



THE

VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 6 • DECEMBER 2013

Missionary

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



#9617



85786

DC Ministries Combine to Better Serve Poor and Hurting People

The Board of Directors and staff of Central Union Mission are pleased to announce that we have joined forces with the former Gospel Rescue Ministries (GRM) to provide even more help for our city's poor and homeless population. According to Roy Wright, Central Union Mission board president, "This is truly a case of the sum being greater than its parts. We are honored to expand our services through the legacy of GRM."

In this partnership, GRM transfers two of its properties to the care and oversight of Central Union Mission: The 20-

bed Gospel Mission House, renamed in honor of GRM's long history of service, and the Lambert House, offering five apartment units available to poor families. Central Union Mission will also continue GRM's *Ready to Work*, a successful program that employs men and women in beautifying four Washington, DC, neighborhoods: H Street, Deanwood Heights, Dupont Circle and Mount Vernon Triangle.

"Two are better than one, because they have a better return for their labor." (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

According to David Van Duzer, chairman of GRM's board of trustees, "This new cooperation between the two charities will permit the best services of each organization to continue under the guidance and vision of Central Union Mission. There is no better organization than Central Union Mission to continue our tradition of offering hope, refuge and healing in Christ's name to those who need it most."

A Second Chance and a Full-Time Job



Aaron Green is excited about his management position with a new DC Walmart.

Since Walmart opened its hiring center in Washington, DC, in mid-September, more than 11,000 people applied for the 300 positions available at each of the six new stores. Aaron Green, a Central Union Mission Special Circumstances participant, was among the first of the initial 200 hired at Store 5968 at Georgia and Missouri Avenues, NW, slated to open in early December. After two days on the job, his boss encouraged him to apply for a management position, and he was hired as the Frozen and Dairy department manager.

When Aaron came to the Mission, he didn't have any addictions, but he wanted some help turning his life around. Aaron started in the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) after a pastor suggested it to his mother, but he was put out of the program when he did not seriously commit to the work.

Back on the street, he realized he wanted to be able to help his 29-year-old daughter and two young grandsons, so he

decided to try again. This time the Mission accepted him into the Special Circumstances program, which permits a man to stay at the Mission for up to six months to save money from his job.

During his time at Central Union Mission, Aaron became a Christian and now worships with his mother at Reid Temple AME Church in Glenn Dale, MD. Aaron will continue to stay at the Mission as a Work Program participant until he has enough savings for his own living situation. His family is "so happy" that he has a steady position, and he is thrilled to be able to support them—especially at Christmas time. Aaron thanks the Lord "for the opportunity to be at the Mission and for the Mission's pushing me" to succeed.

More Good News Inside!

Military History Comes to Life	2
What Your Gifts Can Do.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	4

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

God Has Been Good to Us!

If you had told me just three years ago that today we would be poised on the edge of a miracle, I might not have believed you. The economy was dismal; many people were unemployed and hungry. Gentrification was squeezing the Mission out of our neighborhood of 30 years. Some community leaders were adamantly against us in our quest to find a new location to serve the poor, the lost and the hurting. How could anything change in just three years?

Yet, here we are, enjoying another reminder that God's ways are not our ways. Here's what happened:

- After much opposition and a few false starts, we found and renovated an historic building in the heart of the city—where the most needy gather. **Homeless men are now living in a state-of-the-art shelter just two blocks from Union Station!**
- To accommodate more needy people, we relocated our administrative staff to an attractive office environment headquartered at 2600 12th Street, NE.

- And with all the challenges we thought we faced, God saw fit to entrust us with more resources to serve the least of these. We acquired additional property, programs and staff by partnering with Gospel Rescue Ministries. With our combined expertise and resources, we can effect exponential improvements in the lives of homeless men and poor families.

Three things I know for sure:

First, God is good. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11.)

Second, our donors are faithful. You are committed to following God's command to minister to “the least of these.”

Third, our Board of Directors and staff are dedicated to being good stewards of all that Christ has entrusted to Central Union Mission. From the people who come to us for assistance to the resources that compassionate donors



Mission guests moved into their new home on November 14. The renovated Gales School provides a welcoming environment for those in need of care and support. Shown here: entrance and main office.

provide to make our work possible, our team works heartily unto to Lord. With these truths, there is no limit to what God will do.

Blessings,



The Day History Became Real



We're grateful to Major Billy Lewis (standing, left) and Steve Kleinman (seated, orange shirt) for guiding our STP men on a private Pentagon tour.

A benefit of being in Washington, DC, is seeing with your own eyes what you learn about in books. Our Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) reading and writing students had this opportunity to discover the Pentagon and military history for themselves.

Volunteer STP teacher and Pentagon employee Steve Kleinman arranged for our men to visit one floor of the A Ring, the inside-most ring of the Pentagon, to examine displays pertaining to their classwork. They were fascinated by exhibits about the Tuskegee Airmen, women in the military and the humanitarian aid the military provides. For their writing assignment, the men selected artwork from a gallery to write stories about their impressions.

Many thanks to Senior Watch Officer Major Billy Lewis, who came in on his day off to give our guided tour. He and Kleinman not only provided their visitors with a memorable interaction with history, they also treated our STP men as honored guests.

So Many Ways to Show You Care

As we reflect on our swiftly ending 2013, we consider, "God has blessed us so mightily. How can we bless others?" Central Union Mission offers many ways you can serve God and bless the hungry and poor people in our neighborhood.

At Work

Your office may have a matching fund program that may double your contribution to the Mission. You can also select Central Union Mission as your United Way (No. 9617) or Combined Federal Campaign (No. 85786) designee. You and your colleagues may want to sponsor a canned food or coat drive to keep our community warm and well-fed this winter season.



Children learn about giving when they receive presents from our faithful friends.

Online

Doing any Christmas shopping on the Web? You can visit www.GiveBackAmerica.com to shop with nearly 1000 participating vendors, and make a contribution to Central Union Mission at the same time. You can also buy a virtual gift from our Christmas Catalog at www.missiondc.org/shop.

You may consider a "Gift of Love" to our community by purchasing a variety of supplies, furniture and fixtures for our new facility. Check here for these precious Naming Opportunities: www.missiondc.org/campaign2013/restore_hope.



These furloughed federal employees redeemed a hard situation by serving the Mission with their extra time.

At Home

We can distribute your donations of household items, furniture, appliances, clothes and food to needy families through our Food PLUS Center. We can also use your donated car to give a desperately needed ride to a doctor appointment or job interview.

Are you making decisions about your estate at this time? We can help you make gifts of real estate, stocks and bonds and charitable gift annuities. Get your financial advisor's advice, and contact **Debbie Chambers** at **202-745-7118, ext. 227**, or dchambers@missiondc.org.

At Christmas time, you can honor or memorialize a loved one in our publications with a Tribute Gift of any amount. To create this recognition, please contact **Dené Chinn** at **202-745-7118, ext. 255**, or dchinn@missiondc.org.

Many use the final weeks of the year to evaluate their tax situations as well as to bless the homeless in Washington, DC. Please remember Central Union Mission with your year-end gift!



Your year-end contributions provide the nutritious meals and companionship that demonstrate Christ's love to hundreds of homeless men.

JOIN US!

Christmas Banquet

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

We need help in serving this festive Christmas celebration.

Souper Bowl Party

February 2, 2014

6:00 pm

Come serve hearty soup to the Mission men and enjoy the big game.

Everyman's Birthday Party

February 13, 2014

5:00 pm

Any homeless man can celebrate his birthday at this party; please come help us serve cake.

Grocery Baggers

Every Tuesday

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Please come help us prepare grocery bags at the Food PLUS Center.

Food Distribution

Every Wednesday

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

We need your help to hand out food to our hungry neighbors.

Also, we need help for bagging emergency groceries, parking and running the emergency food registration table every Monday through Thursday. The Food PLUS Center work is located at 3182-B Bladensburg Road, NE, Washington, DC 20018.

Please visit www.missiondc.org/volunteercentral for more details, schedules and to register yourself or your group.

'Tis the Season for Giving

What better way to honor Jesus than by serving Him on His Birthday?

With your gift to Central Union Mission, you can feed hungry families, give homeless men a clean, safe bed to rest and introduce people to our living Savior.

The poor economy, legislative decisions and government closure affecting Washington made it difficult for our under- and unemployed neighbors. Your year-end donation will help strengthen them in the year 2014 to come.

Our community relies on your generous giving, and God blesses your faithfulness. Thank you for your selfless support.





THE **Missionary** PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION

2600 12TH ST., NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20018 | 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.

My Christmas Gift

I want to give hope to hungry and needy people in Washington, DC, this Christmas. I have enclosed:

- \$39.60 to serve a nutritious meal to 20 guests
- \$59.40 to serve 30 guests
- \$89.10 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.

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.*

Central Union Mission, P.O. Box 96763, Washington, DC 20090-6763

NNCANEW