I Wasn’t a Whole Person Anymore

After struggling with injury, addiction and homelessness, Heather asked God to restore her life.

Read her story of healing and change on Page 3.
Dear Friend,

Families evicted from their homes... parents struggling to feed their children... women fleeing violent situations... individuals longing for new starts.

The needs of people like these are critical, regardless of the season, and the magnitude of their challenges can often seem daunting.

Yet, when a community comes together, lives are changed!

In 2017, more than 230 volunteers – groups and individuals alike – served meals, mentored our residents, and in so many other vital ways, shared their compassion with those in our care. Nearly 60 local congregations led our chapel services, and countless businesses donated material goods and other resources to meet the many needs of our ministry and guests.

All these acts of generosity are in addition to the generous monetary giving that provides the foundation for our comprehensive outreach.

I encourage you to consider the opportunities in this newsletter to come together as a community in the months ahead. From providing school clothing for disadvantaged students or items for our new L. Minor Care Center – to sharing a unique talent or skill – your gifts of time, prayer and financial support ease burdens and restore hope for people like Heather (see Page 3) who need a hand up.

On behalf of all who will be blessed by your compassion, thank you for your gift today and your dedication to our ministry.

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

City Union Mission is grateful to Missouri artist Don Dane, who donated signed prints of his Western-themed collection to the Mission. See more of Don’s work at dondane.com.
Heather was a hard worker, often taking on a second job. But when she hurt her back and was unable to maintain a steady income, she lost her home. Even more tragic, “I jumped back into an old habit – amphetamines – to block out the pain,” she says, referring to her injury as well as her loss of independence.

After completing a treatment program, she sought temporary shelter at the Mission, where she was intrigued by the words of a counselor: People don’t come here happenstance... We are all chosen to be here. “Those thoughts kept echoing in my mind,” she says.

She left our care and, still homeless, began “couchsurfing” – staying anywhere she could find to lay her head. After 18 months, she became seriously ill and was rushed to the hospital, where she prayed for God to restore her life. Upon her release, she was offered a taxi voucher to the Mission, and she felt the impact of the counselor’s words. “It was then I knew this was where I needed to be to heal myself mentally, physically and holistically,” she says.

In our New Life Program, Heather is strengthening her relationship with the Lord and taking steps to build a stable future. “It’s not just one class or one person helping you,” she says. “You have a whole team working to make you whole again.” Soon she hopes to find a part-time job and begin taking courses to complete a program in computer science.

Today, Heather is grateful for the care and generosity of this community, which has provided all of the elements necessary – from basic living essentials to compassionate mentoring – to change her life for the Lord.

“I feel like I’m getting out of God’s way and letting Him grow in my heart. I see light at the end of the tunnel. I will be able to endure.”

Your generosity, prayers and volunteer efforts allow the Mission to be a place where lives are transformed on a daily basis. God bless you for your gift today.
Our Bed & Bread Club monthly giving partners provide a predictable stream of revenue to fund our programs that empower lives to be transformed. Your pledge of $25, $35 or more per month helps ensure an ongoing foundation of support for men, women and families working to become stable and independent members of their communities.

If you’re not already part of this vital group, simply complete the back of the enclosed form, visit cityunionmission.org or call (816) 474-9380. Your monthly 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 help change lives year-round.

“God graciously saved my wife and me in 2004-2005 after much adversity, including the death of my homeless older brother. We started volunteering at City Union Mission in Spring 2009 through a friend from our church who both volunteered and worked at the Mission. From the very beginning, we were encouraged that the Mission is 100% gospel-centered and holistic, Biblically focusing on the Person and work of Christ and the sufficiency of God’s Word to save the lost and disciple the saved, while meeting the various needs of each unique individual. During these last 9 years at the Mission, we have witnessed God’s abundant faithfulness and life-transforming love, grace, and mercy time and time again at the Men’s Shelter, CLP, Community Assistance, the Family Shelter, and Camp CUMCITO. We still work full time in our respective occupations, so even when we can’t volunteer, we appreciate being able to donate monthly to the Mission by credit card, knowing that the Mission wisely stewards every dollar for the greatest gospel impact. We’ve noticed that Charity Navigator consistently ranks City Union Mission with a perfect or near-perfect rating for a reason: they truly care and love with God’s love, and they represent God’s best in the KC area.” - Eric and Susan Thompson
Provide Clothing and Confidence for Children Returning to School

City Union Mission’s back-to-school outreach provides proper school clothing for impoverished children, building their self-esteem and giving them every opportunity for a good education. Our goal is to outfit 400 students from income-qualified families, and we’re inviting the community to help.

Boys and girls in grades K through 6 will receive clothing items required by the Kansas City Missouri School District – shirts, skirts and pants. A gift of $35 will cover the cost of clothing for one child.

If you can help, simply check the box on the reply card and return it with your gift, or make a gift online at cityunionmission.org and be sure to include “back to school” in the donation comments. Thank you for helping our city’s children return to school with confidence!
Sunny summer days are here... but many in our community live in the darkness of despair. Our 97-Day Summer Campaign to care for those in our community who are homeless, addicted and struggling is under way now!

Memorial Day through Labor Day, your gift will help provide more than 65,000 meals... nearly 35,000 safe beds... and medical care for countless hurting people, along with faith-based counseling and practical resources that empower individuals to become independent and contributing members of our community. Our expenses for June, July and August are expected to run as high as $2 million, and we need your help to meet that goal!

Men, women and children throughout our community need our assistance, and we need yours. Please brighten a life by giving today!

**BRIGHTEN A LIFE!**

97-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

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The Mission's L. Minor Care Center (LMCC), which opened in January, is currently providing a refuge of safety and specialized care for 12 men burdened by physical and emotional challenges. "I love the family I have here at City Union Mission and my church. They have helped me and we take care of each other," says Agustin, one of the facility’s first residents, attesting to the comfort he experiences away from the hustle and bustle of the Mission’s general population. He is grateful for Mission friends – individual donors and corporate partners alike – who came together to make the Center a reality for him and others who make up a severely underserved segment of our city’s homeless population.

If you’d like to help the LMCC continue to serve men like Agustin, the items below are always in need. Please deliver your contributions to 700 E. 8th Street in Kansas City between the hours of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thank you.

- Nightshirts and pants for our men to sleep in
- Christian or “PG” movies – contact Amanda Greene at (816) 841-6175 for a list of approved videos
- Puzzles and board games

The L. Minor Care Center is also in need of volunteers to spend time with our men in fellowship and a part-time physical therapist to work with our men once a week. Please contact Amanda Greene at (816) 841-6175 for more information.

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For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of “Make Your WHY a Way of Life” by contacting Dennis Chapman at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476, or Dennis.Chapman@cityunionmission.org, or by checking the box on the enclosed reply card.

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**L. Minor Care Center Update**

If you’ve ever spent 10 minutes with a 3-year-old, you can vouch for their curiosity. “Why can’t I touch that?” “Why does that woman’s face look so old?”

While an untimely “why” can cause embarrassment, asking questions is how children learn – even into adulthood. Here are several “whys” your adult children actually need to hear from you.

- Have you told them WHY they mean so much to you? Some older generations rarely said “I love you.” It’s never too late to start.
- Have you told them WHY you embraced faith? If serving Jesus is the WHY that gets you out of bed in the morning – tell them!
- Have you told them WHY you have certain personal values? What are you passionate about? If it matters to you, it’s worth sharing with them.

Many individuals turn their WHY into action, by supporting a ministry or cause that aligns with their values. For instance, a Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple way to communicate your WHY to the next generation, and bless City Union Mission in the process.

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**A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER**