They came to us homeless, addicted, emotionally vulnerable and spiritually destitute. Their own solutions have failed short and left them with nothing to hold on to. In the people we care for are often at the lowest point in their lives and seek a foundation on which to rebuild their futures from the ground up. At City Union Mission, we believe the only solid and permanent foundation for a meaningful life is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our compassionate counselors and staff provide the building-blocks—programs and services rooted in God’s Word. And our donors and volunteers—friends like you—come alongside them to offer strength and stability through your helping hands, financial contributions and faithful prayers. In this issue, you'll read how we help men, women and children build a foundation for success through changed hearts, renewed health, renewed relationships and vital education that empowers them to live productive and meaningful lives. God bless you for being part of it.

For Dan’s Desk

A Foundation for Success
A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION
Vol. 56, No. 1 • 2016 Winter Issue

PEOPLE

Our compassionate counselors and staff provide the building blocks—programs and services rooted in God’s Word. And our donors and volunteers—friends like you—come alongside them to offer strength and stability.

WE SERVE

Incarceration—Guidance to transition successfully into the community.

Substance abuse—Individuals whose battles with alcohol and drugs have cost them their families, independence and hope for the future.

Trauma—Women, often with children, fleeing environments that are physically or emotionally and sexual and for fear of their lives.

Poverty—Families who are separated from each other by poverty, natural disaster or choice.

Estrangement—Men and women whose disorders have caused them to isolate from their families.

Mental illness—Men and women whose disorders have caused them to isolate from their families.

HOMELESS

While single men and women represent a large percentage of those the Mission serves, each individual has a parent, spouse or child who is also affected by his or her battle with addiction, homelessness or other destructive challenges. Two family members share their stories of heartbreak and ongoing healing.

A SON’S DESPAIR

Growing up, John Allen Jr.’s dad, John Allen Sr., coached every team he played for—every sport. And the young boy cherished their relationship. Then suddenly things changed. He came home from school one day to find his father had checked into rehab. But that was only the beginning. “Throughout the next several years, things really began to fall apart for my dad,” John Jr. says. “In and out of jail, in and out of prison, he’s nothing—it seems like the son of an addict is a lifetime.”

Each time his dad was released from incarceration, John Jr. hoped the family would never have to go through the heartbreak again. “Why aren’t my other sisters and their grandchildren not enough to make him change his ways?” he asked himself. The last time his dad had been released, John Jr. shut him out of his life. “I knew he was in trouble,” John Jr. says. “It’s too much.”

When John Jr. was released from prison in 2011, he joined the Mission’s Christian Life Program and graduated in 2012. Today, he works at the Mission’s Opportunity Farm in Warsaw where he provides guidance and mentors people talk about him and I see how he is with other people and I’m proud to be John Allen Jr.”

A WIFE’S BURDEN

!’m not embarrassed by my father anymore,” he says. “I hear people talk about him and I don’t hear how he is with other people and I’m proud to be John Allen Jr.”

John Allen Jr. shares more of his family’s moving story in letters he wrote to his father when he graduated from the Christian Life Program and graduated from the Christian Life Program.

Executive Director Dan Doty (far left) and the City Union Mission leadership team (L to R: Robert, Linda, Jon and Dennis) provide direction for the programs and services that create a Christ-centered foundation of success for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Addiction is a Family Issue

RESIDENTS SHARE GOALS FOR 2016

A SON’S DESPAIR

Day by day one step at a time, rebuilding a life is a long process that requires dedication and determination. Below, residents and graduates share their goals for the year ahead as they work toward becoming new men and women. Your gifts allow us to be a place of hope where godly intentions are materialized and achieved.

Wayne—After overcoming my desire for marijuana and other drugs, I want to quit eating cigarettes too.

Antwan: I want to ask my sister for forgiveness and reconcile our differences.

I want to be a place of hope where godly intentions are materialized and achieved.

Clarence: I want to start living what I believe. It is time for me to be the man God wants me to be for the rest of my life.

Marian: After what the Mission has done for me, I want to tell others about God’s goodness and assist other homeless men with employment.

Because you’re an important partner in our work, we want to keep you in-the-know about how you’re uplifting hurting neighbors and changing lives in our community!

Connect With Us

Visit our new website cityunionmission.org for all the Mission news, including upcoming events and current needs.

Follow us on Facebook for latest news and stories of lives in transformation.

With our YouTube videos, find testimonials from our residents who are grateful for the blessings your gifts have made possible.

.share with us CITY UNION MISSION.
The men and women who turn to City Union Mission have hit rock bottom—and that rock offers the perfect footing on which to lay the foundation for a new life in Christ through our programs of rescue, recovery and reaching out. Your partnership is an integral part of this building process. As a financial donor, prayer partner, volunteer or contributor of material goods, you allow our ministry to be a place where men and women can surrender to God, allow Him to change their hearts and minds, discover His purpose for their lives and become contributing members of their families and their communities. Here’s how . . .

We rescue homeless families and individuals from the streets and provide a solid footing on which they can rebuild their lives from the ground up.

- Safe clean shelter for as many as 400 men, women and children in our Men’s Shelter and Family Shelter and 40 to 60 men with disabilities in our L. Minor Care Center
- Three wholesome meals daily for all residents, to strengthen and sustain them
- Showers, personal-hygiene items, suitable clothing and necessary medical care
- Hotline for the Homeless that provides information on available bed space
- Case management, referrals to vital resources and Christ-centered solutions to the challenges that brought them to our doors

We offer recovery from addiction and other traumatic life situations through building blocks that empower men and women to live successful lives within their communities.

- Long-term Christian Life Program for men and New Life Program for women and families
- Bible classes, spiritual guidance and church attendance
- Individual and group counseling
- Life-skills training in parenting, budgeting, anger management and other essential competencies
- GED preparation and adult education classes in the Mission’s Learning Centers
- Career development and job-readiness training

We reach out to our low-income and working-poor neighbors with essential tools to ease burdens, maintain stability and prevent homelessness.

- Food, utility assistance and referrals for affordable housing
- Free or affordable clothing and household items at our City Thrift stores
- Bible studies, life-skills classes and job-readiness training
- Holiday outreach to children and adults, including meals, food boxes and Christmas gifts
- Tutoring, recreation and after-school activities at our Vanderberg Youth Center
- Summer residential and day camps for boys and girls

For more information on these and other ways to help, contact our Development Office at 816-474-9380.

BUILDING A Foundation for Success

STRENGTHENING The Foundation of Hope

City Union Mission has received a 4-star rating—the best possible—from Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest evaluator of charities, which ranks an organization’s financial health and accountability and transparency, giving donors a foundation on which to make informed giving decisions for more than 8,000 charities.

According to the evaluation for fiscal year 2015, 82.6 percent of City Union Mission’s expenses are spent on the programs and services we deliver. That’s nearly 5 points greater than 10 years ago and earns the Mission 96.53 points out of 100, indicating your gifts are being used efficiently to help our homeless and hurting neighbors. The Mission received all 100 points in the second category, attesting to the Mission’s commitment to best practices and openness with information. The overall score of 97.54 ensures you can feel confident the Mission will continue to be good stewards of your generous and selfless contributions. God bless you for your support.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

FY 2015 Budget
(Oct. 1, 2015 - Sept. 30, 2016)
$11,030,354.00

Amount Raised
(As of Dec. 16, 2015)
$3,239,857.14