Are You The One?

who touched Kevin’s life ...

Turn to Page 3 to read Kevin’s heartwarming story of healing and hope.

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THE LIGHT

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Make camp happen for kids – Page 3 flap

We need TP – Page 4 flap

Honoring decades of partnership – Page 4
FOR DECADES OF PARTNERSHIP

Max Murray was born in 1924 – the same year the Mission was founded. Now at age 93, he has been a faithful partner, teammate and financial donor for more than 50 years.

“I’ve always tried to be a blessing and a help to City Union Mission and the downtrodden people who walk up and down the streets, because you never know where they’ve come from,” he says. “Sometimes they come just to get a cup of coffee... sometimes to get a meal... sometimes to have someone give them a kind message or to take them in when there’s no one else to take them in. And there’s always God’s Word.”

Recently, we visited Max at his home to honor him for his decades of service and generosity. Volunteers from our Christian Life Program came along to help with any home repairs or yard work he needed. We were also accompanied by a resident named Kevin – whose story appears on Page 3 – who shared his words of gratitude: “Max, you and City Union Mission literally saved my life. I want to thank you for that, sir.”

Your faithful and consistent giving can transform lives . . .

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<th>PHYSICALLY</th>
<th>EDUCATIONALLY</th>
<th>SPIRITUALLY</th>
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<td>• Safe, clean shelter for nearly 500 homeless men, women and children each night</td>
<td>• Life-skills training in budgeting, parenting and other essential competencies</td>
<td>• Long-term Christian Life Program for men; New Life Program for women and families</td>
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<td>• Three wholesome meals daily for our residents and guests</td>
<td>• Adult education classes and GED preparation in the Mission’s Learning Center</td>
<td>• Bible classes, spiritual guidance and church attendance</td>
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<td>• Showers, suitable clothing and necessary medical care</td>
<td>• Career development and job-readiness training</td>
<td>• Faith-based individual and group counseling</td>
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<td>• Food, clothing, utility assistance and housing referrals to prevent homelessness</td>
<td>• After-school tutoring, recreation and supervised activities for youth</td>
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Become A Bed & Bread Club Monthly Giving Partner In 2017

Our Bed & Bread Club monthly giving partners provide a predictable stream of revenue to fund our programs and services that empower lives to change physically, spiritually and educationally. If you’re not already a member of this vital group, we encourage you to join today! Your pledge of $35, $25 or $15 per month will help ensure an ongoing foundation of support for men, women and families working to rebuild their lives and become stable and independent members of their communities.

To become a Bed & Bread Club partner, simply complete the back of the enclosed form, visit cityunionmission.org or call (816) 474-9380. Your gifts can be automatically charged to your credit card or deducted from your bank account through electronic funds transfer (EFT), providing a convenient and efficient way to support the Mission year round.

You can see our touching visit with Max and Kevin by visiting cityunionmission.org and clicking on “Success Stories.”
I Needed a Place to Restore My Life

After a series of strokes that left his body weak and his memory foggy, Kevin couldn’t live on his own. In Atlanta at the time, his daughters suggested he return home to Kansas City. “But where would I stay?” he asked the Lord in prayer. “City Union Mission,” God told him.

Kevin knew about the Mission; he’d visited here before. “I struggled with drugs at one time and lost everything,” he explains. “I slept here. I ate the food. I was at rock bottom.” He finally beat his addiction, got a job and donated part of his first paycheck to our ministry. So when the Lord led him back to our doors once again, he knew he was here for a reason.

Since coming to the Mission, Kevin’s health has improved and the spiritual teachings of our Christian Life Program have inspired him. “The classes are sharpening my mind and making me stronger,” he says.

He is also grateful for the Mission’s leadership and staff who ensure his needs are met and are guiding him in his recovery. “I can feel their prayers on my behalf,” he says, adding that their discipline and accountability are moving him to reach out to others. When he leaves our care, he hopes to someday start a ministry for the homeless on the streets.

With your compassion and support, Kevin’s life is being restored physically, spiritually, and by the example of the godly brethren he has come to love so much. “I wouldn’t trade this for the world,” he says. “I’m actually glad the strokes came to send me back here to the Mission and the Christian Life Program.”

Kevin is grateful for friends like you who are giving him this opportunity for restoration. Recently he expressed his thanks to a special Mission donor whose story appears on Page 4.
DOUBLE THE IMPACT of Your Gift!

Did you know more than 50 Kansas City companies match their employees’ gifts to City Union Mission! To see if your employer is one of them, visit cityunionmission.org/what-you-can-give/. If your company is on the list, be sure to complete the information on the back of the reply card before you send it with your gift. Your donation will have twice the impact at bringing hope to your homeless and hurting neighbors!

WE NEED TP!

You know how fast your household can empty a roll of toilet paper. Multiply that by the hundreds of men, women and children in our Mission “family” and you can imagine how quickly our supplies are depleted. In fact, we go through 3,800 rolls of TP each month!

Your donation of bath tissue will be truly appreciated by our residents and guests and also allow us to allocate more of our funding to our life-changing programs and services. Encourage your church, workplace, school or civic group to hold a TP drive and deliver your donations to our Donation Center, 1700 E. 8th Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thank you for your kind support!
The new year has only just begun, but already children across our city are looking forward to attending the Mission’s Camp CUMCITO this summer. We need more than 800 volunteers to help provide this life-changing experience for as many as 600 deserving boys and girls at our scenic setting in the Ozarks near Warsaw, Missouri.

This year’s camping season runs June 25 through August 5. The following positions are available for each of the six week long sessions, which begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday and conclude at noon on Saturday.

- craft staff
- cabin staff
- kitchen staff
- head cook
- nurse
- assistant nurse
- lifeguards
- janitors
- pony handler
- “big siblings”

If you want to help for a shorter period of time, consider a one-day position:

- Bus attendants to accompany children to and from the city
  Mondays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Camp cleanup staff
  Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We also need camp interns all summer long!

If you want to “be the one” to impact a young life this summer, join us as a camp volunteer. Register online at cityunionmission.org. Or for more information, contact our camp department at campworkers@cityunionmission.org or (816) 329-1433.

In the months ahead, the Mission will be reaching out to well over 1,200 local congregations, seeking volunteers. Get a church friend to join you for this unique and fulfilling experience!
Executive Director Dan Doty encourages Mission donors and partners to continue their generosity and kindness toward their homeless and struggling neighbors.

January-November 2016

Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily average)
368

Meals Served (daily average)
692

Patients Seen (for medical issues)
11,534

Chapel Service Attendance (daily average)
181

Salvations and Rededications
495

FY 2016 Budget
(Oct. 1 - Sept. 30)
$11,149,551

Amount Raised (As of Dec. 22)
$3,941,439

FROM DAN’S DESK

Dear Friend,

Are you the one?

Everyone who cares about the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the unclothed, the sick, and the incarcerated is familiar with the parable of the sheep and goats found in Matthew 25. The obvious principle from this passage is that we should care for these individuals wherever we find them and whenever we encounter them.

In multiple ways, YOU allow us to be the ones who feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and provide care to fellow human beings who many in the world hardly even recognize. Does support of City Union Mission then excuse you and me from helping our neighbors in need or those in our congregations who may be struggling? I believe we would all say that although the Mission staff “are the ones” who care for many who are hurting, we – all of us – “are the ones.” And even more personally, we might believe that “I am the one” responsible and “you are the one” responsible to meet needs as we see or hear of them.

I love what I’ve been seeing happening in multiple communities – someone paying for the gasoline or groceries of a “stranger” just to be kind to someone else. Sometimes the need may be fairly obvious but other times it is just someone wanting to help that stranger.

Am I the one? Are you the one?

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to live out the answers together.

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

CELEBRATE HOPE:

REACH OUT TO K.C.’S POOR & HOMELESS...
and help us reach our goal!

Celebrate Hope is the Mission’s annual campaign to raise a significant portion of our annual budget between October 1 and January 31. This year’s goal is $6 million and as of December 22, we have $2,058,561 to go. Your gift today – and every financial donation you make before the campaign ends – will be counted toward the goal. Your generosity will ensure we have the resources to offer immediate relief and permanent transformation to hurting individuals and families every day of the year!