

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 65 • NO. 2 • 2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



The love **YOU** share

gives neighbors like Justin
hope for a better life...



Don't miss ...



**Transforming Lives is Possible
this Summer** Page 2



"I look forward to tomorrow!"
Page 3



**Vocational Development
Program's Success** Page 4



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



A Message from DR. TERRY MEGLI

Thank you for **REMEMBERING** your neighbors this summer

What does summer mean to you? Family vacations... lazy mornings... afternoons at the park or by the pool. As a kid, you probably remember time standing still over summer. Yet, now these months seem to be busier than ever..

Between work, family and community responsibilities, endless "to-do" lists crowd our days. In some ways, the "lazy days of summer" may be a thing of the past.

We've seen this at City Union Mission for a while now. As supporters in our community stay busy with summer plans, donations tend to drop off. I'm thankful you haven't forgotten about the needs of your neighbors - and that you respond with a heart of compassion... which is why I need your help.

As we enter **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign, I hope I can count on you. Please give generously each month of this season** to help the men, women and children in Kansas City who are hurting and homeless.

Thank you for remembering to share love with your neighbors in need this summer - no matter how leisurely or lively these months may be.

Giving thanks to God,

Dr. Terry Megli
Chief Executive Officer

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- John 13:34b-35

City Union Mission receives **NONPROFIT CONNECT AWARD**



City Union Mission has been chosen as one of 10 organizations and individuals to be honored at the **2024 Nonprofit Connect Awards Celebration**. They were named in the **Excellence In Impact** category for their programs and services that meet our community's most pressing needs, restoring the lives of struggling men, women and families through God's grace.

Nonprofit Connect serves to link the nonprofit community to education, resources and networking so organizations can more effectively achieve their missions. The 40th annual event will be held May 16 at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center. For more information, visit npconnect.org/awards-celebration.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

is possible this summer... **thanks to YOU!**



At every step of their journey... YOUR gift helps change their lives.

Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!

Give now! cityunionmission.org



“I look
forward **to**
tomorrow!”



A tragic event Justin experienced as a teenager changed the trajectory of his life.

“It left me feeling lost, alone and with no boundaries,” he says, “as if I had no meaning or purpose.” He began searching for something to fill the void, and his journey led to addiction, destructive habits and broken relationships.

“I would take, steal, lie – anything to satisfy my needs. Eventually the people I would turn to stopped tolerating that behavior from me.”

Finally, with no one to help him, he found himself on the streets. “I was headed for a really bad place, far beyond homelessness.” But God had other plans: He rekindled the compassion in the hearts of Justin’s loved ones.

“They hadn’t completely abandoned me – they confronted me. My sister put me in her car and brought me to the Mission.”

Justin says his biggest challenge in life was facing a future he thought didn’t exist. But in our Christian Life Program, his eyes were opened as he grew in God’s Word. “The darkness in my heart was lifted and I began looking forward to tomorrow.”

Through his newfound faith, he’s also found the boundaries he was lacking. “There is an absolute objective authority over all of us, and that is Jesus Christ.”

Just as important in his daily walk, he now knows he’s not alone. “There’s a community here. I have support and I can support others as well. We’re all in this together.”

Looking ahead, Justin says, the Mission has put him in a position to be a productive part of society, gainfully employed and living independently.

Justin now has strength for a new beginning because of your compassion for him and others in need. Because you chose to share God’s love, he has a path forward in life. “I’ve found myself, I’ve found God and I’ve found a future.”

“ I realized I was here for a purpose; there’s a plan I have to work toward. ”

Vocational Development Program's success shared at Kansas State Capitol

City Union Mission recently shared testimony of the positive outcomes of workforce development for the formerly incarcerated to the Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee at the Kansas State Capitol.

The Mission's message focused on its unique Vocational Development program which provides for wide-ranging, marketable job skills offered through our community training partners. These hard skills are backed by soft skills in teamwork, conflict resolution, leadership and self-presentation. Educational formation, character development and theology of work complete our whole-person program.



Mission leadership attending were (pictured left to right) Terry Megli, Chief Executive Officer; Coleton Woody, Career Development; Doug Bodde, Administrator of Vocational Development; and David Langford, Mission Board Member.

Hope Beyond 100 Years...

Celebrating a Century of Caring for our Community

For 100 years, City Union Mission has brought God's life-transforming love to homeless and hurting neighbors in Kansas City. Friends like you have made this milestone possible through your loyal and generous support. A special anniversary issue of our newsletter will reach your mailbox in July, with highlights from the past and an invitation to celebrate with us at our *Hope Beyond* Gala on September 15. You can also visit cityunionmission.org/hope100/ to learn more.

We're grateful for your generosity and pray for your partnership in the years ahead as we continue to help struggling neighbors build bright futures.



**Camp begins
June 25th**

*help make sure no
child is left out!*

For 100 years, with help from friends like you, we've been offering our community life-changing opportunities, including the chance for so many of Kansas City's children to attend City Union Mission's Camp in the Ozarks (CUMCITO). This summer, more than 450 boys and girls hope to attend – and you can make their wish come true! Donate online today, at cityunionmission.org/



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