

# THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



December 2005

*In the Spirit of Providing*

## Christmas Bags for Local Children

Government and Corporation Employees Reach Out to Children in Need



For sponsors of the Central Union Mission Christmas Bag program, thoughts of Christmas gifts were brewing in their minds long before garlands

children at our Christmas Bag Events on Saturday, December 10 and 17. Families were welcomed by hosts who took them through a Walk-Through-Christmas drama presentation by volunteers. After the presentation, they **continued page 3**

appear around town in early November. Each fall, the employees of several government agencies and local corporations such as USA Today renew their commitment to support our ministry to children, often requesting 25 to 200 children at one time. WPGC radio 95.5 and the Lincoln Group were new corporate partners this year. The Central Union Mission thanks these individuals who took time out of their busy schedules to connect interested employees with needy children for whom they will provide personalized, wrapped Christmas gifts.

"What makes it so enriching is that everybody sees the profiles of the children," says Cynthia Ross of USA Today. "They get into it and ask, 'What is this child like?' They want to be a part of the child's life for the time they are involved with the Christmas Bag—while they are shopping, wrapping the gifts, putting them in the bag."

This year, because of the generosity of donors such as these employees, the Central Union Mission's Children's Ministry and Hispanic Ministry touched the lives of almost 2,000

### *Veteran's Day Luncheon*

On Friday, November 11, the Central Union Mission celebrated Veteran's Day with over seventy-five local veterans, reflecting on personal experiences and sharing a common love for serving their country. The day was commemorated by a service led by Mission friends who are wartime veterans, while a hot meal served by AmeriCorps volunteers provided a time of fellowship for our honored guests



Thanksgiving Festivities  
Page 2



Help the Homeless Walkathon  
Page 3



Local Students Fight Homelessness  
Page 3

## *From the Executive Director*



**P**salm 100 is a great Thanksgiving favorite, and I hope you will join us in entering the Lord's courts with praise, giving thanks and blessing His name during this holiday season. One of the gifts we are most thankful for at the Mission is our special sponsors

who enable us to provide so many goods and services for struggling individuals and families right here in the Capital area.

I frequently marvel at what the Lord enables us to do together: hundreds of children supplied for school; thousands of men fed, clothed, bedded and counseled; hundreds of Christian worship services; medical and legal aid for scores of impoverished people; and now we're preparing Christmas bags for over one thousand children. And the list goes on. We are reminded daily that the Lord's work at the Mission is accomplished only so long as you team with us. Thank you!

While many families have seen their lives and livelihood devastated by the recent hurricanes and flooding, we have been blessed with your support to be able to provide housing, manpower and other assistance to families moving to our area as well as sending personnel and supplies to the South. Now, as the long-term needs set in, your Mission remains committed to helping those who have come to Washington with hopes of rebuilding their lives. Continue to pray for these dear ones.

As we end our 121st year of service, we thank you for standing with us, serving through us, and praying for us. We hope to see many of you at the Mission during this joyful and challenging season. And we ask the Lord to give you a great Christmas as you share His love with others.

Blessings,

## *Thanksgiving: A Bountiful Season of Gratitude*

**E**ach year Central Union Mission hosts multiple events during the Thanksgiving season to share with those in need. This year was no different. We kicked off the holiday season with a Seniors Luncheon on November 9, which proved to be a festive time of singing and sharing. Representatives from the Lung Cancer Alliance came to share facts and prevention tips with us concerning lung cancer in honor of Lung Cancer Awareness Month. After the program, the aroma of freshly-baked chicken and steaming mashed potatoes filled the air as over 100 seniors filled the chapel for the meal. As they left, each senior citizen was given a bag packed with non-perishables, trimmings, and a turkey to make their holiday memorable.

On Wednesday, November 16, the Hispanic Ministry shared the joy of Thanksgiving with 200 families as they also distributed turkeys to those in their ministry. The event was held in conjunction with the weekly Hispanic Ministry Food Depot.

We were excited to share a Thanksgiving meal with our community members at the Great Thanksgiving Banquet on Monday, November 21. The Banquet is a national event for the Association of Gospel Rescue Ministries, with Kathy Lee Gifford as our national spokesperson. With the help of dozens of volunteers, we served meals to 249 people.

Our final Thanksgiving holiday event was our special dinner for our overnight guests on Thanksgiving Day. It was a busy few weeks, stuffed with turkeys, thankfulness, and plenty of warm fellowship. We are truly thankful for being able to share such times together with our friends here at the Central Union Mission!



## Looking Ahead to 2006

### Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Luncheon

On Monday January 16th, 2006, Central Union Mission will host its annual service and luncheon in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Local churches and pastors will combine efforts with the Mission to remember one of the greatest civil rights leaders of our time.

### Souper Bowl 2006

Central Union Mission is the place to be for Super Bowl Sunday 2006! We will serve soup to the homeless, while enjoying one of the biggest games of the year. Will it be the Redskins or the Cowboys? New England or Indianapolis? While we don't know who will make it to the Big Game, we welcome all to come enjoy a hot bowl of soup and a good time as we watch the game together.

To volunteer at any of our upcoming events, contact Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION or swilcox@missiondc.org.

## Faith Tabernacle: A Faithful Partner

The Central Union Mission thanks Faith Tabernacle United Holy Church of America, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. James R. Love, for their support of our food services during our challenging fall season. When the Mission issued a request for canned and non-perishable food items for our Food Depot pantry in June & September, Church Ambassador LaDorothy Pittman immediately organized a food drive at her church to meet the need. Thank you for your faithful support, Faith Tabernacle!



*Church Ambassador LaDorothy Pittman presents canned goods on their way to the food pantry at the Central Union Mission.*

### continued from page 1

were given their Christmas Bags as an expression of the gift-giving we do to mirror God's ultimate gift to the World in Jesus Christ.

The event was a fun, festive way of sharing the joy of Christmas with those in need at a time when underprivileged families face even greater discouragement under the pressure of gift-giving. By their involvement in Christmas Bags, our corporate and individual donors reflected the true magic of Christmas—genuine, sacrificial love. As Ross conveys on behalf of her co-workers at USA Today, "People really love your kids who don't even know them."



# Help the Homeless Walkathon



*Kennedy students with Mission representatives Julia Smith (left) and Brittany Noetzel (right)*

On November 19th, Central Union Mission participated in the Fannie Mae Foundation's 18th Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall. Many friends of the Mission came out to join over 20,000 people walking in support of the fight to end homelessness. In the weeks leading up to the Walkathon, two local schools partnered with the Mission to host Mini-Walks for their students. Thank you to the students and staff at Princeton Elementary in Suitland and The Kennedy Institute in DC for the time and energy they gave to fighting homelessness!



*Sixth graders from Princeton walk boldly through the neighborhood in support of Central Union Mission*



*Participants from the Spiritual Transformation Program support the Mission at the Walkathon on the National Mall*

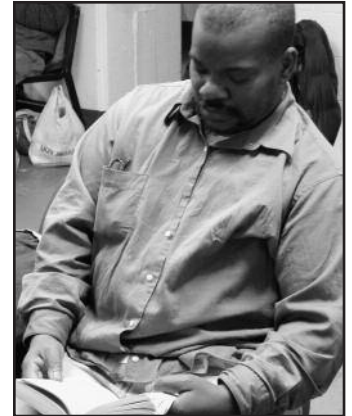
# OPPORTUNITIES for you to help

## Remembering the Hurting in Our Own Community



On December 26, 2004 when the Tsunami hit South Asia and killed more than 200,000 people in 13 countries, we witnessed the devastation of a natural disaster in the global community. When Hurricane Katrina hit the United States on

August 29th and killed over 1,000 people, we felt the effects for ourselves. This winter, we face another disaster even closer to home. In the District of Columbia metropolitan area, there are over 9,000 homeless individuals on any given day. As temperatures fall, those who live on the streets will struggle to avoid illness, and even death. This holiday season please consider giving financial support to Central Union Mission, so



that we will be able to continually provide warmth, shelter, food, safety and encouragement for the homeless community.

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 EDITOR IN CHIEF: BRADFORD C. HEARN  
 MANAGING EDITOR: BARFONCE K. BALDWIN  
 WRITERS: KELLI DAVIS, EMMANUEL FIELDS, BRITTANY NOETZEL, HERMAN REINHOLD  
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**Yes,** I'll help Central Union Mission make up the difference this summer!

Here is my gift of:

- \$19.30 to feed or help care for 10 people.
- \$28.95 to feed or help care for 15 people.
- \$38.60 to feed or help care for 20 people.
- \$77.20 to feed or help care for 40 people.
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