

A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 62 • NO. 3 • 2022 HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

The best Christmas
gift there is...

Bobbie

has joy and new life,
thanks to you!

Don't miss ...



The Joy that Comes from Christ
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"I feel alive again."
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3 Easy Ways You Can Help
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For more information: (816) 474-9380 cityunionmission.org



Give 2X the help on GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 29

A Message from
DR. TERRY MEGLI

The JOY that Comes from Christ

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

As we rejoice over the birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting – today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives... as well as in the lives of those we serve.

While we do provide Christmas gifts to the guests in our care, what's most important is that they know about Jesus' sacrifice and the gift of salvation that is freely given to us all.

Thanks to your friendship, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore lives – and wrap local men, women and children in God's loving embrace.

Just like Bobbie, whose story we've shared on page 3, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love as your blessings abound.



Giving thanks to God,

Terry Megli

Dr. Terry Megli
Chief Executive Officer

SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEAL...

You can help make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors who are hungry and homeless. With so many obstacles to overcome during this season of hardship, they need a helping hand and to experience God's love!



\$2.50
for 1 hot meal



\$21.00
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our Matching Challenge!**

That's right... your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter and care. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are struggling with inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships.

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.

📄 Give online anytime at **cityunionmission.org**.

**THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!**



“Now I
**FEEL
ALIVE**
again.”

When Bobbie was 6 years old, her father abandoned her family, leaving her mother struggling to support their children. And when she couldn't make ends meet, she gave them to other couples to care for. “Mine wasn't a legal adoption. I was just given away to a well-to-do couple,” Bobbie says. “I felt abandoned.”

She didn't have the coping skills or support to process her pain, so she bottled it up for years. “It was eating me up inside.”

Then she married an alcoholic who abused her physically and emotionally, and it triggered flashbacks of horrendous abuse at the hands of her guardians – memories she'd repressed since childhood. “I started drowning myself in alcohol to deal with those memories and my husband's abuse. I didn't want to feel anything,” she says. “I was lost and hopeless.”

But one day, **she had a glimmer of hope that life could be different**, and it gave her the courage to leave her husband.

That's when she came to the Mission, where she found safe shelter and the love of the Lord. “I read the Bible and got to know Jesus. I got saved!” she says, with tears of joy.

Meanwhile, through counseling and faith-based classes, Bobbie has finally processed her trauma and developed coping skills to deal with whatever life has in store. “The women who run the New Life Program are so supportive, caring and loving that I was able to heal.”

“Now I have a relationship
with God.”



Now, she plans to find a home and a job and share the love of the Lord at every turn. “I want to bring others to salvation because the Mission saved me.”

Bobbie is excited to celebrate the restored hope she has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful she is. “I felt dead inside, but the Mission gave me a place to heal, find myself and get closer to God. Now, I feel alive again.”

Volunteer Spotlight: Ruby and Jim Smothers

What an incredible blessing to have Ruby and Jim Smothers, and their daughter Vicki, deliver 85 handmade quilts for local boys and girls!

The "Westin Sewing Circle" that Ruby is a part of makes the quilts, then Vicki sews on a "Jesus Loves _____" patch that can be personalized for each child. Previously, they've made quilts for kids at the Mission's Family Shelter and at Camp CUMCITO, as well as Veterans in our L Minor Care Center.

Ruby and Jim volunteered at the Mission for many, many years. Ruby oversaw the Christmas Store and School Supply Distribution, and Jim served in maintenance and landscaping, including mowing the Family Center yard. They received the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions Rescue Award at our Stewardship Banquet in 2000.

Though they no longer volunteer due to health issues, God has transitioned them into serving the homeless and poor through these handmade quilts that wrap up our guests in Christ's love.

Thank you, Ruby and Jim, for your faithful friendship and service. We love you!



3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

SERVE NOURISHING MEALS



You can feed our hungry neighbors by donating these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season. Please deliver them

to **our Food Warehouse at 1020 E. 10th Street, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

turkeys & hams * boxes of stuffing * bags of potatoes * canned fruits and vegetables * coffee, creamer & sugar



PROVIDE THE ESSENTIALS



You can offer our guests these essential items to keep them safe and comfortable during their time at City Union Mission. Please drop off donations at **our Food Warehouse at 1020 E. 10th Street, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

socks * underwear for men & women (larger sizes)
paper towels & toilet paper * laundry detergent

DONATE GIFT CARDS



Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts – and year-round necessities. Please mail or deliver them to **1100 E. 11th Street in Kansas City.**

Walmart * Target * Amazon

Thank you for making this our best Christmas celebration yet!



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HOTLINE FOR THE HOMELESS
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