FOR 85 YEARS...
Providing a foundation of Truth in Jesus’ love
Dear Friend,

This year, 2019, marks two momentous anniversaries – 95 years since the founding of City Union Mission in 1924 and 85 years of continuous camp for urban-core children! But why would a ministry that began as a ministry to homeless men and poor families have a camp for children? The reason is that if children can be reached for Jesus (and nurtured!), then they can break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. And that’s the ministry of City Union Mission!

Over the years, I’ve met many former Camp CUMCITO (City Union Mission Camp In The Ozarks) campers who came from very poor families who now have families of their own who are stable and strong. (By the way, we’d love to hear from you if you are a former Camp CUMCITO camper).

If you’ve been to camp as a child or teen, you know the extreme value of that experience – the memories, the friendships, the decisions for Christ. That is SO true of the children attending a week at Camp CUMCITO. And when you think of the many thousands of children who have been to City Union Mission’s Camp In The Ozarks since 1934, the impact won’t be known until heaven.

The need to give poor urban-core families the same opportunity still exists – even more so today! We can take up to 600 children each summer for a free week of fun, teaching, loving attention and sharing Jesus with hungry hearts. This is why City Union 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

Guide me in your truth and teach me…

Psalm 25:5 (NIV)
Tot Lot Tea Parties
Teach Children of Jesus’ Love
A peek inside one of Tot Lot’s most beloved activities

Excerpts from an article by Cindy Miller
The granddaughter of City Union Mission founders Rev. David and Beulah Bulkley, Cindy has been active at Camp CUMCITO throughout her life, volunteering for over 30 years at Tot Lot.

Every afternoon a tea party happens, and you can count on a cookie and a cup of juice and some sunscreen. This is all after naptime and before you sing songs with lots of actions about the devil sitting on a tack and rainbows of children arming themselves with Jesus’ love and thanking the Father for their fine wings and fun stuff like that.

When the cookie-crumpled napkins and smushed Dixie cups are thrown away and the tea party is over, you know you’re going to go swimming. So that’s all fun, and it happens Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; you can count on it.

But ohhhh, Wednesday! Now there’s a tea party to imprint on your mind and heart for a very, very, very long time! This is what happens…

You walk into the teaching room and it’s all different. There are tables decorated and set with pretty, delicate “tea” cups and special treats AND there are purple satin princess capes to put on because guess what? You are God’s princess! There are fancy hats, too, and a special story about a girl named Gigi who has just found out she is GOD’S princess and she is having a princess tea party too!

But if you are a boy . . .

You go to tables set up for a tea party for God’s Mighty Warriors! You find special treats and there are red satin capes for you – Mighty Warrior Capes! You hear a story about Will who is learning about being strong and brave and wearing the armor of God! And then you don your Hero Cape and charge across the grounds, shouting cool stuff about wearing God’s armor and defending the weak.

Last Year’s Campers
Say Thank You!
Throughout the summer months, our City Camp, located in our Vanderberg Youth Center, offers wholesome fun in a Christ-filled environment for boys and girls, ages 7 to 17.

In the morning, children in our Family Shelter are introduced to the Gospel and empowered by activities that help them develop their talents and self-esteem by embracing the Truth that comes from Christ’s love. In the afternoon, we welcome boys and girls from our City Corps after-school program.

Memories from last year’s City Camp staff illustrate how important this program is to boys and girls who otherwise may spend summer days home alone or on the streets...

“We had students who upon missing their van ride here, walked in the heat because they didn’t want to miss a day. We had students tell their friends, ‘No I’m not skipping to play video games.’ Students wanted to learn about Jesus and felt free to ask deep spiritual questions. Things went well, because God was in it all.”

Camp coordinator for her congregation, Cheryl Calder says members of Journey Church have been volunteering at Camp CUMCITO for over five years. Their participation has grown from three people to now enough to fill over 40 positions. The reason for their enthusiasm? “A lot of it is being able to meet a need and build a relationship with people in our own city, where there is an opportunity for follow-through,” Cheryl says. If your church would like to care for our community’s children in this way, contact campworkers@cityunionmission.org.

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Compassion in Action...

Thank you, Journey Church!

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Financial Funding

It costs $501 per week – or $100 per day – to send one boy or girl to camp. That amount covers three nutritious meals per day; clean, safe beds; medical care; craft supplies; sports equipment; Bibles and devotional materials and more. Because campers’ families often struggle to pay for necessities like rent and groceries, we charge only a $5 registration fee for each child who attends. The balance comes from caring friends like you.

Please send a gift today – one that goes above and beyond your regular giving – to help sponsor one or more young campers!

Volunteers

We need 420 men and women, ages 16 and older, to fill one-week positions, as well as 461 individuals to cover one-day slots. Roles range from counselors and recreation directors to lifeguards and clean-up crews. If all positions are not filled, children who have signed up for camp on a stand-by basis may be told they can’t attend.

Please help ensure no child is left out! Contact campworkers@cityunionmission.org for volunteer opportunities and details.

Please Help Send 588 Kids to Camp This Summer!

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Asia was only 7 when she first attended Camp CUMCITO. “I’ve gone every summer since then and I wouldn’t miss a year,” she says, now 17.

Like most campers, she loved the plentiful food... the cool swimming pool... and the carnival at the end of each session. But what truly touched her heart were the volunteers – the men and women who dedicate their time and compassion to make camp happen.

“When I was 8 or 9 I began to understand that they wanted to be here – that they’re not getting paid,” she explains, recalling a special counselor who came back year after year. “It was exciting to know she was there for me no matter what changed at home.”

You don’t realize how much the volunteers are giving up to be with you for a week.

Jasia lives with her mother and the two attended church regularly. That stopped, however, when her mom began working on Sundays. “But when I went to camp each summer, the counselors helped me connect what I learned into my everyday life,” she shares. “When I wouldn’t go to church or live a Christ-like way, I’d look back at those lessons I learned at camp.”

She was so moved by her experience that last year, now too old to attend as a camper, she returned as a volunteer herself. “I was a cabin assistant and a counselor. I led crafts and worked in the canteen and laundry,” she explains, illustrating the many roles a volunteer can play.

She’s grateful for the opportunity to return the compassion that was shown to her and to make a lasting impact in another child’s life. “For kids who don’t come from the best situations, it’s a chance to just be a kid for a week and learn there’s more to the world than what you see at home,” she says. “I’m there to serve and to make every child feel welcome and cared for.”

Camp CUMCITO’s Most Needed Items

Please contact Travis Bradburn at (816) 329-1432 or travis.bradburn@cityuniomission.org if you or your group can provide these or other items on our most-needed list!

- toiletries • paper cups • arts & crafts supplies
- bug spray & sunscreen • women’s swimsuits
- glass tea cups • tricycles, Big Wheels & ride-on cars
People love a good story. Imagine the impact you could make by writing down your personal story to share with your loved ones. Have you ever heard of a Legacy Love Letter?

It’s not a legal document, but it can be added to your Estate Plan. It’s a letter you create simply to pass a blessing on to the next generation and can include:

1. Your beliefs and values. What experiences helped to shape your journey of faith? What do you believe regarding money, raising children or marriage? What Christian causes or ministries are you passionate about and why?

2. Life lessons. Can you list the defining moments that impacted the trajectory of your life? What were some of your biggest joys and regrets? How did these help develop Christ-like character in your life?

3. Words of encouragement. Nothing makes a person’s heart swell quite like “I love you.” Are there especially meaningful or encouraging words or Scriptures you want to leave with those you love most?

Your story matters, and your loved ones need to hear it.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “The Most Important Thing You’ll Ever Say” by contacting Dennis Chapman at (816) 329-1476 or dennis.chapman@cityunionmission.org. Or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/cityunionmission.