Mark’s life was going nowhere until he came to the Mission.

Today, through your gifts and prayers, he has hope for the future and a heart of thanksgiving!

Read his story of transformation on Page 3.
Dear Friend,

I’m sure that I’ve mentioned before that fall is absolutely my favorite season of the year (though I also like the heat of summer, the cold of winter and the beauty of spring)! My reasons for loving fall may not be yours, but I love seeing area farmers harvesting their crops of primarily corn and soybeans, and I love that Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

I love the miraculously changing colors of beautiful trees and bushes that always remind me for some reason of two verses that speak of the faithfulness of our loving Creator: “Immediately after the flood the Lord stated, ‘I will never again curse the ground because of man, even though man’s inclination is evil from his youth. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease’” (Genesis 8:21, 22). Also Lamentations 3:22, 23: “The Lord’s loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

God’s faithfulness gives us abundant reasons to be full of thanksgiving and hope! We seek to instill in those we serve that same expectation of the blessings of God as we express our thanks, knowing that He will bring a harvest of hope. I wish all of you could see the genuine hope in the eyes of those who, for years, had been without hope or reason to be thankful. Call me and come visit to see what your generosity accomplishes.

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

Pitcher Ian Kennedy and Family INSPIRED BY VOLUNTEERING

After serving a meal with the Royals at the Mission’s Men’s Center last Thanksgiving, pitcher Ian Kennedy, his wife, Allison, and their daughters were inspired to continue to volunteer as a family. “We were not only compelled by the people we met,” Ian says, “but also by the effect serving others had on our young girls.”

The Kennedys serve on a monthly basis at our Men’s Center or Family Shelter, often with other family members and friends. After helping set up for the meal, the adults fill the plates while the children pass out salads and desserts, along with small gifts the family has donated for the boys and girls attending the meal.

“Serving once a month has allowed us the opportunity to begin building relationships with the families at the Mission,” Ian says. “We always go there with the mindset to love on the people we meet and to serve them the best we can. Yet, we always leave feeling like we are the ones who have received something in the process.”
Embracing faith...

FINDING PURPOSE

Mark left home at 16 – the same year his little sister was killed in a car accident. Her death devastated his once close-knit family, and he chose to go his own way, earning a living as a painter and warehouse worker.

He had experimented with alcohol for several years. But his destructive habit remained in check when he lived at home. Now, with no fear of reprisal, his drinking escalated to an addiction that, over the years, impacted every area of his life, finally leaving him homeless.

Later, he was nearly paralyzed in a fall from a ladder. It was a “blessing in disguise,” he says today. “I spent three days in the hospital, and that’s when I knew I had to make a decision about what to do with my life.” After he was released, he came to our Men’s Emergency Shelter, where he was encouraged to join our Christian Life Program.

Today, with the help of our Christian counselors and case managers, he is replacing his destructive behaviors with faith in the Lord and virtues that bring joy and meaning to his life. Vowing to live for the Lord, he relies on God to direct his steps going forward.

With a heart of thanksgiving, he shares these words with friends like you who have given him this opportunity for transformation: “I walked in here with my head down. When I walk out, my head will be up... I guarantee it!”

“There’s always a helping hand right here... they won’t turn you away.”

Your partnership with the Mission brings a harvest of hope to people like Mark who are seeking a second chance at life. Your gift today and your continued support will truly bless them.

Read even more about Mark’s inspiring journey of hope and healing on our website, cityunionmission.org.

HOPE MEANS MOVING FORWARD
FOR THESE GRADUATES OF OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM

Raquelin is currently on our Advanced Employment track. In addition to seeking employment, she volunteers at the Mission’s Community Assistance Center each week, making excellent use of her bilingual skills.

Sabrina is participating in our Servant Leadership Institute (SLI) Program, attending classes each week, volunteering at our Family Shelter and working part-time.

LaDonna and her son are on our Advanced Education track. She is a full-time student and is also involved in a work-study program.
Groups of all sizes can be part of the miracle of turning hunger to hope by helping the Mission feed and nourish men, women and children in our facilities. Here are two ways your group can participate:

**SHARE A MEAL**

Sponsor breakfast, lunch or dinner for approximately $1.90 per plate. Your group can cover the cost of a meal only, or volunteer onsite to help prepare the food, serve it and clean up afterward.

- **Men’s Center** – $150 lunch; $330 dinner
- **Family Shelter** – $120 breakfast; $110 lunch; $200 dinner
- **Christian Life Center** – $110 lunch; $110 dinner

**BRING & SERVE**

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 sign up to serve a meal, fill out our volunteer application at [cityunionmission.org](http://cityunionmission.org).
YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION:
January – May 2017

351
Homeless Sleeping Overnight
(daily average)

650
Meals Served
(daily average)

3,726
Patients Seen
(for medical issues)

177
Chapel Service Attendance
(daily average)

176
Salvations and Re-dedications

YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION:
While our guests may never meet you, their hearts are filled with thanksgiving for the care and opportunities you provide every day!

This Thanksgiving Season...
HOW YOUR GIFTS BRING A HARVEST OF HOPE!

65,000 MEALS
35,000 BEDS

COUNTLESS HOURS
OF COUNSELING, EDUCATION AND PRAYER

While our guests may never meet you, their hearts are filled with thanksgiving for the care and opportunities you provide every day!
OUR GREATEST NEED... is YOU!

Caring friends like you often ask about the best way to help the Mission. Because we are funded by individuals, churches, businesses – and accept no government funding that would compromise the faith-based foundation of our programs and services – we rely heavily on your generosity, especially during the holiday season. In fact, we traditionally receive a major portion of our donated income during the final quarter of the year. **The bottom line... we need you!** Your financial support is and will always be our greatest need. God bless you for being extra generous during the holiday season and into the new year ahead.

Watch our website – cityunionmission.org – for our 2018 **Celebrate Hope: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor and Homeless** fundraising campaign kickoff on October 1. Your gifts will make an impact!

Connecting Your Passion with Mission Needs...

**Meet Sean Cates**

Major Donor Officer and Development Advisor Sean Cates is dedicated to helping friends like you bring hope to struggling individuals and families in ways that best fulfill your heart’s desire.

For example, if you have a special passion for helping homeless veterans find housing and employment – or for ensuring disadvantaged children have a safe place to learn and play after school – then connect with Sean. He can provide you with details about specific giving opportunities that will be personally and abundantly meaningful for you.

“I have a passion for being a tool to bring together those who are hungry, homeless and poor with friends and partners who want to help ‘the least of these’ in very tangible and impactful ways,” Sean says.

Please feel free to reach out to Sean anytime at sean.cates@cityunionmission.org or (816) 329-1457.

Sean’s greatest passions include working with our Mission donors, spending time with his wife, Trisha, and their daughters and caring for the animals on their family farm.

**Your Car Can Help Change a Life!**

“As a New Life Program graduate, I am so grateful for the car that I now own. It allows me to manage time so that while my 5-year-old son is at school, I am able to drive to and from work and school on time. I would not have been able to afford a car for my family without the Mission.” – LaDonna

Donate your car, receive a tax benefit and feel good about supporting our life-changing outreach. Vehicles donated to the Mission are “sold” to our graduates for a minimal processing fee (usually around $100), empowering them with vital transportation as they begin their new lives. The cars are also offered for sale to the public to fund the Mission’s programs and services.

Vehicles (cars, trucks and vans) donated to the Mission must have a clear title and be able to pass a Missouri inspection or be easily brought up to passing status. To learn more about turning your used car into an opportunity for a new beginning, contact Jon Capp at (816) 213-3982.