THE BEGINNING

OF HOPE

WHOLISTIC FOOD . . . a safe bed . . . clothing and medical care . . . acceptance and guidance. These life essentials can ignite hope in the hearts of men who’ve spent months on the streets, battling addiction for years or faced homelessness for reasons they never imagined. In our men’s emergency shelter, their basic needs are met and they are offered opportunities to begin the process of recovery. At the same time, they are mentored to see the dignity in the gifts God has given them. These life essentials can ignite hope in the hearts of men who’ve spent months on the streets, battling addiction for years or faced homelessness for reasons they never imagined. In our men’s emergency shelter, their basic needs are met and they are offered opportunities to begin the process of recovery. At the same time, they are mentored to see the dignity in the gifts God has given them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANNY WOODARD

THE BEGINNING

OF A BRIGHT FUTURE

Patrick suffered a traumatic brain injury when he was only 15 years old. As he progressed through years of recovery, he graduated from high school, took college courses and even held a job he enjoyed. But then challenges in his life started to take their toll and he turned to alcohol to ease his despair at losing his livelihood. Seeking a way for his church to become involved with the Mission, Gaylord Mustin, a 67-year-old who “had the heart of a missionary” and the faith in the Lord, newfound self-esteem, a network of important resources and life skills that will empower him to maintain his independence.

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THE BEGINNING

OF A LIFE IN MINISTRY

Graduates of our Christian Life Program for men or New Life Program for women and families may begin their journey to fulfill a call to ministry in our Servant Leadership Institute (sLi) where they serve as interns as they are trained for a career in the rescue mission field. After their own transformation, they believe their lives are a testament to God’s grace and want to use their experience to help others. There is no cost to attend the program and the Mission provides room and board in return for up to 20 hours a week of on-the-job training. The Christian Life Program gave me hope and helped me set goals for my life. I attend church on a regular basis and have found a purpose in life.

I entered (sLi) to give back to the Mission for helping me in my life. I attended (sLi) on a regular basis and have found a purpose in life. I believe this is where God wants me to be. All of the classes have made me more aware of how to deal with everyday mission shelter situations. The experience of others who have been in ministry is a valuable asset.

— Charles

For the men and women in our care, the term “beginning” might mean the moment they step through our doors . . . start to feel God’s love in their heart . . . earn their GED . . . secure a good job . . . or get the key to a new apartment. Each of these beginnings—made possible by your gifts and prayers—leads people who are homeless, addicted and broken one step closer to an independent and meaningful life. God bless you for your continued support.

Gaylord has been especially moved by Steven’s selflessness and concern for others. At one point, Gaylord visited Steven at the Mission, “as he was a protector of those who can’t protect themselves.” When Gaylord asked him what he would do if he were Gaylord’s son or if Gaylord were Gaylord’s father, he said everyday wisdom, “God began tugging on my heart while I was in the men’s shelter and the CLP helped me gain a heart to serve others. I applied for (sLi) because I believe this is where God wants me to be. All of the classes have made me more aware of how to deal with everyday mission shelter situations. The experience of others who have been in ministry is a valuable asset.”

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— Charles

THE BEGINNING

OF THE LIGHT

mercy, we also experience MANY blessings from a loving Creator to help us hold on for better or worse. In many ways, each new day is “only the beginning.” As God causes the sun to rise each day, we’re reminded “the Lord’s loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail (emphasis mine). But we also share that this new beginning is also the beginning of a life that holds so much more, more than many ever imagined possible after too many failed attempts to get things right without the help of the Lord and His people. As you will read and see, there are many amazing pieces that help bring wholeness to lives—which are “only the beginning” of what God wants to accomplish in us. Please continue to help us help others.

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Haircuts for Homeless Guests

A fresh haircut can often feel like a new beginning. So when photographer Jenny Wheat saw an online video of a barber giving free haircuts to homeless people in New York, she felt the same gift could be given to shelter guests at City Union Mission. She reached out to her barber and stylist friends on Facebook and received an amazing response.

In January, Jenny’s brigade of volunteers provided haircuts for more than 160 men, women and children at the Mission. Welcome House and The Roasterie also stepped in with food and coffee for the professionals and their grateful clients. Jenny and her gracious group returned in May to bless another 65 men with a stylish cut just in time for Mother’s Day and the Christian Life Program graduation. They also brought treats and donated toilet paper, razors, suits and dress clothes to help our guests look and feel their best.

The Mission extends a heartfelt thank you to Jenny and her crew of hair cutters.

Don’t Forget…

Our Homeless Neighbors

This Summer

As warm weather settles in, concerns about the homeless often take a back seat to leisure-time activities. Support for our services tends to drop off, but the need remains constant and pressing. Please prayerfully consider how you can partner with the Mission financially and let our hurting neighbors know they haven’t been forgotten.

• With gifts of cash, we can stretch your dollar further, buying the items we need most in bulk quantities.

• By becoming a Bed and Bread Club monthly giving partner, you will receive estimates for your annual financial foundation for our programs and services.

• A Charitable Gift Annuity enables donors like you to receive an enhanced and guaranteed income for life while leaving a legacy to your favorite charity.

To learn more about these and other opportunities to extend your financial support, check the boxes on the enclosed reply card before returning it with your gift, or email info@cityunionmission.org.

You Shop, Amazon Gives to the Mission.

Visit AmazonSmile, (smile.amazon.com) and before you begin shopping, indicate City Union Mission as the charitable organization you wish to receive donations from your eligible Amazon purchases. Amazon will remember your selection and every eligible purchase you make will result in a financial gift to the Mission.

Make September Mission Month

During September, we invite you to help us prepare for the months ahead when we focus on feeding our hurting neighbors and special fall and winter needs. We’re requesting collections of canned corn, green beans, mixed vegetables and fruits to include in the more than 550 meals we prepare daily for our struggling neighbors this summer.

In addition to your financial gifts, here are other ways you can help uplift struggling neighbors this summer.

Send Students Back to School with Confidence.

Once again the Mission will provide children from low-income and struggling families with school clothing required by the Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas public schools. Each student will receive two outfits consisting of a polo shirt, pants, underwear and socks. While some of the clothing is donated, we need your help to ensure no child is left out. Our goal is to outfit 400 students in grades pre-K through 6! A gift of $27 will cover the cost of clothing for one boy or girl. If you can help, simply check the box on the enclosed reply card and return it with your gift.

Tee Off and Chip In with Jack Stack.

Mark your calendar for our 5th Biennial City Union Mission Golf Classic on Tuesday, September 6. Sponsored by Fiorella’s Jack Stack Barbecue, the event will be held at the Tom Watson Signature Golf Course at Loch Lloyd Country Club. For more information, email jostaylo@pga.com or call Joe Taylor at (816) 305-4088.

Join the Mission…

In addition to your financial gifts, here are other ways you can help uplift struggling neighbors this summer.

You Shop, Amazon Gives to the Mission.

Visit AmazonSmile, (smile.amazon.com) and before you begin shopping, indicate City Union Mission as the charitable organization you wish to receive donations from your eligible Amazon purchases. Amazon will remember your selection and every eligible purchase you make will result in a financial gift to the Mission.

Make September Mission Month

During September, we invite you to help us prepare for the months ahead when we focus on feeding our hurting neighbors and special fall and winter needs. We’re requesting collections of canned corn, green beans, mixed vegetables and fruits to include in the more than 550 meals we prepare daily for our residents and hungry guests. Your donations of these items by October 10 would be especially appreciated. You can also help by inviting a Mission representative to speak to your civic or church group about ways to bring hope to people in need.

For details on these and other Mission Month activities, visit cityunionmission.org.

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COMMUNITY GARDEN OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR “GROWTH”

Residents and staff from the Mission’s New Life Program (NLP) will be planting and maintaining a vegetable garden with help from Kansas City Community Gardens, a not-for-profit organization that assists low-income persons and community organizations in producing fresh produce from garden plots in backyards, vacant lots and community sites. Applied named, the New Life Gardens, the project will provide NLP residents with work therapy toward their goal of a new beginning.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

FY 2015 Budget

$11,030,354.00

Amount Raised

(as of June 15, 2016)

$8,755,166.93

Your Compassion by the Numbers

JANUARY — MAY 2016

548 Meals Served (daily avg.)

381 Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily avg.)

22,492 Patients Seen (for medical issues)

224 Salutations and Rededications

200 Chapel Service Attendance (daily avg.)