

A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 63 • NO. 4 • 2023 HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to you...

MEAGAN HAS HOPE THIS *Christmas!*



Don't miss ...



**Celebrating the HOPE of
Christmas** Page 2



**You make Christmas at the
Mission special!** Page 2



"The cycle has been broken."
Page 3

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

Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our homeless neighbors too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at City Union Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to our neighbors – like Meagan (whose story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



Giving thanks to God,

Dr. Terry Megli
Chief Executive Officer

YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION SPECIAL!

Christmas Morning: Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they’ve enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God’s love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!

Share **Your Story** this Christmas

You have a story your loved ones want to hear. Here are three ideas to share it this holiday season:

- 1 Interview yourself.** Find interview templates online or simply come up with your own questions to answer and share.
- 2 Go online.** Use a tool like Storyworth or Remento to help prompt your story and turn it into a keepsake book or video.
- 3 Impact others.** At the heart of your story are the values and causes that are important to you. Including a gift in your will to City Union Mission is a meaningful way to share that with your family – and impact others.

Your story and faithful support makes you a significant part of our story, too!



For the full version of this article, request a **FREE** copy of “4 Ways to Share Your Story this Christmas” by contacting Sandy Baldwin at **(816) 329-1477** or sandy.baldwin@cityunionmission.org – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at christianwill.org/cityunionmission.



“The cycle, has been broken.”

“**W**atching my dad and knowing my mom’s past, I was bound and determined not to do similar things. But instead I went down the same hard, wrong path.”

Meagan’s mother was incarcerated and her father died as a result of substance abuse. “So my brother and I raised ourselves.” With little parental guidance or good role models, she admits she made poor choices, among them experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

“Soon I was feeding my addiction. I couldn’t keep a job and was living out of my car, then in motels.”

When she could no longer bear that traumatic and toxic lifestyle, she came to City Union Mission – but didn’t stay. “I hadn’t yet reached my rock bottom.”

But a seed had been planted. “I was introduced to Christ my first time here, and I wholeheartedly believe God brought me back a year later.”

This time she came with her 8-year-old son.

Meagan joined our New Life Program and immediately embraced our faith-based teachings. “Once you recognize God’s love for you, the process of healing and self-forgiveness can begin.” And she’s grateful to share experience with her little boy. “We pray together, go to church and read God’s word. It’s incredible to watch Him moving all over our lives.”



“My life was full of uncertainty and chaos, and here I have found so much stability, structure, support – the list goes on.”

Through life skills and vocational development, Meagan is securing tools for independent living. And while helping in our Community Assistance department, she discovered her love of serving others.

Now clean, sober and self-confident, she is excited about her future.

“I want to do something meaningful and I’m really drawn to the hospice field if that’s what God has planned for me.”

She is also committed to building a Christ-centered life for her son. “I’m beginning to believe I’m the mom this little boy needs.”

Meagan has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new beginning. “The cycle of homelessness and addiction is being broken, not just for me, but also for my son and generations to come.”

Help meet our URGENT NEEDS

The holidays are a time of joy and celebration. But right now, far too many of our neighbors are struggling with the rising costs of housing and food. They're turning here... and YOU can help welcome them with love and a special meal!

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS!

SPIRAL SLICED HAMS

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

BUTTER

CANNED VEGETABLES

POWDERED MILK

DESSERTS (store-bought, in original packaging)

COFFEE

CREAMER

Drop off donations at our Food Warehouse at 1020 E. 10th Street, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

No time to shop? Donate now!

☎ (816) 474-9380

💻 cityunionmission.org



Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.50
for 1 hot meal



\$21.00
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



Volunteers needed... *like YOU!*

Ever wondered how you might do even more for men, women and children here at the Mission? Come serve as a volunteer! There's plenty to do, and no experience or skill sets required... just open hands and a willing heart. We'd love to have you!

Contact us today to see how you can help...



Call: **Sheryl** at (816) 329-1447

Email: **impact@cityunionmission.org**

Sign up now!