



THE

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 2 • APRIL 2014

# Missionary

A PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION • www.missiondc.org



#9617



# 85786

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### A New Friend Helps Out



Syndi Irvin

She became acquainted with the Mission in November 2013 while working at the University of Phoenix office a few doors down the street. Syndi Irvin and some co-workers came by during their workday, and she found herself stopping in on Wednesdays to work a while.

Syndi started by helping acquire office supplies, then she helped acquire volunteers for the Everyman's Birthday Party. The volunteer department suggested that she work with Bonnie Pritchard, assistant director of education, who noticed her skills and asked her to move to the teaching department.

She's now behind the scenes, organizing office files and getting programs set up. To help eliminate some extra paper, she's helping to put the curriculum and other documents online. A favorite part of her volunteer job is seeing how the students improve in their studies.

"You just take for granted that you can read and write, so it's startling to come here and see men that can't. I am amazed to watch them start reading at 0 percent, then after a while you can see they've improved to 40 percent. After a couple of weeks they're reading at 70 percent. It's a testament to the men and their teachers that they can learn so fast."

"Outreach is a serious passion of mine," she admits; she's also very involved in DC Metro Church's outreach projects. Central Union Mission is fortunate to have her expertise while she manages numerous pressing projects. We're so glad she walked down Massachusetts Avenue! ■



#9617



# 85786

## A Day for Celebration

After years of hard work, Central Union Mission officially opened its shelter doors to the DC community at a dedication ceremony on March 25, 2014. While the building has a state-of-the-art interior, its historic exterior commemorates the turn-of-the-nineteenth-century founding of both Central Union Mission and the Gales School. The Mission with a heart has returned to the heart of the city.

WAVA radio personality Don Kroah was the master of ceremonies for the standing-room-only crowd, who also heard from Mission Board Treasurer David Leach, Thomas Taylor of NoMa Business Improvement District and Chris Graae of cox graae + spack architects. Executive Director David Treadwell thanked the businesses, organizations, churches and individuals who contributed to the building's renovation.

*continued on page 2*



Mayor Gray (center) prepares to cut the ribbon ending the dedication ceremony. He shares the stage with Mission board members.

### More Good News Inside!

Dedication Day Highlights.....	2
Companies Care.....	3
You're Invited .....	4

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR The Best Kept Secret?

With our new men's shelter facility formally opened, we know we have plenty of work to do. Even though we're 130 years old this year, some of our neediest neighbors don't understand what we do. Many loiter at Union Station in all kinds of weather, only two blocks away from our clean, safe and polite shelter.

Our Outreach Special Assistant Cila Marrero said she recently met a man

waiting with all of his belongings at a bus stop near the Gales School. "He said he thought that he had to pay to stay at the Mission. I explained that he didn't, and he was very happy to hear it."

Our challenge is to reach out to our area, to introduce ourselves to those who need help. Their immediate concern may be for a hot meal or a clean bed, but we know meeting these needs can lead them to the Savior who loves them.

You can help us spread the word. Keep telling others about the Mission's work, and, most important, keep praying for us—guests, students and staff. Your prayers and your generous gifts keep us serving God at Central Union Mission. We are so grateful!

Blessings,



## A Day for Celebration

*continued from page 1*

Mission Board Vice President DC Washington sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Reverend Darrel Fiddemon recalled how Jesus Christ and Central Union Mission transformed him from a drug-dealing youth to a husband, father and pastor of New Vision in the City Free Methodist Church.



*The meeting room was filled to capacity, and more guests watched the proceedings on TVs in the dayroom and classroom.*



*Mission staff and volunteers welcome visitors to the Gales School lobby, sheltered from the spring snow falling outside.*

Mayor Vincent Gray noted, "This building had been a blight on the community, but look at how it is now! It will help bring life back to people who may have given up." He emphasized that "Central Union Mission is a microcosm of what our entire city needs to be." Reverend Cornelius Wheeler of Vermont

Avenue Baptist Church dedicated the building to the Lord, praying that "all that we do in this shelter will be in Your name and for Your praise."

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees enjoyed refreshments and tours of the facilities guided by Mission staff, students and volunteers. Central Union Mission begins its 130th year grateful to serve God's people and thankful for the support of our dedicated friends. ■



*Homeless Outreach staff serve Mission guests in our new medical office. Pictured are Oluwabunmi Olusola, health center director, Dr. Janelle Goetcheus, MD, founder and chief medical officer, and Dr. Catherine Crosland, MD, medical director.*

## Special Delivery Brings Hope



Look at all these fantastic volunteers working to distribute food to our neighborhood!

We saw happy faces everywhere at our Georgia Ave, NW, Walmart on April 2, 2014. That's because the **Feed The Children** trucks were in town, delivering food and necessities to about 1,000 families under Central Union Mission's care.

Our friends at **PepsiCo** sponsored the delivery as well as donated food from their Quaker, Tropicana and Frito-Lay product lines. **Walmart** and **Bimbo Bakeries USA** contributed produce, household goods and bread, and **Avon** donated personal care products. Each family received 25 pounds of food and 10 pounds of necessities designed to last a week for a family of four.

According to Mission Executive Director David Treadwell, "These boxes are a big blessing to our families. The children can eat well, and the parents can use the money they're saving toward other bills." According to neighbor Ms. Willie Leake, "This box from Feed The Children really helps out my family. We are especially glad for the things like toilet paper and hand sanitizer," useful items not generally available at food pantries.



Some eager families formed a line at 6:00 am, five hours before the distribution began.

Nearly 100 volunteers from Walmart and PepsiCo and guests and students from Central Union Mission distributed the boxes to the waiting crowd, comprising 400 more families than last year's event. "We're proud to work with our generous partners," said Treadwell, "and we're thankful to help make life a little better for the hungry people in our neighborhood." ■

## Join Us!

### Wednesday Friend's Day

Every Wednesday

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Administrative professionals, please help us assemble information packets, write correspondence and complete other tasks.

### Easter Dinner

April 20, 2014

12:00 noon

You can help us serve our students and Overnight Guests.

### Family Ministry Day at Camp Bennett

April 21, 2014

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Families gather for Easter fun and Bible teaching.

### Executive dinners

April 22, May 6 and June 10, 2014

6:30 pm

Please join us for a free dinner and tour of our facility and ministries. RSVP to [www.missiondc.org/dinners/](http://www.missiondc.org/dinners/).

### Seniors Luncheons

April 25, May 16 and June 20, 2014

10:00 am

Help our seniors enjoy fellowship at Israel Baptist Church (1251 Saratoga Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20018).

### National Day of Prayer

May 1, 2104

10:00 am

Join our prayer meeting featuring local pastors and speakers.

### Executive Luncheon

May 2 and June 6, 2014

12:00 noon

Join us at the Mission for a free lunch, and learn about our ministry. RSVP to [www.missiondc.org/dinners/](http://www.missiondc.org/dinners/).

### Mothers' Day Party

May 8, 2014

12:00 noon

Family Ministries sponsors this celebration at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church (1625 13th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009).

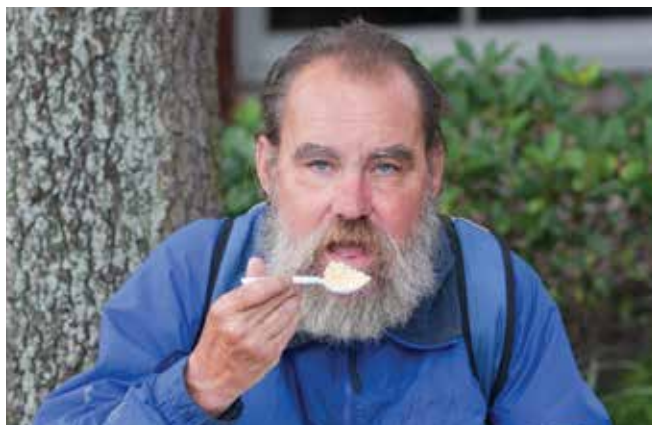
### Father's Day

June 15, 2014

12:00 noon

You can help serve our Mission guests as we celebrate Father's Day.

To volunteer for these events, please register at [www.missiondc.org/volunteercentral](http://www.missiondc.org/volunteercentral).



## Life Begins Again

In the city and in our tired hearts, life is restored through spring's promise. Central Union Mission works in the same way, offering revival to people desperate for a second chance.

When homeless men come to the Mission, they receive a hot meal, a clean bed and hope. Hungry families receive groceries, household items and peace. Isolated seniors enjoy a festive lunch and fellowship.

Because you care about your neighbors, your gifts provide these crucial life-changes. Thank you so much for your generous support and your continued compassion. ■

## You're Invited

Please join us for a relaxing Executive Dinner or take a work break with an Executive Lunch. You can enjoy a meal while learning about the Mission's ministry and taking a personalized facility tour. Be our guest! Please rsvp to [www.missiondc.org/dinners/](http://www.missiondc.org/dinners/). Your meal is provided by a group of special donors. ■

<p><b>Executive Dinners</b> at 7:00 pm (with reception at 6:30 pm)</p> <p><b>April 22</b> <b>May 6</b> <b>June 10</b></p>	<p><b>Executive Lunches</b> at 12:00 noon (reception at 11:30 am)</p> <p><b>May 2</b> <b>June 6</b></p>
---	---

## Save the Date...

You are invited to our 130th Anniversary Gala on Friday, October 3, at the Fairview Park Marriot in Falls Church, Virginia.

**Please pencil us in!**

THE

# Missionary

PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION

2600 12TH ST., NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20018 | [MISSIONDC.ORG](http://MISSIONDC.ORG) | (202) 745-7118

Proudly printed by KCP. For more information, contact Greg Warner at 301.823.3600

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, 1-401-974-5534. 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, 1-804-786-1343.

## I Want to Help!

I'd like to help feed hungry and needy people in Washington, DC, at the cost of only \$2.09 per meal. Please use my gift of:

- \$41.80 to serve a nutritious meal to 20 guests
- \$62.70 to serve 30 guests
- \$94.05 to serve 45 guests
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to serve as many guests as possible

Please make checks payable to "Central Union Mission." To donate by credit card, please see our website at [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.  
We'll send a receipt for your records. God bless you for caring.*