THE JOY OF Christmas
January – July 2018

Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily average) 372
Meals Served (daily average) 719
Patients Seen (for medical issues) 5,303
Chapel Service Attendance (daily average) 195
Salvations and Re-dedications 436

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YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION
January – July 2018

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Dear Friend,

Everyone relates Christmas with “joy,” right? Well, not everyone. There are so many in our community who truly live either paycheck to paycheck or with no paycheck at all. If those individuals don’t know the Christ of Christmas, this wonder-filled season is anything but wonderful. But, if such a person or family knows the Christ of Christmas, they can still experience joy and perhaps sense it even more deeply than many who have plenty for Christmas.

I love the responses of both the Magi/Wise Men and the shepherds at the birth of Jesus, because they remind us to focus not on what we don’t have but on what we have or can have when we know the Savior. “When they (the Magi) saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Matt. 2:10). An angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

What we at City Union Mission and our supporters love about gift giving at Christmas ultimately comes from the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35 where He is quoted as saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” or “There is more joy in giving than in receiving.” When families come to shop in our Christmas Store, and when the gifts they choose are delivered just before Christmas (see pages 6 & 7), we have the joyful experience of seeing the joy on their faces because of both the gifts as well as the real “Reason for the Season” – Jesus!

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director

P.S. Your partnership, prayers and gifts make this possible. God bless you for your continued generosity.
After years of marriage, Kim’s husband walked away – leaving her to care for their two teenage sons on her own. “We had to move into a new place quickly,” she says, a situation that resulted in deplorable living conditions. Even more heartbreaking, she suffered a stroke, and while she was in the hospital, her landlord changed the locks and disposed of the family’s belongings. With nowhere to go, she called City Union Mission and was relieved when she learned we had a place for them in our Family Shelter.

Now in our New Life Program, “I have the time to heal and get better from all kinds of things,” Kim says. “And there’s so much support here, not only for the moms but for the kids themselves.” Surrounded by God’s Word, her sons receive help with their homework and have Christian mentors to counsel and pray with them. And last holiday season, as they will again this year, the family selected gifts for one another from our Christmas Store, part of our annual Mission Christmas outreach. “I got a Crock-Pot, which was especially helpful in fixing meals for two boys,” Kim says. “And they were excited by the flash drives they received with Star Wars characters on them.”

Kim just completed our employment assistance program – where she received guidance in interviewing and career development – and she will soon be looking for work. Her sons are looking forward to attending a culinary school and a technical college.

“The Mission has helped bring back hope and peace to our lives,” Kim says. “We know that whatever comes up, we’re going to be OK!”

In the following pages, read how you can be part of Mission Christmas 2018, and bring the joy of Christmas to homeless and struggling individuals and families like this one.
Join our Mission Christmas outreach and share God's love with those in need 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 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 26!

Experience the joy of giving by ensuring our shelves are stocked and ready for the first excited shoppers when our Christmas Store opens on November 26. We need donations of the items listed on these pages to provide a special holiday 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 16.

### 2018 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crock-Pots</td>
<td>RC vehicles/helicopters</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toaster ovens</td>
<td>Action figures</td>
<td>Soccer balls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skillets</td>
<td>NERF toys</td>
<td>Footballs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric griddles</td>
<td>Hot Wheels track sets</td>
<td>Skateboards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blenders</td>
<td>Pro sports clothing</td>
<td>“Razor-type” scooters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookware</td>
<td>Movie-themed toys –</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comforters (K/Q)</td>
<td>Star Wars, Marvel, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum cleaners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(“stick” and bagless)</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>ELECTRONICS ($10–15 value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; body sets</td>
<td>Movie-themed toys –</td>
<td>Headphones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pajama pants</td>
<td>Wonder Woman, Frozen, Moana, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool sets</td>
<td>Ethnic Barbie dolls and</td>
<td>Bluetooth speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless speakers</td>
<td>baby dolls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair clippers/groomers</td>
<td>Art sets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool boxes</td>
<td>Kids’ bath sets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro sports clothing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN’S ITEMS ($10–15 value)</th>
<th>BABY/TODDLER ITEMS ($5–15 value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; body sets</td>
<td>Baby blankets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pajamas (XL, 2XL, 3XL)</td>
<td>0-24 month toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool sets</td>
<td>Diapers/baby wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s underwear</td>
<td>Onesies/pajamas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makeup sets/nail polish kits</td>
<td>Baby bottles/sippy cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfume sets</td>
<td>Hat/glove sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curling &amp; flat irons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No games or puzzles, please.
Sunday school classes, work groups and civic organizations are encouraged to hold donation drives for these stocking stuffers, which help make those in our care feel comfortable and loved. Each guest receives three items, valued at $5. Simply follow the delivery instructions on the left.

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

We are accepting your donations at these locations:

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

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

Please provide items that are new and not gift-wrapped. For updated information about gifts we need most, visit MissionChristmas.org.
Our Mission Christmas program relies on financial gifts to supplement the items generously donated for our Christmas Store. Please 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. 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, more than 300 families were assisted through this outreach at a cost of $20,000. Your company or congregation is invited to help sponsor the cost of this program for 2018.

- **“Adopt” the Mission.** Consider covering the cost of one or more of the items we use to conduct our rescue and recovery program on a daily basis. To view the Mission’s wish list, visit MissionChristmas.org.

Financial Gifts Are Vital Too!
The opportunity to share God’s Word is one of the most important parts of interviewing families before they shop at our Christmas Store. Now in his sixth year volunteering with Mission Christmas, Eric Thompson is honored to fill this role.

“When a person comes into the room, I usually have an open Bible, and I speak with them candidly as long as they want to talk or need encouragement or prayer,” Eric says. And if he feels their hearts are ready, “I try to point them to the love and eternal forgiveness of Jesus Christ.” The volunteers also provide references to local churches people can attend to continue building their relationship with the Lord within a body of believers.

Last year, through these personal and heartfelt interactions, 55 people invited Christ into their lives. Yet, Eric shares, volunteers may not immediately know if the seeds they planted have taken root. “I’m always asking God to prepare people’s hearts, and there is always someone who either professes Christ that day or who you hear later has become involved in Mission Bible studies and is completely transformed.”

While Eric says it is wonderful to be part of that process, “I never want to assume I’m the only one who has ever talked to them about Christ. There may have been hundreds of seeds planted before, but it was just on that day that God used me.”
We’re truly grateful for the Mission partners who engage with us in unique and vital ways to carry out our Mission Christmas outreach and to care for our community all through the year.

**Allied National** has been increasing their donations to the Mission over the past three years and last Christmas gave more than ever – 54 meal bags, numerous boxes of toys and gift sets, and countless items of clothing. We are blessed by their ongoing generosity!

Heartland Chevrolet in Liberty has organized a community collection of meal bags for Mission Christmas for three years. In 2017, their outpouring of generosity provided 576 holiday meal bags. Thank you, Heartland Chevrolet and the community, for caring for the poor and the homeless!

Volunteers Still Needed
We appreciate the dedicated groups and individuals who have already filled our 2018 Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day positions. Many other opportunities are still available throughout the holiday season. If you’d like to help, visit MissionChristmas.org to learn more.
After a series of bad choices landed him in jail, David was released with no clear path for re-establishing himself as an independent member of the community. Looking for assistance wherever he could find it, he paid money to a man who gave him a room and said he would help him find a job. But the arrangement fell apart, leaving David potentially homeless.

Thankfully, his parole officer recommended he come to City Union Mission. When David learned we are a Christ-centered ministry, he quickly made his way to our door.

“I had been baptized as a boy,” David says, “but my faith had faded away.” Now in our Christian Life Program, “I’m learning more about the Bible, and it is helping me get closer to God,” he explains, embracing the Lord as the foundation for his future.

He feels blessed by our godly counselors who are helping him overcome trust issues that often led him to make poor decisions in the past. And when he is ready, we will assist him in finding housing, employment and transportation. “I’m slowly and surely getting back into society and on my feet,” David says. “I will be on stable ground when I walk out the door.”

While he may be separated from his loved ones at Christmas, he says his Christian brothers at the Mission will be his family. “We’re here to help each other,” he says, grateful, too, for the special gifts and celebrations your generosity will provide through Mission Christmas.
Because hunger, homelessness and poverty are tragedies that impact our neighbors all year long. **Celebrate Hope: Reach Out to K.C.’s Poor or 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 share God’s Word with hurting families and individuals and to offer immediate relief and permanent transformation 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 biblical outreach, we rely on the financial support of caring individuals, churches, businesses and foundations who support the faith-based tenets 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, contact Dennis Chapman, Chief Development Officer, at give@cityunionmission.org or (816) 474-9380, ext. 1476.
Celebrate Hope!

CELEBRATE HOPE THROUGH THESE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- Respond generously to the mailings you receive from us now through January 31, 2019, or donate online at cityunionmission.org.

- Make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, friend or associate and recognize them in a way that brings joy to others.

- Visit cityunionmission.org/what-you-can-give/ to determine if your company matches employee contributions.

- If your business or organization awards grant monies, nominate the Mission to receive funding.

- Make gifts of stocks or securities, which allow you to give without depleting cash reserves.

- Donate a used car, truck or van, which can be used in Mission programs or sold for funding.
A study conducted in the U.K. found the average adult forgets three key things each day, such as:

- Charging a mobile device
- What you meant to buy at the store
- Where you left your keys
- Where you parked your car

While we're all guilty of this, there's a list of things you would never think of forgetting. For instance, a good parent would never omit teaching their child to look before crossing the street. But every day baby boomer parents neglect to share equally vital information with their loved ones – by not communicating details only they know.

Individuals who prepare for unanticipated life events exercise a unique form of love for their family. One of the best ways to do this is with an up-to-date estate plan. Another is by sharing:

- Passwords for accounts
- Investments and insurance policies
- Charities they support
- Their values

Remembering to care for your loved ones during and after your life is a beautiful gift. So is remembering a ministry like City Union Mission in your will.

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of “Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?” 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.

Did You Know?

When they reach age 70 ½, owners of 401(k), 403(b) and other IRA retirement plan accounts must begin taking minimum distributions. These sums can be given to charities like City Union Mission, supporting our Christ-centered ministry while providing the donor with tax benefits.

Bud Frye has partnered with the Mission since the 1980s. After serving as a volunteer in many capacities, including discipling in our Christian Life Program, he chose to enhance his support by giving financially, making contributions through the Frye Family Giving Fund. “Christ has blessed me and my family,” Bud says. “Those blessings I want to pass on to others. We are here to bring glory to God and serve our fellow brothers and sisters.”
Honoring our 2018 Annual Awards Recipients

These outstanding Mission friends and partners made special gifts of time, service, resources and dedication throughout 2018 and were recognized at a luncheon in their honor. We extend our thanks to Fiorella’s Jack Stack Barbecue for hosting the annual event.

Matthew 25 Award
*For Outstanding Corporate Involvement*
- Gragg Advertising
- All Packaging
- Pizza Ranch
- Heartland Chevrolet
- TVH
- Smart Warehousing
- DSS

Barnabas Award
- John Bryan Hurst

Development Award
- Reinhart

A Cup in His Name Award
*For Exemplary Church Involvement*
- City Center Church
- Christ Lutheran Church

Director’s Award
*For Outstanding Philanthropic Leadership*
- Grace Smith

Compassion for the Homeless Award
- Charlie Weidman
- Dennis and Susan Nichols

Volunteer Award for Exceptional Effort
- Jim Wetschensky
- Cathy Odette
- Ken Ramey
- Ed Golden
- Barbara Whitesides
- Joe Thomas
Our Holiday Pledge to You

This Christmas, in keeping with our commitment to good stewardship, we will...

• Honor and thank God for His provisions.
• Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
• Share the Gospel with all those we serve.
• Provide a family environment for our homeless guests.
• Show Christ’s compassionate love through our actions and words.
• Not practice overindulgence.
• Be content with what we have.
• Not ask for anything we don’t need.
• Pray for God’s guidance as we approach each holiday activity and need.
• Give our donors ample opportunity to share God’s love with the hurting.

Give with Confidence!

City Union Mission is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ecfa.org), an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public’s trust through adherence to Standards of Responsible Stewardship.

City Union Mission is a Kansas City Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, providing documentation that our ministry meets basic standards in how we govern our organization, in the ways we spend our money, in the truthfulness of our representations and in our willingness to disclose basic information to the public.

Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org) has recognized City Union Mission as a 4-star charity. Charity Navigator examines how responsibly a charity functions day to day and how it is positioned to sustain its programs over time.