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**YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION:**

**January – July 2017**

- **361** Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily average)
- **663** Meals Served (daily average)
- **5,046** Patients Seen (for medical issues)
- **175** Chapel Service Attendance (daily average)
- **248** Salvations and Re-dedications

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Dear Friend,

One source of the words for this newsletter, “Wonders of His Love,” is from the hymn many of us sing at Christmas – “Joy to the World.” As a Christian ministry, we share the wonders of God’s love every day of every month, but at this time of year, and for this holiday season, the world focuses on the birth of Jesus. True, many in today’s culture seek to remove His birth and life from Christmas, but for your family and mine, we rejoice that a sinless Savior would show the wonders of His love to us.

From the beginning of this ministry in 1924 to this day, the transforming message of God’s wondrous love is what brings hope and change to countless people who hear it proclaimed by a loving and caring staff – thanks to your support and prayers.

This Thanksgiving and Christmas season, many who have found needed shelter and care at City Union Mission will be celebrating the true meaning of these two special days for the very first time. In the pictures in this issue, you will see on the faces of real people evidence of the wonders of His love – joy, smiles, family, salvation!

Our prayer is that you will experience the wonders of His love personally and that you will know His peace and joy... because “a Savior has been born and He is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

Executive Director Dan Doty and his wife, Vannie, are grateful for the opportunity to share the wonders of God’s love with their family and all who step through the Mission’s doors.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)
It was June 26. Christmas was still nearly six months away. But for one Kansas City couple, who were experiencing homelessness for the very first time, learning the Mission had a place for them in our Family Shelter made them feel as if Christmas had already arrived.

“We’ve never struggled like this,” says 54-year-old Sheilaeva. “We’ve never had to ask for assistance before.”

Sheilaeva was employed for more than 20 years as a CNA, but after a back injury, she is no longer able to work. Once a paralegal, James, 75, now struggles with dementia and the effects of a stroke. The couple was staying in Sheilaeva’s mother’s house, helping to care for the older woman. But when she passed away – and the house needed major repairs they couldn’t afford – the home became unsafe for James to live in. “We had nowhere to turn,” Sheilaeva says.

Today, they are grateful to be safe and comfortable in our Christ-centered environment as they continue to seek permanent housing.

“We have our own room, a shower and a bathroom,” Sheilaeva says. During the day, she helps with chores around the Family Shelter, wiping down the tables after meals. She is also taking the opportunity to strengthen her faith through our spiritual enrichment classes and Bible studies.

While they’re thankful for the “Christmas” they have already received, they’re also relieved to know the Mission will be here to assist them at the holidays too, if needed, through our Mission: Christmas 2017. In the following pages, read how you can be part of this special outreach to bring the joy of the season to homeless and struggling men, women and children.
Share God’s Love at Christmas

Join our **Mission: Christmas** outreach by purchasing and donating the items on the following pages.

- Guests in our Family Shelter, residents of our long-term programs and income-qualified families will “shop” for presents for loved ones at our Christmas Store.
- Children in our Vanderberg Youth Center, men in our emergency shelter, residents of nursing homes and inmates of Jackson County jails will be provided with gifts as well.
- We’ll also hold a Christmas dinner for our residents and deliver Christmas dinner food bags to hundreds of struggling families.

If you’re unable to shop, give online at [MissionChristmas.org](http://MissionChristmas.org) and we’ll purchase gifts on your behalf. $50 provides presents for one person in our Christmas Store.
**Donate Gifts**

**Our Christmas Store Opens NOVEMBER 27!**

Ensure our shelves are stocked and ready for the first excited shoppers when our Christmas Store opens on November 27. We need donations of the items listed on these pages to provide a special Christmas shopping experience for our residents and struggling neighbors. Please purchase the items you wish to donate and deliver them to one of our drop-off locations. Our goal is to have the store stocked with two to three days of merchandise by November 17th.

### 2017 CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ($35 value)</th>
<th>BOYS’ ITEMS ($7–15 value)</th>
<th>BALLS/SPORTS ITEMS ($10–15 value)</th>
<th>ELECTRONICS ($10–15 value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crock pots</td>
<td>RC vehicles/helicopters</td>
<td>Basketballs</td>
<td>Headphones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toaster ovens</td>
<td>Action figures</td>
<td>Soccer balls</td>
<td>Bluetooth speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skillets</td>
<td>NERF toys</td>
<td>Footballs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric griddles</td>
<td>Hotwheels track sets</td>
<td>Skateboards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blenders</td>
<td>Pro sports clothing</td>
<td>&quot;Razor-type&quot; scooters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookware</td>
<td>Movie themed toys –</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comforters (K/Q)</td>
<td>Star Wars, Marvel, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN’S ITEMS ($10–15 value)</th>
<th>GIRLS’ ITEMS ($7–15 value)</th>
<th>BABY/TODDLER ITEMS ($5–15 value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; body sets</td>
<td>Movie themed toys –</td>
<td>Baby blankets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pajama pants</td>
<td>Wonder Woman, Frozen, etc.</td>
<td>0-24 month toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool sets</td>
<td>Ethnic Barbie dolls</td>
<td>Diapers/baby wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless speakers</td>
<td>Art sets</td>
<td>Onesies/pajamas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair clippers/groomers</td>
<td>Kids’ bath sets</td>
<td>Baby bottles/sippy cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool boxes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hat/glove sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro sports clothing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No games or puzzles, please.**
Now through December 15th, we are accepting your donations at these locations:

**CHRISTMAS STORE**
1700 E. 8th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
Weekdays from 8AM – 4PM

**FAMILY CENTER**
1310 Wabash
Kansas City, Missouri
After 4PM daily and anytime during the weekend

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**Gifts Each Family Receives**
- One item from the household list & a food basket
- Adult – two gifts & three to five stocking stuffers
- Teenager – two gifts & three to five stocking stuffers
- Children – three gifts & three to five stocking stuffers

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

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Personal items make those in our care feel comfortable and loved at the holidays and all year round. Sunday school classes, work groups and civic organizations are encouraged to hold donation drives for these stocking stuffers. Simply follow the delivery instructions to the left.

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

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2017 MISSION:
Please provide items that are new and not gift-wrapped. For updated information about gifts we need most, visit MissionChristmas.org.
In addition to the items generously donated for our Christmas Store, our Mission: Christmas program also relies on financial gifts. The Mission is asking businesses, civic organizations and other groups to consider these important opportunities for support.

- **Purchase gifts to stock our shelves.** Items that aren’t donated must be purchased to make sure our Christmas Store shelves are filled, especially throughout the first week of operation. It costs approximately $7,000 per day – or $35,000 per week – to maintain our inventory. Your workplace or civic group is encouraged to make a contribution to cover a full or partial day of gifts.

- **Sponsor our “No Family Forgotten” program.** Income-qualified families who are unable to shop at our Christmas Store aren’t forgotten! Each receives age-appropriate gifts for every family member, along with a practical household item. Last year, 343 families were assisted through this outreach at a cost of $44,000. Your company or congregation is invited to sponsor the cost this program for 2017.

- **“Adopt” the Mission.** Consider covering the cost of one or more of the items we use to conduct our programs and services on a daily basis. To view the Mission’s wish list, visit MissionChristmas.org.
The lives you touched through Mission: Christmas 2016...

1,021 FAMILIES  
4,804 INDIVIDUALS  
21,315 GIFTS

We served 171 more families than in 2015.

The projected impact of your generosity through Mission: Christmas 2017...

700 FAMILIES  
assisted through our Christmas store

300 FAMILIES  
assisted through No Family Forgotten

4,900 PEOPLE TOTAL  
served through this outreach

THE GREATEST GIFT

During interviews with families being qualified to shop at our Christmas Store, our counselors also take the opportunity to share the Gospel with those who need encouragement and hope. Last year, through these personal and heartfelt interactions, more than 40 people invited Christ into their lives.
We're grateful to these and other partners who engage with the Mission in unique and vital ways to help us carry out our Mission: Christmas outreach and care for our community all through the year.

Each holiday season, DSI employees dedicate an entire day to serving at our Christmas store. The company is also building an inventory control system for the Mission.

Members of the Graceway congregation serve as volunteers to interview families who are registering for Mission: Christmas. They also share the Gospel and pray with those who need spiritual support and encouragement.

Heartland Chevrolet and friends provided 639 food bags for families in need during Mission: Christmas 2016. The group exceeded its goal of 600!

The Shoppa’s Mid America 2017 Customer Appreciation Golf Tournament in June raised $7,500 for the Mission and provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the Mission’s programs for homeless and struggling people in our community. The event was held at Lakewood Oaks Golf Club in Lee’s Summit.
Those around him noticed it first. Adrian’s drinking had become problematic.

“You’re a different person when you drink,” they told him. But he liked that “different” feeling, and “getting that next drink” became the focus of his life.

“Then it got out of hand and I couldn’t hold down a job,” he says.

His unstable lifestyle left him stranded in Kansas City, and he came to the Mission for a meal and safe night’s sleep. After learning of his self-destructive ways, our staff encouraged him to join our Christian Life Program. With the compassionate guidance of our counselors and staff, the Lord soon became the focus of Adrian’s life, and the feeling of being one with Him was “different” in a way that gave his life new meaning.

“I started to realize they were teaching me about turning my life over to God and getting some structure to it – my decision making, being on time, respect for authority, getting my priorities straight – so I’d be able to manage on my own when I leave.”

Going forward, he says, he vows to stay focused on doing what’s right and following the plan God unfolds for his life.

Through your gifts and prayers, Adrian is experiencing the wonders of God’s love in abundance at the Mission, not only at the holidays, but all through the year. From food and shelter to life-transforming guidance, “This is a place where people really care about you,” he says. “For anyone who comes here, something good is going to come out of it.”
We’re deeply grateful for the compassion and generosity shown by our Kansas City community during the holiday season. Yet 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 throughout the holiday season and well into the months ahead. By supporting this initiative, you help ensure we have the resources to offer immediate relief and permanent transformation to hurting individuals and families 365 days a year:

- Food, shelter, clothing and medical services
- Long-term Christian recovery
- Case management, counseling and spiritual guidance
- Adult education, career development and job placement assistance
- Summer camp and structured year-round activities for children
- The ability to keep pace with the growing and changing needs

Because the Mission accepts no funding that would require us to compromise the principles of our Christ-centered outreach, we rely on the financial support of caring individuals, churches, businesses and foundations who support the faith-based foundation of our programs and services. We encourage you to join other compassionate community members in helping us reach our campaign goal.

**Campaign Goal:**

$6 Million

For more information on ways to give, including “challenge” opportunities or donations of securities, vehicles or collectibles, contact Dennis Chapman, Chief Development Officer, at give@cityunionmission.org or (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476.
Here are just a few of the many ways you can help the Mission reach our campaign goal:

- Respond generously to the mailings you receive from us now through January 31, 2018, or donate online as often as you can at cityunionmission.org.

- Ask your employer to match your Celebrate Hope gift to the Mission (visit cityunionmission.org/what-you-can-give/ to determine if your company matches employee contributions).

- Remember this campaign, and all the people who are depending on its success, in your prayers and daily devotions.
City Union Mission offers a variety of giving opportunities that allow you to demonstrate your compassion for Kansas City’s poor and homeless and, in many cases, also create significant tax benefits for you.

- Donations of **cash** are the simplest form of giving and offer the greatest benefit to the Mission.
- Gifts given in **honor** or **memory** of a loved one, friend or coworker allow you to recognize them in a way that brings hope to those in need.
- Your company may **match your gifts** to the Mission and double the impact your giving makes in our ability to assist our neighbors in need. To find out if your employer takes part, visit [cityunionmission.org/what-you-can-give/](http://cityunionmission.org/what-you-can-give/).
- If your business or organization awards grant monies, **nominate the Mission** to receive funding for our programs and services.
- Gifts of **stock and other securities** (bonds, mutual funds, 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 and 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.
Each year, the Mission holds a special recognition luncheon to honor friends who have made special gifts of time, service, resources and dedication. We thank each of our 2017 award recipients for their partnership and Fiorella’s Jack Stack Barbecue for hosting the event.

Matthew 25 Award
For Outstanding Corporate Involvement
- Allied National
- Gates Bar-B-Q
- Harry J. Lloyd Foundation
- Anton’s
- Sir Speedy
- Elite Feet
- KC Running Store
- Henderson Engineers

Barnabas Award
- Jeff McCubbins

A Cup in His Name Award
For Exemplary Church Involvement
- First Baptist of Raytown
- Briarcliff Church

Associate Director’s Award
For Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership
- Tammy Swartz
- Ingram’s Magazine

Director’s Award
For Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership
- Ian and Allison Kennedy

Compassion for the Homeless Award
- Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist

Volunteer Award for Exceptional Effort
- Greenwood Baptist Church
- Lenexa Christian Church
Words of Gratitude
From our Mission: Christmas Participants

To donors,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! My children and I are grateful. We are here in the Midwest trying to make it with no other family. My children will love their gifts. Thank you so much.

Love,
Kathy

Thank you for everything this year. My family and I are blessed to have your help. Our holiday has been better due to the help & blessing you’ve given. Happy holidays to all.

Thanks a lot,
Katasha & family

Thank you very much for donating these wonderful gifts to my children. God has blessed a wonderful person like you with a giving heart so that someone else like me and my Kids could enjoy Christmas too. Thank you very much.

Rachelle, Anthony and Delberta