

*Serving
neighbors,
changing
lives*

A Clean Sweep

New Success for Formerly Homeless Man

DC NATIVE SAMUEL WILKERSON had a difficult past: drugs, jail, no high school diploma. He found himself homeless at Central Union Mission in February 2014. "I'm really thankful for what I went through; it took a near-death experience to wake me up to the danger I was in," he remembers.

Turnaround's Not Easy ► He decided to turn his life around by taking advantage of the Mission's employment programs. He was in the Special Circumstances Program and Work Therapy program, where he worked at the Mission's Food PLUS Center. "The Mission programs aren't for everyone," Sam



In addition to his position as a Clean Team Ambassador, Samuel Wilkerson (right) received a certificate for his 8-weeks participation in the Mission's Business Communication class.

explained. "You have to really want it and work hard. I keep praying for those who are suffering with their addictions and problems."

His developing work habits and positive attitude made him a good candidate for the Ready2Work program when a position opened up in 2015. He is employed by the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District (MVT CID), where, as a Clean

Team Ambassador, he sweeps sidewalks and curbs, weeds and cleans out tree boxes, cuts grass, shovels snow and empties trash cans—an important part of city curb appeal. Some work routes can have 14 or 15 trash cans around businesses and restaurants!

More than the Money ► Last year he won the MVT CID's "Outstanding Performance" award. His

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supervisors commented that Sam is "very methodical in his approach to his work. He can

often be seen adding a little more polish to shine cans and ensuring that the curbs are clear of any obstructions." He plans to continue working with the MVT CID. "I'm thankful I have the opportunity to work here; I really like it. It's not about the award or the money. I show up and do good work."

He has been living in his own apartment for a year and is awaiting inspection to be recertified for his housing voucher. He is also pursuing his GED: "It doesn't hurt to have a little education," he says. Saying thanks to Mission supporters, Sam is "grateful to Central Union Mission for this second chance I got. I don't

know where I'd be without the Mission. I pray that I can continue being employed."

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Making Decisions That Bring Peace

SOME QUESTIONS we'll probably never have answered this side of heaven. Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii? Or, how does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the morning?

While these questions are somewhat tongue-in-cheek, there are plenty of areas in life that can create real feelings of uncertainty, but Scripture promises that certainty is possible because God is faithful. According to 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ." He definitively honors His Word and can be trusted.

As many people approach retirement, they often wonder how moving to a fixed income will affect their lives. The good news is a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) can provide the certainty and security they seek. CGAs are part investment and part gift to a ministry like Central Union

Mission—a wise decision that will be good for years to come!

God doesn't want you to struggle with feelings of uncertainty about your financial future. Ask God for wisdom and whether a CGA could be right for you.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Experiencing Certainty in Uncertain Times" by contacting Minister Deborah Chambers from Central Union Mission at (202) 745-7118 ext. 227, or dchambers@missiondc.org—or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/missiondc.



From the Executive Director You Are the Difference

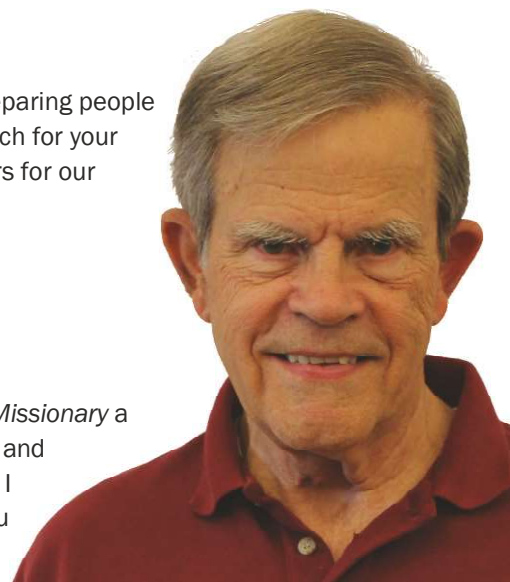
THE OTHER DAY I was thanking a business partner for employing our program graduates—with all their rough edges—when many other candidates are available. She replied, "You're welcome, but it wouldn't be happening without you all, however."

While I was heartened to hear her response, I know the truth is more like "It wouldn't be happening without *you*, our faithful supporters." Your commitment to Central Union Mission is what turns hopeless lives into bright futures. Every dollar you give to Central Union Mission works hard sheltering homeless men, feeding unemployed families, providing school supplies to children,

encouraging isolated seniors and preparing people for productive jobs. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and your prayers for our community and Washington, DC.

David Treadwell

P.S. After ten years, we're giving *The Missionary* a new look. We have the same updates and stories with a fresh graphic approach. I hope you like it. Let me know what you think at dtreadwell@missiondc.org.



Celebrity Chef Encourages Homeless Men

CHEF ROCK IS USED TO COOKING for illustrious characters. He's a celebrity himself after winning Fox's Season 3 of *Hell's Kitchen* with Chef Gordon Ramsay. So why is he cooking at Central Union Mission?

Chef Rock has a heart for the poor and homeless, and it shows through his huge volunteer efforts in this city. Besides serving as a director of kitchen operations at DC Central

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Kitchen, Chef Rock donated considerable time to engage his friends and to host last year's HeArt & Sole fundraiser. And he's doing it again in this month!

Good Tastes and Good Deeds ► "We're so grateful that Chef Rock has been sharing his talent and star power,

but what's even more effective is his enthusiasm and compassion," remarked Deborah Chambers, Mission senior director of strategic partnerships and community engagement. Through our HeArt & Sole event on October 27, Chef Rock and more than 20 talented friends are combining their significant talents to help compassionate Mission supporters provide one million meals for hungry, hurting and homeless neighbors in need.

While he deserves the limelight, he's not looking for it. Together, Chef Rock, with Chefs Joe Cacciola, Horatio Davis, Jerome Grant, Princess Green, Padua Player and Monique Woodland, have come to the Mission kitchen and prepared two fabulous meals for the Overnight Guests: elegant salmon and down-home BBQ. The Mission men were expecting their usual suppers; their eyes lit up with excitement when they saw the special creations just for them.

It's All God ► Chef Rock's commitment to service and to Central Union Mission comes from his devotion to God: "What's most important to me is that people know that any good that comes through me is God. I'm grateful that He gave me these gifts and that I can help in that way." You're invited to enjoy and share in Chef Rock's creative vision at HeArt & Sole—the party with soul—on Thursday, October 27, at Dock5 at Union Market. More information is at www.heartandsole.today; tickets are available at Eventbrite.com, search "Heart and Sole."

Out of Hell's Kitchen and Into the Mission's

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Chef Rock was executive chef of B.Smith's Restaurant, Ben's Next Door and The Carlyle Club. His book *44 Things Parents Should Know about Healthy Cooking for Kids* was published in 2010, and he has been the National Celebrity Chef for the March of Dimes since 2008. In 2013, he appeared on *Chef Wanted* with Chef Anne Burrell and won an executive chef position prize. He is founder and owner of RockSolid Creative Food Group, LLC.



Chef Rock Harper, Chef Princess Green and others volunteered their talents and donated the food for the special Chef's Dinner in May.

As the Days Grow Shorter

It's MORE DANGEROUS to be living on the street. Darkness brings out robbers and bullies, and homeless people are their targets. Your compassionate gift helps the Mission provide a safe, clean respite for our needy friends—and it draws them closer to the God who loves them. Thank you so much for your support!



Your gifts change the lives of homeless men living on the streets of our nation's capital. Please send your gift today.

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THE Missionary

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HeART & SOLE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27 2016

AN EVENING WITH
CHEF ROCK HARPER
& FRIENDS

Chefs With Soul Share Their Hearts for Hungry People

Chef Rock Harper and 30 celebrity chef friends are cooking up treats inspired by their favorite "sole." Stylish foods and beverages! Music by Buzzard Point Caucus! SugaChef Padua Player's Extreme Sweets competition!

The VIP Experience @ 6:00 PM

Enjoy celebrity chefs' "Chopped"-style demonstration and mingle with local celebrities in our VIP lounge. \$195

General Admission @ 7:00 PM

Food, drinks, live and silent auctions, live art experience—the year's best party! \$95

Dock5 at Union Market

1309 5th St., NE • Washington, DC 20002

www.heartandsole.today

Tickets available at Eventbrite.com, search "Heart and Sole"



A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing to 2600 12th St., NE, Washington, DC 20018 or by calling 202-745-7118. In Maryland, copies of documents and information submitted by Central Union Mission are available for the cost of copies and postage from the Secretary of State, Statehouse, Annapolis, MD 21410, 401-974-5534. In Virginia, a financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209, 804-786-1343.

Only \$2.09 provides a hot meal and access to life-saving services.

Please use my donation of:

- ☐ \$15 to feed and care for 7 guests
- ☐ \$30 for 14 guests
- ☐ \$50 for 24 guests
- ☐ \$150 for 72 guests
- ☐ \$_____ to serve as many as possible

Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We'll send a receipt for your records. Please make checks payable to "Central Union Mission." To donate by credit card, please see our website at missiondc.org.

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God bless you for caring!



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