



A Publication of CITY UNION MISSION

THE LIGHT

VOLUME 67 • NO. 4 • 2026 FALL NEWSLETTER

GIVING THANKS FOR YOU!

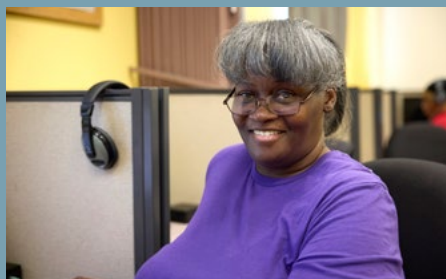


INSIDE: Kendra
is counting her
blessings this fall.

Don't miss...



**No one should face
hunger alone.** Page 3



**"I have confidence
again."** Page 3



**How Will You Get
Involved This Fall?** Page 4

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

Overflowing with thankfulness... **for you!**



A Message from GARETH KEOWN

I can't help but feel grateful this time of year. Yes, it's a busy season – but there's so much to look forward to: Thanksgiving, Christmas and the outpouring of generosity we see at year end. I imagine you're equally excited about enjoying these holidays with loved ones.

But it's important to pause and give this month the attention it deserves. September is Hunger Action Month – it's our invitation to consider how hunger impacts hurting neighbors... and our community as a whole.

When someone is hungry, they can't think of anything else. Shelter, hygiene, health care and employment can be addressed only after hunger is solved. Your gift of just \$4.50 can provide that solution with a meal for a man, woman or child in the Kansas City metro area.

It's about more than providing nourishment. For a neighbor experiencing homelessness, **a meal is relief, dignity and the first step toward wholeness and stability – as it was for Kendra, whose story you'll read on page 3.**

Thank you for your heart for our hurting and hungry neighbors. Your care and compassion are a powerful response to being rooted in Christ, as we read in Colossians 2:6–7...

“Continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Blessings,

Gareth Keown, MSML
Chief Executive Officer

EVERY DAY IS BARGAIN DAY!

Our City Thrift Stores are a triple blessing to the community.



1. They recycle clothing, shoes and household goods that might be thrown away.
2. They are owned by City Union Mission and help support the work of the Mission.
3. They provide needed household items and clothing to the community.

Donate your used clothing, shoes, books, linens, toys, household items and furniture today.

Call **(816) 641-5656** to schedule a pick-up of furniture, clothing or household items.
For a corporate donation or a large food donation, please call **(816) 474-9380, ext. 5062.**

City Thrift | Kansas City, MO

7740 Wornall Road Kansas City, MO 64114

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

City Thrift | Overland Park, KS

11186 Antioch Road Overland Park, KS 66210

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

City Thrift | Shawnee, KS

11225 Shawnee Mission Pkwy Shawnee, KS 66203

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

City Thrift Donation Center | Lawrence, KS

955 E 23rd St, Lawrence KS 66046

Store Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. every day

**“I have
confidence
again.”**



Kendra always tried to do the right thing. She worked hard and made sure she had enough money to cover her rent and other expenses. But despite her efforts, she found herself stuck in a cycle so many face. “I was living from paycheck to paycheck,” she says. “I budgeted to pay my rent, but I didn’t budget to save.”

Without savings, everything unraveled when she lost her job and then her housing. **Unable to find anywhere else to live, she began sleeping in her car** – something she’d never had to do before.

The weight of it all took a toll. “It made me feel depressed... numb,” she says.

The idea of entering City Union Mission was scary, but Kendra felt she had no choice. She immediately felt welcome.

She also gained an important perspective. “I realized my situation could have been a lot worse,” she says. “A lot of women have gone through domestic abuse... some even have children with them. I’m grateful they too are getting the support they need.”

In our New Life Program, Kendra reclaimed her

self-worth. She found strength in the community of other believers. “Whatever I’m going through, I can talk to them and not be ashamed,” she says.



Learning that I am a child of God gave me more confidence in myself.



Through classes and counseling, she realized where her life went wrong before, and she gained the skills to prevent it from happening again. “My favorite class was budgeting, because I really needed that,” she says.

Because of you, Kendra feels whole again. She is looking forward to living independently and standing on her own two feet again.

She is experiencing Thanksgiving in a whole new way this year... with a fresh perspective on life and a heart of gratitude. “City Union Mission opened my eyes to a better way to live. I’m very thankful.”



NO ONE SHOULD FACE HUNGER ALONE.

MEALS NEEDED BY SEPT. 30!

find shelter, seek recovery and take steps toward a new life in Jesus Christ.

September is Hunger Action Month... and your chance to make sure no one has to face hunger alone.

Just \$4.50 provides a nourishing meal that offers relief and hope when it’s needed most.

Send your gift to support hungry neighbors today
OR give online at **cityunionmission.org**.

Scan to take action now!



SOME GIFTS ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED

Allen Levi challenged himself to write a full-length novel. After accomplishing his goal, he put the manuscript in a drawer and moved on to the next thing.

At the suggestion of friends, Allen self-published the book, titled *Theo of Golden*, in 2023. Word spread about this story of generosity, faith and connection. By early 2026, it reached #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The pet project Allen once put aside has resonated with countless people.

If you've been saving money in a donor advised fund (DAF), consider this your invitation to pull it out of the metaphorical drawer and make a difference today. Here's how:

1. **Remember your "why."** You had a vision when you started your DAF. Refocus on those plans and priorities.
2. **Give today.** Discover what your favorite ministries are doing that align with your vision, then make a DAF gift to transform lives right now.
3. **Create a plan.** Your DAF giving can continue after your lifetime. List City Union Mission as a beneficiary of your DAF account and provide ongoing support for our work.



TAKE ACTION!

How Will You Get Involved This Fall?



Donate essential items!

From food that stocks our pantry shelves to warm clothes that comfort weary neighbors – every item you give provides life-saving care for our community. And you can even spread the joy of giving by hosting a donation drive!

To see our *urgently needed items*, visit
cityunionmission.org/needslist



Join us as a volunteer!

We'd love to see you here at the Mission. Sign up to serve a meal, lead a class or share a message at a chapel service. There are many ways you, your family, friends or church can volunteer with us this fall!

To learn more, visit
cityunionmission.org/ways-to-help/volunteer



Become a monthly giver!

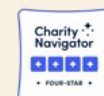
Join other faithful friends who give monthly through our Bed & Bread Club! Start giving monthly this fall to provide a steady stream of support for our neighbors during our busiest season.

To learn more, visit
cityunionmission.org/bedandbread



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HOTLINE FOR THE HOMELESS
(816) 474-4599