



THE

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Missionary

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Discovering The Joy of Learning

Educational Opportunities Foster the American Dream

For different people, the expression “the American Dream” elicits different images. Although there is still discussion and debate about what the dream is and has become, it is an idea held by many that through hard work, courage and determination one can achieve prosperity.

Such is the conviction of María Quintanilla, who arrived at the Hispanic Family Ministry with a dream that today is on the verge of being realized. María, who was born in El Salvador, has lived in the United States for the past fourteen years. She came to the Hispanic Family Ministry to register for a course that prepares students for the written and oral exam as part of the process of obtaining their American citizenship.



María prepares for her citizenship exam with hard work and strong faith.

According to Pastor Jorge de Casanova, instructor of the Citizenship class, over the four months of the course María made the remarkable commitment to learn not only the answers to the 100 written questions, but also to the oral questions most likely to be asked. “This is particularly noteworthy because her command of the English language is limited,” said Pastor de Casanova. When asked what fuels her determination to overcome language barriers, María said, “I am a Christian and my faith has enabled me to put into practice the verse that says, ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’”

María plans to register for ESL classes in the fall to continue her education. Pastor de Casanova says, “María is a model student in various ways—for her attendance, punctuality, diligence and above all for her spiritual

The following classes will be offered at the Hispanic Ministry this fall:

Basic Computer Skills

GED

Spanish Literacy

Citizenship

Basic and Intermediate ESL

Classes will be held weekday mornings.

outlook on achieving this dream.” For encouragement María visualizes the moment when she lifts up her right hand to pledge allegiance to the United States of America.

For more information about education classes the Hispanic Family Ministry offers, please contact María Esther Rodriquez at 202-232-4490 or 202-232-4480. If interested in volunteering as a teacher or tutor, please contact Julia Smith at 202-745-7118 x 258. ■

You Provided!

From May through June of 2007, Mission supporters touched the lives of neighbors in Washington, DC with...

- 18,339 nutritious meals
- 754 individual, group, and family counseling sessions
- 7,275 chapel, devotions, and Bible study sessions*
- 93 health care services
- 1,078 community members with clothing and furniture

- 10 English classes for Spanish speakers*
 - 23 literacy and GED training sessions*
 - 4 citizenship classes*
 - 6,724 safe places to sleep
- * These reflect the number of attendees.

Thank you for your partnership which makes these valuable services possible!



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Learning for Life-Change

Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good. Job 34:4

For most of the Mission's 123 years, learning God's Word and how to live it has been the core curriculum of all Mission training. The Mission was a leader within our association in the 1980s when Dr. Bob Rich introduced a deeper and more comprehensive study of God's Word in the early days of our Spiritual Transformation Program. Likewise, as our resources increased during the 1990s and the new century, doors have opened for other training and education opportunities for the Mission family.

To reenter society as fully functional and responsible individuals, our men need skills for work. Many need to learn to read and do basic math, others need more advanced training in fields where they already have some skill, and most need to become familiar with computers regardless of their field. Many of these needs are met through cooperation with other agencies that broaden educational opportunities at the Mission.

Our Hispanic community is also in need of training and education. Many individuals are learning to read in Spanish, a needed step before they can be functional in English. Others are taught such practical items as healthy hygiene and how to apply for a job.

We see a great need to encourage education for the children we serve and the reading program at Camp Bennett is designed to that end. Our goal is to provide incentives for the children to continue reading year-round. In the fall we provide backpacks full of school supplies to hundreds of children, and this year our goal is to start more than 850 young minds on the right path as school begins.

To keep up with our ever-changing and growing ministries our staff is in need of continuing education, which we are often able to assist through the Kohlmeier Fund for Christian Education. We are blessed by the dedication to excellence among these faithful students of the Word.

This ongoing and growing commitment to education would not be possible without your support. As we plan our move to a new facility, education is a key consideration during each step, and we continue to rely on our faithful volunteers and donors to ensure we continue to provide quality instruction and training for all those we serve. Thank you for standing with us as we strive to serve those in need.



Sam Sets His Sights High...and Sees Success!

Congratulations to Sam Aleazar for graduating with highest honors from Lincoln Tech's heating and air conditioning maintenance training program! After completing the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) and earning his GED, Sam continues to work diligently toward his dreams. Deputy Director of the STP Don Ross, Director of Social Work Shirley Johnson, and Director of the STP Greg Strong shared in Sam's joy by attending the ceremony in honor of his achievements. ■

Central Union Mission is a proud partner of **STAND IN THE GAP 2007**. Join us on the Ellipse on Saturday, October 6th, from 11AM to 5PM. For more information see www.standinthegap2007.org



Summer Fun at Camp Bennett



Campers load the bus for the first week at Camp Bennett.

Thanks to our faithful and supportive donors, Central Union Mission was privileged to welcome over 350 children to Camp Bennett this summer. For seven weeks, children from the Washington area experienced exciting activities such as swimming, ropes course, campfire, and our very own petting zoo. When paired with a week full of worship and Bible study, this proved to be a life-changing summer! Thank you for your support! ■



A group of campers pauses for a silly picture on their way to the swimming pool!

Tribute Giving: Support the Mission, Honor a Loved One

In 2007, supporters have honored a loved one by giving in honor or memory to Central Union Mission. **Many thanks to...**

From

Joe and Merna Guttentag
Diane Maroney
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Carol and George Bousseleire
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**Jesse C Gram
Harvey B Gram
Carol Yoder**

**Ellan Kok
Annabelle Stearus
Clyde Cokerham
Beverly
Elmer R Smith
Lois W. Robey**

Imogene Stokes
In Honor of...

**Georgia Sprinkle
John E Drew
John P Drew
Bruce Selfon
Tim Steffan
Ross Glickman
Len Tobiaski**

Executive Director David Treadwell thanks Mission volunteer and donor Dr. Richard Semmler. July marked the 100th consecutive month that Dr. Semmler has given to the Mission, and he has now paid for 14,000 meals.



Share the Joy of Learning

A healthy love of learning unlocks the doors of social opportunity and hope. A child who attends a strong school with a supportive home will likely continue to take healthy steps toward one day using her or his gifts in a fulfilling way. For those who are not taught from an early age this joy of discovery and the value of hard work, these doors often remain shut.

Many people come to Central Union Mission with immediate physical needs, and we work hard to meet these in a timely and appropriate way. We also understand that for most the need for food, shelter, or clothing is symptomatic of cycles created by poor education, substance abuse, and inadequate community support. While we recognize our limitations to address

these very complex circumstances, we are compelled to do what we can for our neighbors trapped in these cycles. Through English classes, GED and job skills training, one-on-one tutoring, or simply preparing a child for the new school year with a backpack filled with supplies, people engage in this discovery of the joy of learning in many ways at the Mission. This ushers in real life change.

We live for these discoveries at Central Union Mission. Whether through spiritual understanding, secondary education, practical job skills, or life lessons, we are passionate about helping people discover their God-given talents and have life "to the full" (John 10:10). When people discover the power of unlocking doors through learning, the joy is palpable and energizing.

Would you consider joining with us to make even more discovery possible? Your support sustains these efforts to meet physical needs in a way that moves people toward real life change. We welcome you to find out how you can get involved through volunteerism or financial support. For more information, please contact us as **202-MISSION** or visit us online at **www.missiondc.org**. Your support is essential. Thank you for making this discovery of the joy of learning possible for hundreds of people every year. ■

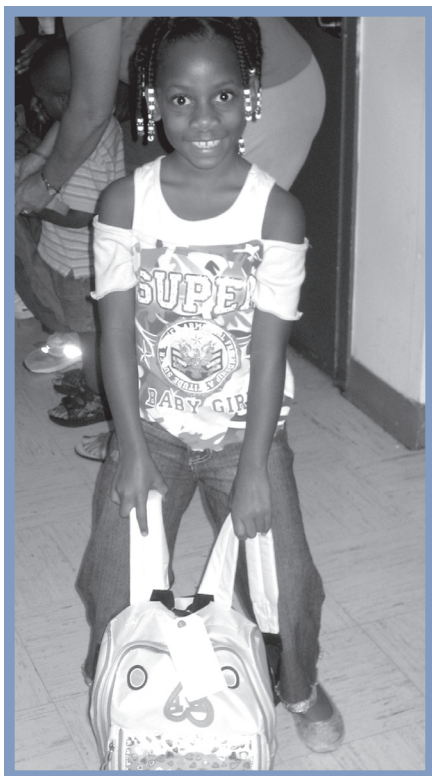
Upcoming Events

■ FALL EVENT #1

Operation Backpack Event
Saturday, August 18, 10:00 a.m.
Central Union Mission Chapel

■ FALL EVENT #2

Help the Homeless Walkathon
Saturday, November 17, 9:00 a.m.
National Mall



School may be out for the summer, but at the Mission we're already gearing up for next fall! Plans are underway for our annual Operation Backpack drive, and we need your help! Last year we provided backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies to over 800 local children, and this year we're looking to start even more off on the right foot. To sponsor a child or donate supplies, contact Shelah Wilcox at (202) 745-7118 ext. 238 or swilcox@missiondc.org.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2007 Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon! Join tens of thousands of Washingtonians on the National Mall and walk in support of Central Union Mission's service to our homeless neighbors. To register or learn more, visit www.helpthehomelessdc.org. Be sure to select Central Union Mission (Code: CNUM) as your beneficiary organization. We'll see you on the Mall!

The Mission is currently gearing up for our annual Back-to-School backpack drive, and we need your support!



THE

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