On page 3, learn how YOU changed Amber’s life through your generosity and compassion, and how you can help others like her this summer.
Dear Friend,

Of the 7.7 billion people on planet earth, the Kansas City metro area claims 2.34 million and KCMO claims around 490,000. While we should all be concerned for “the world,” most of us tend to concentrate our time and effort and even most of our giving to things closer to home – our community.

In our community, City Union Mission serves several thousand individuals each year (families, men, women, youth). In 2018, that meant over 4,800 different (unduplicated) individuals in our shelters and nearly 4,000 different individuals in the community receiving help with food, clothing, household items, furniture, etc. In addition, up to 600 children attend a week of camp at Camp CUMCITO. All of our services to our community are freely given because of your regular help. Each person receives loving care, counsel, and the knowledge that they are loved by God.

I recently had someone ask, “What would Kansas City do if City Union Mission wasn’t here?” One can only imagine! Some cities have only secular shelters that may offer food and temporary shelter but not the message that all need to hear – that the God of creation loves them so much that He sent His Son to bring salvation; that He has a plan for every person; that there is hope and help by turning to Him.

We’re so grateful to you for reading our reports, for your prayers, for giving of your time and means, for seeing the thousands of people we serve as individuals with names and personalities. God bless you for the difference YOU make, caring for our community.

For His glory,

Rev. Dan Doty
Executive Director
At age 18, longing to be on her own, Amber moved out of her parents’ home. To support herself, she got a job that made fast money. “It was like I ruled the world,” she says. “I knew everything… I didn’t need anybody.”

Or so she thought. Soon there was a void in her heart that she struggled in vain to fill. “Drugs, money, men… you name it, I tried it,” she shares, describing a journey of self-destruction that finally sent her to jail.

When she was released, she had nowhere to go. “And it was about that time that I had my daughter,” she says. Completely lost – yet determined to be a good mother for her little girl – she came to the Mission.

In our New Life Program, she came to know the Lord, and her heart was filled with His love. “There were so many bad things I’d done, and He forgives me for every single one of them,” she says. “To know that He can flip my life around and turn it into good… that’s really cool.”

Amber graduated in November of last year, and today she has a full-time job with a company she loves that empowers her to support herself and her daughter. And she’s grateful for the Mission donors, staff and volunteers who made her transformation possible: “They helped me to realize that I can be somebody different. It changed my life!”

“By God’s grace I called City Union Mission. And from there on, my life slowly began to change.”

Thank you for caring for people like Amber with your gifts and prayers. Your continued support throughout the summer months will be deeply appreciated.

Bless Kids with Back-to-School Clothes

Amber’s daughter, Ellie, will be among the more than 400 students from income-qualified homes we hope to assist with back-to-school clothing this fall – and we’re inviting the community to help. Boys and girls in grades K through 6 will receive 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 partner with us, simply check the box on the reply card and return it with your gift. Or make a gift online at cityunionmission.org and write “back to school” in the donation comments. Thank you for helping our city’s children return to school with confidence and self-esteem!
How Not to Outlive Your Retirement

Many people have found peace of mind while living on a fixed income through Charitable Gift Annuities. CGAs are a great way to support a cause or organization you care about like City Union Mission and receive the benefit of a financial payout in return, for as long as you live. In other words, CGAs allow retirement savers to blend their passions with pension-like financial security – basically having your cake and eating it too!

CGAs are one of the most popular giving tools because they help donors:

- Receive a reliable, fixed income until death.
- Gain tax advantages.
- Bless an organization during and after their lifetime.
- Experience peace of mind through a tool that’s easy to use and simple to execute.
- Feel confident they’re supporting good work and impacting lives.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “How Not to Outlive Your Retirement” 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.

L. Minor Care Center Meets Specialized Needs

In the 18 months since opening its doors in January 2018, the Mission’s L. Minor Care Center (LMCC) has provided safe and specialized care for 71 men struggling with physical and emotional challenges and has assisted many in securing appropriate housing. Nearly half the men who have left the LMCC have transitioned to group homes, assisted living/skilled nursing facilities or independent living scenarios. Three of the men have joined the Mission’s Christian Life Program.

According to Administrator Amanda Greene, the LMCC’s capacity is maintained at between 20 and 25 residents to preserve the staff’s ability to provide individualized care and case management. “Because we remain at smaller numbers intentionally, we can offer the support the men need and ensure they are connected to medical and other resources in the community,” she explained.

Because a significant number of our residents are senior in age and find it difficult to navigate the community, the LMCC brings essential resources to them. Art therapy, classes that teach time management and coping skills, and groups that focus on recovery and substance abuse are just a few examples of outside assistance provided.

The LMCC is seeking volunteers and would benefit from physical therapists, spiritual mentors and adults to teach budgeting, goal setting, anger management and other life fundamentals. If you’d like to get involved, please contact Amanda at (816) 841-6175.