



A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 67 • NO. 3 • 2026 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



**See how your
compassion
gave Crystal
a fresh start...**

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**
SUMMER CAMPAIGN



Don't miss...



Love Your Neighbor
Page 2



"I learned to walk with God."
Page 3



**Volunteer: Be the hands and
feet of Jesus** Page 4

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



A meal served with LOVE for a neighbor in need... **just \$2.50!**



A Message from GARETH KEOWN

Sharing a story of **GOD'S HOPE** this summer.

I'm grateful for how the Lord writes each of our stories, and how He weaves them together. Through your gifts and prayers, you play a meaningful role in the stories of your neighbors' lives!

Sadly, this summer, too many of our neighbors are experiencing a heartbreaking "chapter": Extreme heat on the streets... thirst and hunger... loss of hope. Many turn to us for cool shelter, meals and water, recovery services and more.

You can share the life-changing care our hurting and homeless neighbors need.

That is my prayer for the summer, **as we begin our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign this month.** Together, through God's abundant grace and mercy, we can provide vital assistance to change our neighbors' stories, and their lives, for good.

I've seen these life-transformations happen right here at City Union Mission, like for Crystal, whose story you can read on page 3 of this newsletter.

Your support this summer will make transformations possible for people like her, whether you give once or give all three months. Your generosity across June, July and August will mean steady meals, safe shelter and transformative, Christ-centered care that writes new stories of hope for our neighbors.

Blessings,

Gareth Keown, MSML
Chief Executive Officer

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"

- Matthew 22:39, KJV



FIND A BARGAIN BLESS A LIFE!

When you make a donation or shop at any of our four City Thrift stores, you're blessing others in so many ways!

Our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet find low-cost necessities. And all proceeds from our thrift stores in Kansas City and surrounding communities support our ministry that saves and transforms lives.



Shop City Thrift or drop off your unwanted items at any of our donation centers, with flexible hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.



For more information or to schedule a pick-up, contact us at ☎ (816) 641-5656 or ✉ admin@teamthrift.com. Or visit 🌐 citythrift.org.

YOU CAN SHOW A HURTING NEIGHBOR THEY'RE NOT ALONE!



It starts with a meal...



and ends with a life renewed in Christ!

Your gift of \$2.50 provides a nourishing meal – and can lead to other transformative services like shelter, Christ-centered counsel and recovery... for physical, emotional and spiritual wholeness.

Give during our Love Your Neighbor campaign... and show local people who are homeless and hurting that you care.

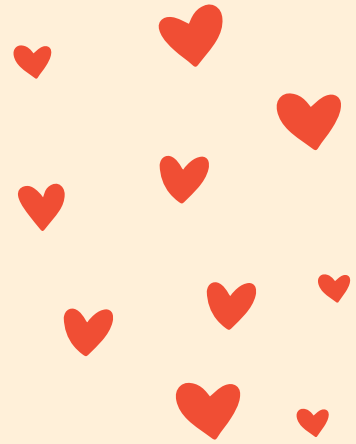


Give now!
cityunionmission.org

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
SUMMER CAMPAIGN



**“I learned
to *WALK*
WITH God.”**



Cystal’s childhood was mostly happy, surrounded by family. But her life was disrupted when she was abused by a family friend she trusted. She didn’t know how to process what she’d experienced. “No one ever taught me how to deal with it,” she says. “I just pushed it to the back of my mind.”

By the time Crystal was just 13 years old, she was introduced to drugs. What began as curiosity escalated into an addiction that followed her into adulthood. **Though she experienced brief seasons of sobriety, the cycle of addiction never fully released its grip.**

Years later, after ending an abusive relationship, Crystal began to unravel. “Life looked good for me on the outside, but it wasn’t,” she says. **“Inside, I was falling apart.”** Her breaking point came when a near-fatal incident while driving under the influence left her unable to walk for a year. Eventually, she lost her housing... and hope.

That’s when Crystal walked through the doors of City Union Mission.

“This place is amazing,” she says. “They care about me, my health and making me better.” After spending time in the women’s shelter, Crystal committed to our New Life Program because she wanted more than temporary support – she wanted real change.

Through our Christ-centered environment, Crystal encountered God in a new way. “Even though I attended church years ago, I didn’t understand God,” she says.

“Since I’ve been here, I’ve learned so much and grown closer to Him.” Surrounded by people she could trust, Crystal began healing – from addiction and the belief that she was worthless. “They taught me to value myself,” she says.

Because of you, neighbors like Crystal know that God loves them and they are worthy of a new beginning. Thank you for opening the door to hope and healing this summer! “This program changed everything about me. I learned to walk with God and feel like a whole different person.”

“The Mission is caring for me from the inside out, so I can be ready and whole again.”



The Generosity You Didn't Know You Could Afford

Perhaps you have a collection you've curated, stocks you've managed or property you've maintained. Research shows that about 90% of wealth is held in valuables like these, known as appreciated assets. Did you know you can turn them into a legacy of changed lives?

First, let's define our terms.

What are appreciated assets? Appreciated assets, sometimes called non-cash assets, are any items of increasing value. This includes personal property, such as artwork, collectibles, cryptocurrency, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate.

What's the benefit of giving appreciated assets? Donating items of value to a ministry you love can help you reduce or eliminate capital gains tax when you transfer part or all the assets to the organization before

the sale. The ministry can then sell the assets without any tax consequences. You may also receive a tax deduction, essentially increasing the amount you're able to give.

How can my appreciated assets make a difference? Whether you donate them now or as part of your estate plan, giving items under your stewardship to ministries like City Union Mission will impact the people and communities we serve. Plus, your generosity can encourage others to do the same.



For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "One Man's 'Trash' Turns Out to Be Treasure!" by contacting Sandy Baldwin at (816) 329-1477 or sandy.baldwin@cityunionmission.org.



Volunteer:

Be the hands and feet of Jesus

Lend your time and talents to make a difference in the lives of your hurting neighbors. You can choose how you want to volunteer:

- ✓ Serve meals
- ✓ Administrative assistance
- ✓ Kitchen food prep
- ✓ Thrift stores
- ✓ Facility and ground maintenance



Want to be even more involved? You can serve as a shelter care coordinator, chapel speaker, educational assistant and more!

Share your gifts and Christ-like compassion – volunteer on your own or with a group today! Contact Chris at [\(816\) 474-9380](tel:(816)474-9380) or email impact@cityunionmission.org.



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HOTLINE FOR THE HOMELESS
(816) 474-4599

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

(Galatians 6:9, KJV)