Carlos’ heart is filled with gratitude for YOU!

Inside: Read how your compassion and support changes lives.

Don’t miss . . .

With a Heart of Thanksgiving… – Page 2

Prison Release Ministry Fosters Independence – Page 2

Join Our Celebrate Hope Campaign – Page 4

For more information: (816) 474-9380 cityunionmission.org
Dear Friend,

The past few months have been challenging for all of us. No one is immune to the stress of uncertainty or the fear of the unknown. And especially this year, far too many of our neighbors have also felt the harsh reality of losing their livelihoods – their ability to provide for themselves or their families. They join scores of others already turning to City Union Mission for food, shelter and life-restoring guidance.

Yet, through it all, my heart is filled with thanksgiving – for God’s faithfulness... the goodness of mankind... and your dedication to serving “the least of these.”

As more struggling people reach out to us, you are there for them. You are among the heroes who put others’ needs above your own. You join us on the front lines of compassion and kindness, loving your neighbors when they need it most. Now, as we anticipate an increased need for food and Christ-centered care throughout the fall, my greatest hope is that you’ll continue your amazing support this Thanksgiving season.

Regardless of the season or the challenges around us, remembering our blessings brings us comfort, peace and joy. This Thanksgiving, as we gather with our loved ones, I pray each of us finds strength in God... one another... and our own grateful hearts.

Giving thanks to God,
Terry Megli
Chief Executive Officer

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**The Mission’s Prison Release Ministry Offers Pathway to Independence**

“When people are released from prison, they first need somewhere to go,” explains Charles Beeghley,* who directs and administers City Union Mission’s Prison Release Ministry. As many as 12 “justice-involved” men each month are accepted into the Mission’s Christian Life Program, where they are provided shelter and other life essentials, as well as guidance and resources for building a stable future.

Charles and the program staff assist the men in resolving legal issues and finding jobs and housing. The “aftercare” phase of the program helps men with further needs as they transition into their communities and leaves the door open for them to return to the Mission if they encounter challenges that jeopardize their success. Each program participant is also paired with a godly mentor who walks alongside him, providing encouragement and support throughout his journey to independence.

Charles says that the greatest blessing in his work is seeing people’s lives changed through the hope and opportunity for them to get past their particular roadblocks. “I tell the men that they’re not defined by their crime,” he says. “It’s a season in your life and it’s time to move past that season.”

*Read more about Charles on Page 4.

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**Your Gifts in Action**

**January - June 2020**

- **319** Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily average)
- **643** Meals Served (daily average)
- **26** Patients Seen (for medical issues)
- **221** Chapel Service Attendance (daily average)
- **187** Salvations and Re-dedications

**Financial Update:**

- **FY2020 Budget** $10,401,668.00
- **Amount raised to date (June 2020)** $8,662,686.31

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**Administrative Offices**

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**HOTLINE FOR THE HOMELESS**

(816) 474-4599
A fter 15 years in prison, a bus brought Carlos to Kansas City with just the clothes on his back... a single box of belongings... and no pathway forward.

“I had family here, but I didn’t know if they would even accept me,” he says. When he explained to a taxi driver he had nowhere to go, he was driven to City Union Mission. In our care, he found everything he needed to rebuild his life.

We gave Carlos a comfortable bed, nutritious meals and the opportunity to join our faith-based life-recovery programs. With the guidance of our staff and mentors, he accepted Christ as his savior, studied the Bible and embraced heart-changing Christian teachings. “I always wanted something better for my life – even in prison – but I didn’t have direction until I came to the Mission,” he says. “And now, things are different.”

Recognizing and rejoicing in Carlos’ transformation, his family has forgiven him and welcomed him back into their lives. He qualified for a Pell Grant and hopes to return to school. “I want to get a job, support myself and continue serving the Lord,” he says. “I can plan for tomorrow and City Union Mission is here to help me with that.”

“THE MISSION GAVE ME ‘ME’ BACK and I’m grateful.”

This Thanksgiving season – and all through the year – your kind generosity fills hearts with hope and gratitude... and transforms lives through God’s love! “I’m still in awe about everything that has been happening to me,” Carlos shares. “All of these good gifts would have been absolutely, positively impossible for me to do on my own. So I have only one person to thank for that, and it’s the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“I don’t have a lot of material things... but the spiritual things outweigh this.”
We’re deeply grateful for the compassion and generosity shown by our Kansas City community throughout the holiday season. Yet we know hunger, homelessness and poverty are tragedies that affect our neighbors all year long. And with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, their needs are even greater.

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 well into the year ahead. By supporting this initiative, you help ensure we have the resources to offer immediate relief and permanent transformation to hurting individuals and families 365 days a year:

- Food, shelter, clothing, medical services and other life essentials
- Long-term Christian recovery
- Spiritual guidance, counseling and case management
- Adult education, career development and job placement assistance
- Summer camp and structured year-round activities for children
- The ability to keep pace with growing and changing needs

For more information on ways to give, including “challenge” opportunities or donations of securities, vehicles or collectibles, contact Dennis Chapman at (816) 329-1476 or dennis.chapman@cityunionmission.org.

Why Worry Doesn’t Have the Last Word

Do you ever lose sleep over whether you’ve saved enough for retirement? If so, you’re not alone. In fact, anxiety now affects 40 million Americans. But God wants us to bring our fears and worries to Him. Psalm 55:22 says to “cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.”

And there’s more great news. If you’re concerned about retirement saving, time is still on your side. Here are two reasons why:

1. **75 is the new 65.** People are living longer than ever, which could actually allow you to delay retirement a few years and lessen financial worry at the same time.

2. **The SECURE Act.** Congress recently passed the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act to give Americans more time to continue retirement savings. While you can still make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to City Union Mission beginning at age 70½, the age for taking required minimum distributions from an IRA has been raised to age 72.

Take steps toward a more secure financial future and trust God with the rest.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “How to Stop Worrying and Find Peace” 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.

Honoring Mission Employees:

Meet Charles Beeghley

As Mentorship, Aftercare and Prison Release Specialist for the Mission’s Christian Life Program, Charles Beeghley is dedicated to helping men released from prison rebuild Christ-filled lives and transition successfully into independent living in their communities.

After serving as a case manager, Charles assumed the multi-faceted role nearly two years ago and has found the scope of his work uniquely tied to his career path. As a pastor in the inner city and a doctoral student exploring how to encourage churches to utilize justice-involved individuals in their ministry, he feels the most powerful way to reduce crime and violence is to introduce the gospel.

“I believe that the Bible is probably the only real way to change hearts and therefore change the statistics,” Charles says. “To see a lot of guys being able to grow and mature and become vital parts of the Mission or their church is probably the most fulfilling part of my work.”

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 our faith-based programs and services. We encourage you to join other compassionate community members in helping us reach our campaign goal.