

A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 63 • NO. 1 • 2023 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU FOR LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR, DEBBIE,

and giving her
hope for the
future!



Don't miss ...



**Your love will transform lives
this summer!** Page 2



"The Mission gave me hope."
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Change a child's life
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For more information: (816) 474-9380 cityunionmission.org

A meal for \$2.50 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



A Message from DR. TERRY MEGLI

Thank you for loving your neighbors as yourself

We all need a helping hand from time to time. No one makes it through life without a little care and compassion along the way. That's what loving your neighbors is all about, right?

And yet, you and I know that God's Word has a way of challenging us to go further... of stretching our faithfulness beyond what we thought possible. The Lord makes the impossible POSSIBLE at City Union, thanks to the generosity of friends like YOU.

Now, as the summer months approach, I hope we can count on you during our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign.

Time and time again in Scripture, we're told not just to "love your neighbor" but to "love your neighbor as yourself." That's a big difference! It's making the needs of others a priority equal with your own from the beginning.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who give in this way to help men, women and children in Kansas City who are hurting and homeless. And I ask for your continued support through the summer, when the weather can be dangerous for people who live outside.

Thank you for offering a helping hand to your neighbors most in need – and for continuing to love them **as yourself**.



Giving thanks to
God,

Dr. Terry Megli
Chief Executive
Officer

YOUR LOVE will transform lives this summer!

Your gift today provides:



63,190 meals



34,026 beds



hundreds of
hygiene items



countless hours of
counseling & education



life-transforming decisions
for Christ

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Give now!
cityunionmission.org



Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!

Celebrating six new beginnings...

THANKS TO YOU!

We're proud of our Christian Life Program graduates!

It's a special time at the Mission as **we celebrate six new graduates from our long-term Christian Life Program!**

After 12-16 months of Christ-centered counseling, classes and life-skills training, this is only the beginning. Thanks to your support and God's grace, they have a new life of HOPE.

As our graduates return to our community, please keep them in your prayers. And thank you for your continued support, as more people walk through our doors to start their own journey of transformation.

Want to learn more about our recovery services for men and women? Visit **cityunionmission.org**.

“The Mission
gave me
hope.”



Debbie grew up in a world of contradictions, of light and darkness, of love and fear. “I went to church my entire life and always believed Jesus was my Lord and Savior,” she says. “But I also had a long history of being abused.”

She never told anyone, never processed her pain with family or turned to the Lord for healing. “I suppressed the memories and locked my pain away. I had walls up all the time.”

Eventually, Debbie went into nursing, married a wonderful man and adopted two children. **Her life looked perfect from the outside, but on the inside, she was being torn apart by the secret she carried.** “I was a wreck, a complete mess.”

Then her husband was injured on the job and a dishonest lawyer botched his workers’ compensation claim. Meanwhile, Debbie fell ill and couldn’t work. Little by little, the couple’s savings dried up. They lost their home and custody of their daughters and wound up living in their car. **“I couldn’t believe we were homeless,” Debbie says.**

That’s when they entered our New Beginnings Covenant Recovery Program, and through biblical discipleship, Debbie’s faith has grown strong. “I went

from knowing about God to really knowing Him.”

His love gave Debbie the courage to lower her walls and process her pain with her counselors. “God wanted me here so He could open my heart. Now I can talk about everything,” she says. “I’m happy and peaceful.”



God is in this place.



When Debbie and her husband find work and are financially stable again, they’re looking forward to being reunited with their daughters in a place of their own. And everywhere she goes, Debbie plans to be a walking, talking testimony of the power of Christ’s love. “I want people to see the light in me.”

Debbie is thankful for the way you have answered God’s calling to love your neighbor as yourself – and have helped her learn how to love herself. “The Mission showed me how to change my life through God. They gave me hope.”

“By love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” - Galatians 5:13b-14, KJV



Help Camp CUMCITO change a child's life

Summer days are often lonely for disadvantaged and at-risk children. Mom and Dad may work long hours, struggling to pay for utilities, rent and groceries. There's nothing left over to take a vacation or send their child to camp. Maybe not even enough for three meals a day.

But you can change that by sending a child to City Union Mission's Camp in the Ozarks (CUMCITO)! Each July, 450 children spend a week on 600 acres near Warsaw, Missouri, making new friends, swimming, hiking, doing crafts and enjoying three wholesome meals a day.

All the while, we're planting seeds of faith in their young lives through chapel services, Bible teaching, drama, music and the compassion of our Christian counselors.

Will you pray about being a part of this life-changing work? Your gift of \$160 will sponsor one child for one day. A full week costs \$800. The fruit will last a lifetime.

For more information, visit campcumcito.org

To sponsor a child, go to cityunionmission.org/campsponsor



Donate your car Change a life!

When you donate your reliable, used car to our **Car Ministry Program**, we give it to one of our Christian Life Program graduates as they leave the Mission and begin a new season of independent living.

Most of our graduates aren't financially able to purchase a reliable car to get back and forth to work and take care of other responsibilities, so your gift helps set them up for success. And we'll take care of maintaining the car for a year.

All donations are tax deductible. To learn more about our Car Ministry or make a donation, call ☎ (816) 841-6171 or go to cityunionmission.org/ways-to-help/donate-a-car/



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