



THE

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Missionary

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The Way to a Man's Heart



Cook Fred Burney and volunteer Anna serve at the Christmas luncheon.

How would you like to plan and cook 350 meals a day with essentially no more than “five loaves and two fish?” That’s Central Union Mission’s task for three meals every day—with no days off. All the Mission food comes from donations, either food or financial. Much food is overstock or outdated from Safeway and Giant grocery stores. Amtrak offers its unsold sandwiches and snacks. Through a local affiliate charity, Heaven’s Grocery Store, the Mission has access to food from companies such as Dole and Tyson Foods.

The Capital Area Food Bank, DC Farmers Market and the Supplemental Food Program of Washington, DC, provide a monthly donation of canned goods, rice, cereal, oatmeal, evaporated milk, fresh vegetables and other foods. Pepperidge Farms of La Plata, Maryland, recently donated \$4,000 worth of tasty products. What does not come from these organizations is purchased at Sam’s Club with funds generously donated by Mission supporters.

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Finding His Future in the Kitchen

Jeff Tooles came to the Mission from Annapolis, MD, in 1991. He said, “I woke up in a crack house in the middle of the night and realized that I was killing myself.” At 2:00 am, he started walking west in the rain. When he reached DC, he asked a man on the street where he could get some food and was directed to Central Union Mission.

After talking to Chaplain Ted Ross, Jeff decided that joining the Spiritual Transformation Program would give him the stability he needed. Even after graduating in 1992, moving out on his own, and working at a nursing home, Jeff still volunteered to cook for the Mission guests twice a week. The executive director knew a good man when he saw Jeff and offered him a job in the kitchen, where he’s been serving God ever since. ■



Tooles



Chef Raymond Simmons whips up a spaghetti lunch.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Food for Thought

I've been asked, "Why does the Mission need funds for food if so much is donated?" The answer is that the breadth of this key ministry involves more than just food. The trucks to pick up the food and their related costs, the drivers, the cooks, the stoves and freezers all contribute to the expense of a food ministry. As well, the staff involved need encouragement and prayer, just as those receiving their service do.

However, the results are worth the effort and expense: Full stomachs often open hearts to faith in Christ and

opportunities for greater ministry. If you've never served at the Mission or attended a special event, I invite you to come and see our Food Service Team in action. They are special.

These are tough days at your Mission. One of the coldest DC Januarys in the past ten years sent the utility bills soaring, and the struggling economy keeps the needs growing. During the months after Christmas funding slips greatly. Interestingly, the cold weather also seems to peak interest in our faith as well. Our men, seniors, Hispanics and even our children seem more open and

eager to hear God's Word when they are vulnerable to the winter cold. If we act now, we can use these spiritual inroads as a way to offer our neighbors a new life in Christ. Please help us with your prayers, financial support and volunteering as we look forward to a great year of partnering with you.

Blessings,




Guests Gather on Game Day



At halftime, guests listen to Spiritual Transformation Program students share about how God changed their lives.

Super Bowl X? Yes, Central Union Mission guests enjoyed our tenth annual Souper Bowl party this year. Before viewing the game on big screen TVs, guests snacked on hot dogs and chili—perfect for a cold day. Volunteers from Reston Presbyterian Church Youth Group and Faith United Ministries helped serve the food to about 100 visitors. A *Washington Post* reporter attended, and his next-day article helped inform the Metropolitan DC area about the Mission's efforts and your generous donations. ■

The Way to a Man's Heart

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The Mission has no set menu. "Thank God for the cooks," says Food Service Manager Jeff Toolles. Chef Raymond Simmons and First Cook Fred Burney "can take all this different stuff and make a good meal." Nothing is wasted: an abundance of Amtrak hamburgers one night becomes tomorrow's Salisbury steak with a side of potatoes.

In addition to cooking "three squares" a day, your support enables the Mission's Food Service Team to provide food for the Food Depot program. Every

week, senior citizens, Hispanic Family Ministry participants and single mothers can come by for the worship service and two bags of groceries. The kitchen also prepares a monthly Seniors Luncheon, which includes a speaker and music, games and prizes and a delicious lunch, served on festively decorated tables.

The Mission relies on God's provision to come up with food for our dining tables. Your gifts of money or food are a vital encouragement for our guests and Spiritual Transformation Program participants struggling to pull their lives together. ■

Your gifts of money or food are a vital encouragement

A Friend in Need



Nora Veronica, a two-year beneficiary of this partnership, appreciates how the Mission helps her keep food on her family's table

Foundations Provide Support

In addition to gifts from individual donors and companies, Central Union Mission depends on grants from foundations. Often directed toward specific Mission projects, these contributions are closely monitored to be sure the donor's requirements are respected, just as are gifts from individuals.

Central Union Mission gratefully thanks these foundations and companies for their generous grants:

- ExxonMobil Corporation—\$895.66
- Frank M. Ewing Foundation, Inc. —\$10,000
- Freedom Forum—\$1,000
- The George Preston Marshall Foundation—\$5,000
- Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriot Foundation, Inc.—\$1,000
- Philip L. Graham Fund—\$7,500
- SunTrust Bank, Greater Washington—\$1,000

As well, Payless ShoeSource selected Central Union Mission as one of the 630 nonprofit organizations to participate in its 2008 Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids Program, the first-ever national, grass roots campaign to deliver \$1 million in free shoes to children of families in need. Through Payless ShoeSource's generosity, The Mission was able to offer 200 children \$15 gift coupons to be redeemed for children's shoes at a Payless ShoeSource store in January 2009.

If you are on a foundation board of directors, we ask that you consider making a grant to Central Union Mission. If you have grant proposal writing experience, the Mission would greatly value your volunteer time to help us access more funding. Please call Deborah Chambers at (202) MISSION for more information. ■

Since Central Union Mission began its partnership with DC's MacFarland Middle School three years ago, the relationship is still going strong.

Once a month, the Mission provides a truckload of food for the school to distribute to its families whose children qualify for weekday meals at the school. This program, which provides food for the weekends that are not otherwise covered, started with 35 families and has almost doubled to 65. Goods include rice, cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, evaporated milk, macaroni, bread and pastries. Alongside the Mission, World Vision DC provides clothing and household goods such as laundry detergent and toothpaste.

"The partnership has been a very rewarding experience for the school as well as for the community," says Alicia Green, MacFarland's eighth-grade counselor. "A lot of parents tell me, 'I don't know what I'd do without this.'" Central Union Mission is able to provide needed food to these families through your generous contributions. ■



MacFarland students help set up for the food distribution.

Your Time to Shine

For an upcoming issue, we'll spotlight Mission donors and volunteers. We'd like to know why you make time for Central Union Mission. Please submit your answer to "Why I Support Central Union Mission" at www.missiondc.org or to Sarah at (202) MISSION or Central Union Mission, 1350 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. ■

Celebrating New Life

If all this talk about food is making you hungry, remember that there are hundreds on the streets of Washington, DC, who are hungry all the time—and not just for food. That’s why Central Union Mission is starting our “193 Program” for our Easter Luncheon this year.

For your donation of \$1.93, one person will be able to enjoy not only ham with all the trimmings but also the good news of Christ’s triumphant Resurrection. A new life in Christ can be born this very Easter day!

You may want to donate \$23.16 that will serve twelve needy people. Please go to missiondc.org/give.html to offer your Easter gift or watch your mail for more news about the “193 Program.” ■



Upcoming Events

March Seniors Luncheon

March 11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please help serve local senior citizens as they enjoy this time of fellowship.

April Seniors Luncheon

April 8, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please help serve local senior citizens as they celebrate Christ’s Resurrection at this special luncheon.

Easter Luncheon

April 12, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please come help serve our guests a meal to celebrate Easter, Christ’s gift of new life.

Hispanic Family Ministry Day


April 13, 11:00 a.m.

Please join the HFM team as they minister to families in the Camp Bennett assembly hall.

Except for the Camp Bennett program, these events will take place at Central Union Mission. If you or your group would like to volunteer or contribute, please call Sarah at (202) MISSION or look online at volunteer@missiondc.org.



Volunteers serve red hots at the Souper Bowl.



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