Dear Friend,

Why does City Union Mission, a ministry to the homeless and poor, have a camp for children? We are definitely in the minority of Rescue Missions with that special ministry. The short answer is as follows:

In 1933, Mission founders, Rev. David and Beulah Bulkley, who loved the Ozarks, purchased 1,000 acres near Warsaw, Missouri. Beulah remembered that they did so with “$1 down and lots of faith.”

The initial plan for the land started with unemployed men clearing land and putting up some basic buildings. David envisioned helping poor families get out of the slums by providing them with a few acres, a few animals and seed. That vision never materialized as other plans took precedence – Opportunity Farm for homeless men and Camp CUMCITO (City Union Mission Camp In The Ozarks) for children ages 4 to 16.

Camp CUMCITO was truly the vision of both David and Beulah. They visited homes – virtually shacks – in the Kansas City slums where children couldn’t be cared for properly, and they felt called to bring some temporary relief to parents and bless the children by giving them a week or two each summer in the beautiful setting of Camp CUMCITO.

The need to give poor urban core families the same opportunity still exists – even more so today! We can take up to 628 children each summer for a free week of fun, teaching, loving attention and sharing Jesus with hungry hearts. This is why a Rescue Mission has a camp for children! Please continue to pray and support this vital part of our ministry.

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

Camp CUMCITO’s 2 Greatest Needs...

Can you help?

FINANCIAL FUNDING

See Page 4 for more details of how our camping program is possible only through the generosity of caring friends and partners.

CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEERS

See Page 3 to learn how you or church members, families and friends can impact children’s lives in real and meaningful ways.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:
FY 2018 Budget
$12,772,500
Amount raised
$6,666,762

CITY UNION MISSION.
Your City. Your Mission.

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With God in the Middle... Anything Is Possible!

At age 58, after serving in a Taiwanese orphanage for two summers, Brian Jobes felt the Lord calling him to help children here at home. “I heard radio commercials for Camp CUMCITO,” he recalls. “I thought God was prompting me, and it really stirred my heart.”

Brian applied to volunteer and was assigned to be a “senior sibling” at the camp’s Tot Lot for boys and girls ages 4 to 6, where he learned firsthand of the painful challenges endured by many of our community’s youngest and most vulnerable children. “It was obvious there was no stability in their lives,” he shares. “Their home life was not a loving environment.”

But love and stability are what Camp CUMCITO is all about. For one of six week-long sessions each summer, boys and girls from tots to teenagers are safe in a structured environment where their every need is met. They receive compassionate guidance from counselors like Brian who embrace their concerns and introduce them to the One who offers a different way of life.

“The message at camp is very clear,” Brian says. “They have a God who loves them.”

Yet is one week enough to make an impact?

“When God is in the middle of something, then it can be ONE DAY that changes the life of a kid!” Brian shares, having witnessed transformations like you’ll read about on Page 5.

Brian has been so moved by his experience that he encourages others to serve too. “There are great things going on at Camp CUMCITO,” he says. “It’s rewarding for the children as well as for the volunteers.”

Become a Camp CUMCITO volunteer. We Need You!

It’s heartbreaking!

Last summer, we were able to accommodate only 443 children at our Camp CUMCITO – leaving vacant 185 of the 628 spots potentially available.

Why? Simply because we didn’t have enough volunteers to cover all the positions necessary to guide and care for our young campers.

This year, you can help ensure no child is left out!

We need 430 men and women, ages 16 and older, to fill one-week positions, as well as 440 individuals to cover one-day slots. Roles range from counselors, recreation directors and medical personnel to camp clean-up crews and even water-balloon fillers!

Volunteering at Camp CUMCITO is a great way for congregations, groups of families and friends and civic organizations to minister to and strengthen our community through its precious children.

For all the details – and to bring smiles to the faces of 628 deserving boys and girls – contact our camp staff at (816) 329-1425 or campworkers@cityunionmission.org. Or download our camp volunteer brochure at cityunionmission.org.
With your support, boys and girls from all across Kansas City will experience the love of caring adults and beauty of God’s creation at our residential Camp CUMCITO, nestled on 600 acres of forest and meadow land near Warsaw, Missouri. They’ll enjoy lots of good food and opportunities for wholesome fun while building their self-esteem and, most important, their relationship with the Lord.

Because families of our young campers often struggle to pay for necessities like rent and groceries, we charge only a $5 registration fee for each child who attends. The remainder of our camp funding is provided by generous friends like you.

By sending a gift today – one that goes above and beyond your regular giving – you can help sponsor one or more young campers and provide the financial foundation necessary to continue this life-changing ministry with God in the middle. May He bless you for caring for our city’s precious children.

- It costs $420 per week – or $70 per day – to send one child to Camp CUMCITO.
- That amount covers three nutritious meals per day; clean, safe beds; medical care; craft supplies and sports equipment; Bibles and devotion materials and more!
- We hope to send as many as 628 children to camp this summer.
- Please send your gift today in the envelope provided!

Did You Know?

More than 12,000 nutritious meals are served to hungry boys and girls throughout our six week-long summer camping sessions. We invite you or your congregation, work group or civic organization to cover all or part of the cost of one of our top five food needs, listed below. If you can help, please contact Travis Bradburn at (816) 483-1432 or travis.bradburn@cityunionmission.org.

Fruits & juices – $4,100
Bread, buns & rolls – $3,200
Beef (ground/brisket/patties) – $2,800
Pork/ham – $2,600
Chicken – $1,500

Throughout the summer months, our City Camp, located in our Vanderberg Youth Center, offers wholesome and structured activities for as many as 79 boys and girls, ages 7 to 17.

In the morning, homeless children in our Family Shelter are introduced to the Gospel and are empowered by activities that help them develop confidence and self-esteem. Our afternoon session is community based, welcoming students from our City Corps after-school program, as well as boys and girls from the neighborhood and targeted public schools.

Both groups take part in devotions, recreation, arts and crafts and educational field trips. The nine-week program runs Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and costs $44.80 per child, per week.
James doesn’t remember exactly when it happened. Now 21, the many years he attended Camp CUMCITO blend together in his mind. But he knows that among the trees and stars and butterflies and birds – and sparked by the love of his counselor and the inspiration of a chapel service – he opened his heart... and God touched his life.

James’s mother, Tracy, says the Christ-centered environment was what allowed her to feel comfortable sending her son to camp in the first place – on a bus to a place she’d never been. “I was entrusting him to like-minded believers,” she explains, grateful to provide her little boy with an escape from a stressful home life. “At camp, he could be outside, go swimming, build relationships, do kid-friendly things and have time to just BE!” she says.

Even more important, Tracy recalls, “He would tell me how the staff and volunteers would minister to him, talk with him and speak life into him.” When James told her how he had come to know the Lord, she reminded him that the same God he’d met at camp was also in their home. With that understanding etched in his heart, James’s camp experience continued to influence his life, even as he grew too old to attend. When James began to stray from his Godly path, Tracy reached out to her son’s favorite camp counselor, who visited him and helped James correct his course. “I never expected that kind of ongoing love and sincerity,” Tracy says.

Today, James is living in California and working hard to build his career. He never forgets where God first touched his heart and vows to give other children the same life-changing opportunity. “When I hit it big, Mom,” he tells a proud Tracy, “I’m going to donate to the Mission in a big way!”
How Not to Succeed at Failing

Most people associate Thomas Edison with his famous invention – the light bulb. But did you know he purportedly tried 1,000 times before creating a successful prototype? While we don’t often like talking about failure, it’s important to consider what it could look like for a Christian. Some failures to avoid are...

1. Not leaving behind a Godly legacy.
   When people tell the “success story” of your life, will they say you pointed others to Christ, loved well and valued what mattered most? Do those close to you know what you believe?

2. Not providing for those you love.
   Taking care of children and grandchildren goes far beyond 18 years of food, shelter and unconditional love – it means discussing and looking after matters that affect them well into adulthood. For instance, you can provide stability and peace by getting your affairs in order so they won’t have to later.

3. Not impacting lives.
   Are you wisely using your energies and finances to advance eternal work? Did you know leaving a gift in your will or estate plan for City Union Mission will impact lives for years to come?

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of “3 Big Failures Everyone Should Avoid” by contacting Dennis Chapman at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476, or dennis.chapman@cityunionmission.org.

Or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/cityunionmission.