



THE

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# Missionary

A PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION

*On a Journey Together*

## Christmas Events Draw Friends, Talents



*Our volunteers brought their unique gifts! Carolers made the Christmas Bags program very festive.*

Schedules are markedly full during the holiday season. Christmas parties, work celebrations, church events, and family traditions provide opportunity to treasure moments with loved ones. Amidst the bustle of gift giving and feasting, often the costliest gift one can give is time. This Christmas, Central Union Mission volunteers gave generously in this way though the Mission's holiday events.

The annual Christmas Bag event was a huge success, largely because of many volunteers who eagerly came alongside Mission staff to provide bags to 1,337 children in time for Christmas. Whether sponsoring a child or family, wrapping gifts, or aiding with distribution, donors gave sacrificially of their time and resources to bless others. About 40 volunteers from Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Virginia and Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland made the December 15 distribution event a huge success. On December 22, more volunteers joined the Hispanic Family Ministry for their Spanish-language distribution. Mission friends young and old

eagerly shared their smiles, songs, and lifting muscles at these events.

"Christmas Bags is a whole lot of fun," said Outreach Coordinator Shelah Wilcox, who oversaw the program. "Everybody is in the Christmas spirit. It makes it easier for me, because they want to work hard and enjoy what they're doing."

The Mission community also received one of its largest gifts of time from the 75 volunteers



*Thank you for my Christmas presents!*

who came to celebrate Christmas dinner together. For men in the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP) who are unable to return to family or Overnight Guests who find themselves homeless at Christmas, the Mission extends an open hand of hospitality through volunteers who host tables, sing carols, and serve dinner. Over 200 people attended the meal to honor the greatest gift of Jesus Christ.

"Every year I am encouraged by the presence of so many of our friends on Christmas Day," said Executive Director David Treadwell. "I realize that people could spend the day at home, but they choose to be with us—with the 'least of these'—and that says a lot about their priorities." ■



*Participants from the Mission's Spiritual Transformation Program assisted with Christmas Bags, some even presenting bags to their own children.*

### You Provided!

With the generous support of donors like you, Central Union Mission provided the following services to the community from October 1 – December 31, 2007:

- **33,930 nutritious meals** for men, women, families and children
- **Outreach to 1,337 children** through distribution of Christmas Bags
- **Support to 1,339 families and individuals** in need through clothing & household goods distribution
- Residential recovery services through the 18-month Spiritual Transformation Program for **71 men overcoming addictions** and other issues
- A safe place to sleep, food to eat, clothing to wear, and other supportive services for **361 men through the Overnight Guest Ministry**
- Coordinated **appropriate housing for 4 individuals and families** through our
- Hispanic Family Ministry and Homeless to Housing Initiative
- **Counseling services for 860 families and individuals** including individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, home visits and hospital visits.
- Free medical and legal services for 155 individuals including health fairs, exams and consultations.
- **Educational services for 118 adults** including English as a Second Language, literacy, and GED training.
- Community development projects in partnership with other organizations such as World Vision DC and Feed the Children, including food distribution at Macfarland Middle School

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Barfonce Baldwin



2

Remembering the Legacy of Dr. King



3

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Hope and Faith in a New Year

In recent weeks I have heard a number of nonprofits' desperate appeals for food and funding. I want to assure you that Central Union Mission has adequate food for the poor and needy who come our way and that we are extremely grateful for the outpouring of financial support we received during the Christmas and year-end season. We are also grateful for the scores of volunteers who joined us for our fall events and upheld our ministry in prayer. You truly bless us. We were once again overjoyed by the love shared with over 1,300 children through the Mission's Christmas Bag program and by the packed house for Christmas dinner with presents for all our overnight guests.

Like most nonprofit organizations, we now enter one of two "lean" seasons of the year (late summer being the other). As utility costs peak and holiday giving slows, we rely on continued support from our donors who realize that poverty presents unique challenges

throughout the year. Your support is greatly appreciated in this "brown" season, just as it is in "greener" days.

As we enter into 2008, we face exciting and diverse opportunities. Our relocation efforts are taking dynamic twists and turns as we fulfill our pledge to provide state-of-the-art services for Washington's poor and homeless. Director of Children's Ministry Kevin Hollowell continues making great strides to rejuvenate Camp Bennett. Senior Ministry Director James Lewis has provided strong leadership to improve the efficiency of our ministries as we serve increased numbers of hurting people. And we are confident that we can continue feeding many hungry neighbors largely through the efforts of Grace Calloway, our partner at Heaven's Grocery Store, and Food Services Manager Jeff Tooles who work tirelessly to gather food donated throughout the region.

In the coming year of *The Missionary*, we'll be featuring the leadership team who use their gifts to direct our ministries in service and excellence. In this issue, you have the chance to get to know our Senior Director, Barfonce Baldwin, who has our development and outreach staff humming in spite of the growth and challenges we continually face. I hope you enjoy these opportunities to "Meet the Director."

Thank you again for all your support. Rich blessings to you in 2008!



## Meet the Director: Barfonce Baldwin



*Barfonce uses her gifts of public speaking to represent the Mission to local media.*

As Senior Director of Administration for Central Union Mission, Barfonce Baldwin has the opportunity to craft organizational culture, a responsibility she takes seriously as she sees its direct impact on the core of the Mission's work.

When she started in 2004, Barfonce brought to the Mission strong non-profit leadership skills and a lifetime of experience in the DC area. Today she provides vision and oversight to daily administration of Mission ministries—from finance and fundraising to human relations and strategic planning. She also represents the Mission publicly in a variety of venues.

One of Barfonce's main goals for the Mission is cultivating a spirit of servanthood among the staff. "If the staff doesn't have a strong heart of service and humility, we cannot even begin to talk about ministering to our neighbors in need," she says.

She lives this out as First Lady of Freedom Baptist Church in Washington, DC. Barfonce lives with her husband and two children, Sam and Zipporah, in Alexandria, Virginia. ■

# Luncheon Honors King's Legacy

Central Union Mission joined with groups across the nation on Monday, January 21 to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A community-wide service and luncheon included the signature rendition of King's "I Have a Dream" speech by Rev. Jeffery Johnson, Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia and special music by Board Vice President D.C. Washington. Over 100 people in attendance enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and remembrance. ■



Rev. Johnson's rendition of King's historic speech never fails to inspire.

# Souper Bowl Gets Hearts Pumping with Action and Good Food



There's nothing like a thrilling game and a bowl of hot soup to bring joy to a neighbor in need.

Loud cheers bounced off the chapel walls on Sunday, February 3 at our annual Souper Bowl Party. Overnight Guests, STP participants, staff members, and volunteers alike enjoyed bowls of chili, hotdogs, and chips while watching the New York Giants take on the New England Patriots on a big screen TV. Members of Faith United Ministries in District Heights, Maryland joined us to help set up and serve dinner.

"We love the opportunity to spend time with the brothers at the Mission and to have fellowship with the Overnight Guests," said Adrian Vaughan, Mission staff and a member of Faith United Ministries. "We look forward to it each year at this time."



Volunteers prepared a hearty meal for our hungry guests.

Central Union Mission would like to thank the following donors who gave generously in memory or honor of these loved ones since June 2007.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>In memory of Margaret (Peggy) Unkle</i> | Wendy & Steven H. Lane                 |
| Joe and Merna Guttentag                    | Thomas & Sally Troyer                  |
| Diane Maroney                              | Brendan Coleman                        |
| Jan Naylor Cope                            | Church of the Redeemer (Wendy Lane)    |
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| Jenny Warburg                              | <i>In memory of Steve Keene</i>        |
| Elwood Schneider                           | Michelle L.D. Kung                     |
| Jo Bruce & Florence Crozier                |  |

# Sharing the Gift of Warmth and Hope

When winter descends in December, we are easily enamored of its crisp evenings and, hopefully, blankets of fresh, white snow with the holidays upon us. But by February the doldrums of its biting winds and seemingly endless chills begin to give us a glimpse of the impact it makes on those hoping to escape winter's harsh effects.

At Central Union Mission, winter means an opportunity to meet acute needs with true relevance. Our predictions of higher capacities in the Overnight Guest and Spiritual Transformation Programs always prove true, even as giving slows. As you perhaps grow weary of the late winter cold this month and begin dreaming of spring's promise of warmth and new life, we ask you to consider support of Central Union Mission as we encourage our

neighbors with the same promises of relief from the cold and renewal. Whether it is a steaming cup of coffee, a song that tells of grace, or an offer to lighten the load of a man or woman struggling under the burden of poverty, your gift can become part of one person's journey toward peace and wholeness. Please consider extending the same warm relief you treasure to others.

Also, please make plans now to join us for a meal, celebration, or simply an afternoon sometime soon. As a supporting partner of Central Union Mission, your presence adds a human touch to the services we provide. Check out our upcoming events or make an appointment to join us for a nightly dinner, Seniors Luncheon, chapel, or Food Depot service sometime this spring. We'll all be ready to usher in the warmer days when they arrive!

Materials have been included for you to make a donation. For more information or other giving opportunities, please contact us as 202-MISSION or visit us online at [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org).



Grab a few friends and come on over to see what God is doing at Central Union Mission!

## Upcoming Events

■ **Overnight Guest Birthday Party**  
Thursday, February 21, 5:00 p.m.  
Mission Chapel

Every winter, we try to restore hope and dignity to our Overnight Guests with a birthday celebration in their honor. Please help us give this important gift by sending birthday cards, undergarments, toiletries and cold weather items for these special guests to encourage them in the winter months.



■ **Easter Sunday Luncheon**  
Sunday, March 23, 1:00 p.m.  
Mission Chapel

Resurrection Sunday is still a few weeks off, but please plan now to join the Mission family in providing a free Easter luncheon to the community. Volunteer servers and table hosts are needed.

For more information or to sign up for these events, contact Shelah at 202-MISSION or visit us online at [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org).



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