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"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCHES"

[www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org)

# THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



February 2004

*Central Union Mission*

## Celebrates 120 Years!



Washington D.C.'s oldest social service ministry

### From 1884 to 2004



Read more stories about our ministry over the past 120 years inside!



### FROM THE DIRECTOR...

In 1915, thirty-one years after Central Union Mission was founded, God called John and Jean Bennett to enter rescue mission work. Originally from New York, John had battled with alcoholism himself and knew first-hand how rescue missions could change lives. It was not until he came to New York City's Water Street Mission and heard about Jesus that he was able to gain victory over his alcoholism.

Under the Bennetts, Central Union Mission was a recognized ministry leader among America's rescue missions and saw a time of vast expansion. In 1917, two tiny orphans were placed in the Mission's care without warning. Recognizing a



great need to help orphans and children from "broken" homes, in addition to the growing number of troubled men the Mission already served, the Mission opened the Children's Emergency Home, and later, Camp Bennett.

As I look back in this 120th year, I am reminded of the responsibility we have to continue serving and ministering to people. I thank you for enabling our Mission team to live up to our wonderful heritage. You are God's special blessing to us through your

gifts of time, treasure and encouragement. You greatly blessed us during the hectic but rewarding holiday season, and now we're counting on your support as we carry the Mission's heritage forward through our 120th year. This month we're pleased to be part-

nering with the Feinstein Foundation. This makes your contribution during March and April even more valuable. Please see page three for details.

### January STP Grads!



Congratulations to our recent Spiritual Transformation Program graduates! Pictured [above] are Charles Smith and Jarrell Cooper. Not shown are: Michael Battle, Warren Briggs, Langley Dobbins, Dewey Mims, Larry Moore, John C. Norman, Ray Stevens, Emery Thompson, and Eugene Thompson.

### Christmas Gifts Bring Joy to Children!

On Saturday, December 20th, 2003, Central Union Mission continued its 80-year tradition of providing Christmas gifts to hundreds of children through our Christmas Bag program! Through the generosity of donors like you, we gave

over 1,000 children clothes, books and toys. Most of these children's parents would not have been able to provide gifts without your help this year. It was rewarding to see the excite-

ment on the children's faces and the gratitude on their parent's faces as they left the Mission carrying bags overflowing with clothes, games, and toys!





## Central Union Mission Celebrates 120 years!

This year we are celebrating our 120th year of serving men, women, and children! The history of Central Union Mission "is the triumphant story of men, women, and children who have found their way out of the darkest circumstances into the wonderful light of God's saving grace."\*\* Here are some of the highlights from the last 120 years!

- 1884 — Central Union Mission launched by Rev. Latham A. Douglass
- 1887 — The Gospel Wagon began bringing wood and the Gospel to needy people
- 1917 — Start of the Children's Emergency Home (The Children's Emergency Home closed in 1970 as foster parenting became more prevalent.)
- 1934 — Camp Bennett (Brookeville, MD) opened
- 1983 — The Mission moved to its present location and the Spiritual Transformation Program was created
- 1987 — Holmes House opened
- 1998 — The Hispanic ministry was created

\*\*From *A Century of Concern: the Story of the First One Hundred Years of the Central Union Mission*



The Children's Emergency Home

## Shelter from the Bitter Cold

We have all noticed them on the streets. A man buried under a pile of tattered blankets, bracing against the night's frigid air on his sleeping bench. A wandering stranger, shoulders shrugged against the wind, pushing a cart with all his belongings. Thanks to your partnership with the Mission, over 100 men are able to escape the cold, wind, and snow each night during the winter and all through the year.

When the winter weather becomes unbearable, as it has been for much of this winter, the Mission invites our Overnight Guests to remain indoors throughout the day. For these men who have nowhere else to go, the Mission is not a place they take for granted. "It's a God-send," said one of our Overnight Guests in reference to the Mission's extra aid during these cold winter days. Another of our Overnight



Guests likes to help out all he can, "The Mission does so much for us," he said, "I like to give back to the Mission for all they've done for me."

Your support is a crucial part of our work here. Please continue to support the Mission as we provide extra warmth, shelter, food, and safety for our Overnight Guests during the coldest months of the year.



## Feinstein Challenge!

Central Union Mission is participating in the 2004 Feinstein Foundation \$1,000,000 challenge. All donations made to the Mission in March or April will be increased by a portion of the Feinstein grant. The greater the amount we receive in donations, the more we will receive from the Feinstein Foundation! Help us fight hunger by participating in this highly successful campaign.

# Opportunities



## FOR YOU TO HELP

### GO PATRIOTS!

What do you get when you combine over 100 Overnight Guests, men from the Spiritual Transformation Program, volunteers, chili, and SuperBowl XXXVIII? A night of food, fun and fellowship at the "SouperBowl"! Thank you to all the volunteers who made the SouperBowl a fun event for our guests as they watched the Patriots battle the Panthers in this year's exciting game!



### CAMP BENNETT T-SHIRT CONTEST

Would you and your family like to spend an evening roasting S'mores with our campers this summer? Help us design our 2004 camp T-shirt. This year's theme is 'Exalting Jesus, our Prince of Peace!' If you are interested in submitting a design, please contact Colin Seager at [campbennett@missiondc.org](mailto:campbennett@missiondc.org) or 301-774-4420. Deadline for participation is April 16th. Winner will also receive a free T-shirt.



### DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

By donating your vehicle (a tax-deductible contribution), you can help Central Union Mission better serve Washington D.C.'s hungry and homeless men, women, and children. Call Lucille Williams at 202-MISSION for more information.

### FOOD DEPOT NEEDS YOU!

Help send our families home with balanced, nutritious meals by donating food for our Food Depot. Everyone needs canned meats and vegetables, and our Hispanic families would be especially thankful for rice and beans.



### MAILING PREFERENCE SERVICE

We respect your preference regarding the amount of correspondence we send you. If you would like to discuss the type and amount of mail you receive, please contact Melissa Hilker at 202-MISSION or [mhilker@missiondc.org](mailto:mhilker@missiondc.org). We will be happy to adjust your mail stream according to your wishes. Thank you.

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!  
[www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org)

### Turn Up the Radio!

Every morning find out more about the Mission's ministries on 105.1 WAVA-FM. You can hear us Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m. on WAVA-FM.



**Yes!** I want to partner with Central Union Mission to help feed and care for the hurting and homeless people in Washington, DC.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$25.00 to feed & care for 20 people
- \$50.00 to feed & care for 30 people
- \$100.00 to feed & care for 40 people
- \$250.00 to feed & care for 100 people
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other amount

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If you would like to donate by credit card, please call 202-MISSION or log on to [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org).