GRATEFUL THROUGH IT ALL:
Natasha is especially thankful for YOU!
Your compassion & support change lives.

Read Natasha’s heartwarming story on Page 3.

Don't miss . . .

Giving Thanks for All God's Blessings
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Meet New Members of Our Development Team
Page 2

Join our Celebrate Hope Campaign
Page 4

For more information: (816) 474-9380    cityunionmission.org
It might surprise you that in another year filled with hardships and uncertainty, the overwhelming messages I hear are ones of gratitude and hope.

Despite the challenges we still face as a community – or perhaps because of them – we remain connected to each other in a spirit of love and generosity. Your care and compassion have never been more evident here at City Union Mission than right now, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season.

You have stepped up to help our hurting neighbors as God has called us to do. Provided nourishing meals. Safe shelter. Life-restoring guidance. More than that, you’ve prayed for our ministry and guests. Encouraged others to join our mission to transform lives. Your love has made it possible for hearts to be restored and lives rebuilt. Now that’s something to celebrate!

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, you and other faithful friends are at the top of my list. As you enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, both near and far away, I pray God will fill your heart with joy, peace and the comfort of knowing that lives have been changed thanks to your kindness.

I am grateful for you… today and every day. God bless!

Did You Know?

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Meet New Members of Our Development Team

Karl Ploeger, Director of Development
“I’m so excited to be with City Union Mission and apply my vocational skills to supporting the critical work of the Mission.”

Karla Schunning, Corporate Relations Manager
“God continues to bless my life in many ways, one of which is getting to join in the journey of seeing lives transformed. I want to help provide hope to people going through a rough season of life.”

Chris Meikel, Major Gifts Officer
“I came to City Union Mission to be a part of a team that lives up to the mission statement of meeting the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the poor or homeless.”

Your Gifts in Action

January - June 2021

41,361 Homeless Sleeping Overnight (daily average - 229)
86,078 Meals Served (daily average - 476)
2,611 Patients Seen (for medical issues)
35,140 Chapel Service Attendance (daily average - 194)
201 Salvations and Re-dedications

While providing a full range of services, City Union Mission continues to follow local government health and safety guidelines.

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After years of struggling with substance abuse, Natasha regained her sobriety and remained clean for nearly a decade. Longing for change and believing she was ready, she took a new job in Las Vegas. But instead of making a fresh start, she was influenced by others who led self-destructive lifestyles, and sadly, she rekindled her addiction.

“I believe it happened because my foundation wasn’t built on Jesus,” she says. “My life really fell apart.”

Angry with herself and her deteriorating situation, she rebelled against authority, committed unlawful acts and finally was arrested and incarcerated. While in jail, “I was introduced to God by a girl who said she loved Jesus. From there I began reading the Bible and Christian testimonies of others who’d once lived similar lives to mine.”

When Natasha was released, she knew she needed help to learn to live her life for Christ. After researching recovery programs, she came to City Union Mission.

“I was drawn to the Mission because I knew Jesus was there and because of their New Life Program for helping the homeless,” she says. “And what I’m experiencing is remarkable.”

With spiritual counseling and Christ-centered guidance, she’s uncovering and healing from wounds of her past which were the deep-rooted cause of her addiction. Through adult education and work-skills training, she’s regaining self-esteem, recognizing her talents and preparing to build a career.

Now, as a whole person, she is eager to reenter society and feels God calling her to help others. “I want to go into the jails and give my testimony to the women there before they’ve lost hope,” she says. “I want a job in the Kingdom of God to give back for what has been given to me.”

As Natasha celebrates this Thanksgiving, she feels incredibly thankful for your compassion and support — and how it’s given her a new beginning. “I’m so grateful for this program. It has changed the way I see myself, because you are truly healed here. I found Jesus and I found myself.”

“I love Jesus so much. There’s nothing anyone could ever tell me that would convince me there’s not a God.

“I have this grateful heart.”
Fulfilling a long-standing need in the community, we are happy to announce that Blue Springs will soon be the home of our newest City Thrift Store located at 1102 NW Woods Chapel Road! Come shop our wide variety of clothing, furniture, household items and more.

You can check the Mission’s website and Facebook page for the specific date and times for the City Thrift Store Grand Opening.

For more information, contact Jon Capp at (816) 329-1480 or jon.capp@cityunionmission.org.

During an appointment, a patient indicated frustration with his medication patch. When the doctor asked why, he replied “The nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and now I’m running out of places to put them!”

Sometimes details get lost in translation and can put us at risk… like how often we should update our will.

Did you know nearly 70 percent of Americans do not have an up-to-date will? Good estate planning may help you avoid:

1. **Legal risks.** Your will could help loved ones avoid delays in receiving an inheritance or property.
2. **Financial risks.** Ensure your loved ones are provided for and keep your estate from becoming tangled up in expensive probate proceedings.
3. **Legacy risks.** Take time to consider your estate plan in light of your values, and you may discover you’d like to leave a gift in your will to a charity like City Union Mission. Your will can be a great place to communicate a legacy of personal faith.

**Is it time to create or update your will?**

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “How to Avoid Risk and Promote Family Peace” by contacting Karl Ploeger at (816) 329-1475 or karl.ploeger@cityunionmission.org – or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/cityunionmission.