our “wish list” includes items and products we use to conduct our programs and services on a daily basis, all year-round. You may choose to cover the cost of one or more of these particular needs—or consider “adopting” the entire list for $67,915!

Purchase “Out of Inventory” Items

Our Christmas Store opens November 30. Visit www.MissionChristmas.org to review the items that have been depleted. Then give online that evening so the Mission can purchase those items and have them on the shelves for the next day’s shoppers.

The Mission’s 2015 Holiday Wish List

Program Ministries
School uniforms for 2016 term – $12,000 (2 complete uniforms, including socks and underwear for 400 students)
Emergency relief year-round – $7,000 (Utility assistance, infant/child funerals, travel, bus passes, medical assistance, IDs)
Fees – $4,390 (American Camp Association membership, safety orientation, field and reward trips, sports leagues, Good 360)
Supplies – $1,675 (crafts, t-shirts, banquet, SOS program)
Miscellaneous – $2,000 (picnic table, small appliances/utensils, weather radio)
Farm supplies – $1,500 (radios, batteries, archery equipment, life guard and pool equipment, climbing gear)
Camp CUMCITO
Camper incentives – $1,350 (for achievements and service)
Shelter Ministries
Medical equipment – $12,000 (Dinamap machine, wheelchairs, pediatric portable blood pressure machine, supplies, etc.)
Prescription/dental assistance – $2,000
Bedding supplies – $24,000

Compassion in Action

Last Christmas was the fifth season Kay Johnson and her UMB co-workers visited the Mission during the holidays to deliver a check along with boxes of peanut butter and jelly and bags of new socks. Kay sells candy at work all year to make a donation toward Christmas meals to the poor and homeless and in 2014 she raised $3,100!

David Long, a student at Fort Scott Community College, recently made his first gift to City Union Mission, a donation of $10. He says he has always had a heart for the homeless since he first saw a homeless person at 8 years old. “Being able to give—it’s an issue I think about,” he shares. “It’s a small donation but hopefully it will help to feed and clothe somebody. In my life I try to imagine being in their place and it just hurts to think about it.”
At Thanksgiving
Your donations from the list below will be boxed with a turkey in containers provided by All Packaging and delivered to as many as 200 income-qualified households in time for Thanksgiving Day. Please deliver your items by November 16 to our Food Warehouse/Distribution Center at 1020 E. 10th Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
canned green beans & corn • coffee (ground/instant) fruit juice • toilet paper

At Christmas
Families who shop at our Christmas Store will also receive a turkey and food bag with items to provide a Christmas dinner for a family of four. The bags will be delivered the day before Christmas, along with the gifts the family has chosen from the Store. Please shop for the items below and place them in a heavy paper bag. Then deliver them by December 19 to our Community Assistance Center, 1700 E. 8th Street, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
canned green beans & corn • coffee (ground/instant) fruit juice • toilet paper

The Mission will serve nearly 50,000 meals in November and December alone, and among our Christmas wishes is to have every meal “adopted.” Here are two ways you, your family, co-workers or civic group can help ensure hungry men, women and children receive the gift of nourishment and hope.

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

Men’s Center
$275 breakfast; $150 lunch; $330 dinner
Family Shelter
$120 breakfast; $110 lunch; $150 dinner
Christian Life Center
$90 lunch; $110 dinner

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 more information or to Share-A-Meal, send your financial gift in the enclosed envelope or fill out the volunteer application on our website: www.cityunionmission.org.

Compassion in Action
For the last several years Maranatha Christian Academy has challenged students, families and friends to help the Mission during the holiday season. They collect canned food items prior to Thanksgiving to assist the Mission with its upcoming winter food needs. In 2014 they collected 1,189 pounds of canned food, 150 pounds more than in 2013.

Your Partnership is Appreciated!
Covenant Chapel collected gifts over a three-week period for our 2014 Christmas Store, and their donations totaled three vans’ worth of goods! The church also provided volunteers to deliver the gifts to the homes of needy families in time for Christmas.

“When you’re taking bags of food and toys and items the family truly needs, you feel you’re doing God’s work and the things you’re supposed to be doing as a community in supporting one another,” Melanie says. She and Russ also shared the experience with their family. They took two of their older grandsons on a tour of the Christmas Store and their 3-year-old granddaughter accompanied them as they delivered the gifts. “We always have enough, but we wanted our family to see—and they know this, but to see—that many people don’t have enough,” Melanie says. “If we can help fill that gap, that’s great, and Christmas is a wonderful time to do it, although we realize the needs are year-round.”

From Mission: Christmas 2014 . . .
“Thank you for helping me and my baby for her first Christmas!”

Your gifts and God’s love are giving Patrick hope for his future.

At age 24, when most young men are focusing on their futures, Patrick hit rock bottom. Since graduating from high school he had worked a low-wage job that barely covered the bills. So when he became unemployed with no safety net to fall back on—and knew he would soon become homeless—he decided to take the steps necessary to build a stable life. He researched shelters and residential programs in the area and was encouraged by our Christ-centered foundation. He came to City Union Mission and joined our Christian Life Program.

“I’m learning a lot about the Bible and how God helps people,” he says, explaining that while he often went to church and prayed, he is excited about his growing relationship with the Lord. “It is giving me a lot of hope,” he says, along with the confidence he needs to plan for his future. In our Learning Center he’s enhancing his skills in typing, vocabulary, reading comprehension and other essential competencies. “Now I’m starting to set some goals,” he says. “When I graduate from this program I want to go back to school to become a certified nurse assistant,” he explains, recalling the care and compassion he received from medical personnel when he suffered a severe injury as a little boy. “I want to help others the way I was helped then,” he shares.

Patrick was with us last holiday season and has many warm memories of the groups and individuals who helped provide and serve our Christmas and Thanksgiving meals. He shares this message with donors and volunteers who offer encouragement through their acts of generosity and love: “Me and my brothers in Christ are thankful for your support. We appreciate it!”

We expect to serve 700 families this year
(70% of whom did not receive assistance in 2014).
We’re deeply grateful for the generosity and compassion of this Kansas City community during the holiday season. But hunger, homelessness and poverty are tragedies that impact our neighbors all year long.  

Celebrate Hope: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless is the Mission’s annual campaign to raise a significant portion of our yearly budget, laying the financial foundation to provide our Christ-centered ministries well into the months ahead. By supporting this initiative, you help ensure we have the resources to offer immediate relief and permanent transformation 365 days a year:

Because the Mission accepts no funding that would require us to compromise the principles of our Christ-centered outreach, we rely on caring individuals, churches, businesses and foundations to meet this vital goal. We encourage you to join other compassionate community members in support of this campaign.
Every year we honor Mission friends who have made special gifts of time, service, resources and dedication. Our annual recognition luncheon was held in September at Fiorella’s Jack Stack Barbecue, and we thank each of our 2015 Service Award recipients for their partnership.

HONORING OUR 2015 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Matthew 25 Award
For Outstanding Corporate Involvement
The Mission presents this award in recognition of the many years of commitment and excellent service a corporation (business, organization, foundation, media outlet, etc.) 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)

- DSI
- State Street
- Olive Garden
- Worth Harley Davidson North
- Lee Jeans
- McCown Gordon Construction
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City

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.”

- Graceway

Director’s 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 his or her philanthropic leadership role in our community.

- Jeff Oakes
- Ben Allers
- Case Dorman

Barnabas Award
This award is presented to a church ambassador in recognition of his or her gift of time and resources in order to bring his or her church into a greater awareness of the Mission, supporting our ministry in the inner city. This recipient goes beyond that which is required, exercising passion on behalf of the Mission’s vision.

- Brian Hughes, Life Mission Church

Compassion for the Homeless Award
This award is presented to individuals, groups or organizations that exemplify compassion to an extraordinary degree and work to extend this value as broadly as possible through dedication to those the Mission serves.

- Kansas City Royal’s Charities
- Giving the Basics

Associate Director’s Award
For Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership
Recipients of this award are honored for fulfilling a leadership role in our community that demonstrates selfless generosity and a high standard of civic and charitable responsibility.

- Linda Batsch
Shawnee Mission Medical Center
- Cherie Ramirez
Cumulus
- Greg Blessen
Fox 4
- Rich Bott
KCCV

Volunteer Award for Exceptional Effort
This honor recognizes individuals who have demonstrated heartfelt compassion for those we serve through numerous volunteer opportunities, giving of that most valued resource—their time.

- Cindy Weese
- Eric Thompson
- Westminster Baptist Church Youth Group
If you’re looking for a year-end giving opportunity that represents your compassion and concern for Kansas City’s poor and homeless, the following options may fulfill that desire while also creating significant tax benefits.

- **Donations of cash** are the simplest form of giving and offer the greatest benefit to the Mission.
- **Gifts of stocks and other securities** (mutual funds, bonds, etc.) allow you to give without depleting current cash reserves.
- **Contributions of products or services** your company provides or manufactures can be used to offset our budget.
- **Used cars, trucks or vans** can be used in Mission programs or sold for funding.
- **Some planned gifts** may also offer current tax incentives.

For more information on these and other year-end giving options that could make your personal contribution even more meaningful, contact Dennis Chapman, chief development officer, at give@cityunionmission.org or (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476.

### Honor & Remember Special People at Christmas

This holiday season, individuals and businesses are encouraged to make a gift to the Mission in honor or memory of loved ones, friends or associates. The Mission will send an acknowledgement to the family of the deceased or the person being honored. They will be blessed to know you’re thinking of them at Christmas and that a gift made in their name is making a difference to homeless and hurting men, women and children.

**Search Facebook**

“*She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*” Proverbs 31:20 (ESV)

*One reason to celebrate:* Seeing a family come together and sharing a Christmas meal in a safe place.

“*... they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.*” Galatians 2:10 (ESV)

One of our greatest blessings is experiencing joy like this. Create a smile for a child this Christmas by donating or volunteering for our **Mission: Christmas Christmas Store**.

“... have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

Thank you **Christian Nord** Family & Friends for volunteering at the Mission's Food Warehouse today!

**From Mission: Christmas 2014 . . .**

“Thank you so much for helping my family this year. I’m so thankful and can’t wait to see the smiles on my three boys’ faces!”
### Your Compassion by the Numbers

**JANUARY – AUGUST 2015**

- **Meals Served (daily avg.):** 587
- **Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily avg.):** 426
- **Patients Seen (for medical issues):** 24,828
- **Chapel Service Attendance (daily avg.):** 250
- **Salvations and Rededications:** 372
- **Amount Raised (As of Sept. 30, 2015):** $10,755,090

### OUR HOLIDAY Pledge TO YOU

*This Christmas, in keeping with our commitment to good stewardship, we will . . .*

1. Honor and thank God for His provisions.
2. Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
3. Share the Gospel with all those we serve.
4. Provide a family environment for our homeless guests.
5. Show Christ’s compassionate love through our actions and words.
7. Be content with what we have.
8. Not ask for anything we don’t need.
9. Pray for God’s guidance as we approach each holiday activity and need.
10. Give our donors ample opportunity to share God’s love with the hurting.