



THE

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# Missionary

A PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION

*On a Journey of Discovery*

## Kimberly's Story: Discovering the Joy of Service



Kimberly and her son Michael are part of the legacy of Camp Bennett.

When Kimberly moved to Washington, DC from Pittsburgh as a teenager, she was a shy girl. Like many young people at Camp Bennett, she had never slept away from home. But after a week at Camp Bennett, Kimberly discovered new experiences that would shape her and her family for years to come.

“My father was looking for something to help me break out of my shell,” she recalls. “I was kind of scared, but I felt safe.” Kimberly grew up attending a Christian day camp near

Pittsburgh, so she was comfortable at Camp Bennett even though there were many new faces. Her younger sister attended camp along with her and she especially enjoyed the arts and crafts activities and the bunks.

Kimberly's summer experience as a Counselor-in-Training at Camp Bennett was an important step on her lifelong path of service and outreach. Camp Bennett was a “one-time experience, but a foundational one.” The next summer, Kimberly became a candy striper at a local hospital. She says that

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### You Provided!

With the generous support of donors like you, Central Union Mission provided the following services to the community from March 1, 2008 – April 30, 2008:

- **21,517 nutritious meals** for men, women, families and children including daily meals, grocery bags, seniors' luncheon and Easter banquet.
- **Support to 450 families and individuals** in need through clothing & household goods distribution.
- **Residential recovery services** through the 18-month Spiritual Transformation Program for **68 men overcoming addictions** and other issues.
- A safe night's sleep, food to eat, clothing to wear, and other supportive services for **240 men through the Overnight Guest Ministry**.
- Coordinated appropriate **housing for 2 individuals and families** through our Hispanic Family Ministry and Homeless to Housing Initiative.
- **Counseling services** including individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, home visits and hospital visits for **591 families and individuals**.
- **Free medical and legal services**, including health fairs, exams and consultations for **84 individuals**.
- **Educational services for 109 individuals** including English as a Second Language, literacy, GED training, tutoring, computer classes, citizenship classes and Spiritual Transformation classes.



*Educational services make a lifelong impact!*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

# The Exhilaration of Changing Times

These are really exciting times at Central Union Mission as God guides us through many changes and challenges. Amidst it all, I have seen His faithfulness and am pleased to share it with you.

First, I want to thank our former Sr. Director of Administration Barfonce Baldwin for her service to the Mission as she begins serving women and families as Executive Director of Capitol Hill Group Ministries. Outreach Coordinator Shelah Wilcox has also begun a new chapter at CHGM along with Barfonce. Our loss is most certainly the Kingdom's gain. And we *have* gained! We welcome Deborah Chambers as our new Director of Communications and Development. You are already seeing the impact of her enthusiasm and dedication in a variety of ways.

We are also excited and thanking God for a providential opportunity to relocate our services to the "Heart of the City." Last fall we began negotiating a promising arrangement with the District Government for a property exchange of our Georgia Avenue parcel for the historic Gales School near Union Station on Massachusetts Avenue. The new property will undergo significant renovation with no limitation or interruption in our ministry. This is truly an answer to our prayer for a centrally located site closer to downtown. We will soon be sharing the details about this wonderful opportunity to care for the poor and homeless where they are. You are always welcome to visit our website at [www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org) for current updates.

And of course, we are excited for the upcoming summer of ministry

at Camp Bennett. With our gifted Camp Director, Kevin Hollowell, leading a committed team at camp, this is going to be a fantastic summer. We've added horses for the first time in years at camp, and are so grateful for a grant from the State of Maryland to spruce up our facilities and help winterize the camp. We still rely on your faithful support of Camp Bennett to offer this wonderful respite from the city to children who are so open to the love of Jesus.

Thank you for sharing and enabling our excitement. We are truly blessed.

Blessings,




## Meet the Director: Camp Director Kevin Hollowell



*Kevin Hollowell*

As Camp Director, Kevin Hollowell oversees Central Union Mission's ministry to children. Our most concentrated interaction with children occurs for seven back-to-back weeks during the summer at Camp Bennett. During these weeks, Kevin has the greatest impact on the children served by the Mission as they come to explore nature and hear about the love of God. Kevin re-engages with campers through the Mission's Operation Backpack and Christmas Bag Event.

Kevin joined the Mission team in July of 2006, bringing with him a great deal of experience and giftedness in ministering to children as Athletic Director at Fredericksburg Christian School in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Kevin and his wife, Patricia, live on the grounds of Camp Bennett with their two children, Joshua and Logan, and are expecting yet another child. The new addition is due this summer, only three days after the end of Camp! ■

## A Godly Transformation Leads to STP Graduation!



*Graduate Cedric shares his joy with Director of Social Work Shirley Johnson and Senior Director of Ministries Rev. James Lewis.*



*The 2008 STP Graduates*

**T**hursday, June 5th was a day of celebration & inspiration at the Mission as 16 men graduated from the Spiritual Transformation Program (STP). This is the largest group of graduates since the STP began in the mid 1980's. The ceremony took place at Freedom Baptist Church in the sanctuary filled with family, friends, pastors, Mission staff, current STP participants, and alumni. Afterwards, the men and their guests were invited back to the Mission for a reception held in their honor. ■

### *Congratulations to the following men!*

Kennedy Molder	Lawrence Alford
Arthur Thomas	Edward Allen
Chris Johnson	Ronnie Stroman
Keith Alston	Shaun Griffin
Adrian Miller	Marvin Elliot
Ronald Davis	Derrick Benson
James Jones	Cedric Webb
Ruben Hughes	Clarence Rogers

## Kimberly's Story: Discovering the Joy of Service

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her experience at Camp Bennett "helped me to be more comfortable with myself. I wouldn't have done it if I hadn't broken out of my shell at Camp Bennett."

Kimberly believes in the importance of a Christian summer camp experience for children. "They should have that Christian experience all year round, and especially during the summertime when kids can fall vulnerable to all sorts of things," she says.

Today, Kimberly lives in Rockville, Maryland with her family. She works as a Program Specialist for the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights where she teaches school children about tolerance and sensitivity. Her work includes a summer camp program for 5th graders similar to her experience at Camp Bennett. She has also served as a Girl Scout leader and Sunday school teacher.

The most powerful testimony to Kimberly's experience at Camp Bennett has been the connection she has maintained through her family. She sent her oldest son, Michael, to Camp Bennett for his first experience away from home and continues to refer family members.

"When I think of a good camp in the area, I think of Central Union Mission. I would recommend it to anybody, especially non-Christian parents," she says.

*Thank you for your contributions that make it possible for generations of children to discover so much through Camp Bennett!* ■



*Campers love arts & crafts year after year! Thanks to our donors, we have a beautiful space for their creativity to flourish.*



# Share the Gift of Discovery!

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6*

**W**e read in Proverbs that the foundations laid for children have a significant impact for them later in life, and we see evidence of this reality all around us. Central Union Mission’s summer programming at Camp Bennett aims to reach children with the love of God early on, hopefully giving them a desire for more and the wisdom to make wise



choices. Just as Kimberly’s discovery at camp shaped her decisions the next summer and for years to come, we believe in the power of each child’s experience. Please consider supporting Camp Bennett this year. Your contribution makes it possible for children who might never have the opportunity to attend summer camp to discover nature’s wonder, their own strengths, and God’s love.

For more information, ideas, or ways to connect, give us a call at **202-MISSION** or visit us online at **www.missiondc.org**. ■



*Our campers love animals. Your gift will allow a child to spend a week with new friends—animal and human!*

*We can’t wait to welcome kids to Camp Bennett!*

## Upcoming Events

### ■ Christ on the Mall

Look for us on the National Mall on July 4th! As people from all over the world gather to celebrate Independence Day in our nation’s capital, the Mission will gather with Christians from around the country to serve and minister to those in need. Whether through a bottle of cold water or much-needed prayer, the Mission is ready to spread the love of Christ to all!

For information about these and other volunteer opportunities, contact Sarah Spinler at 202-MISSION or [sspinler@missiondc.org](mailto:sspinler@missiondc.org).

### ■ Operation Backpack: Back to School Supplies

Plans are underway for our annual Back to School Backpack drive and we need your help! Last year we provided backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies to over 700 local children, and this year we’re looking to help even more children start the year off right. You can help by sponsoring a child, donating supplies, or volunteering your able hands.

### ■ Celebrating Father’s Day

On Sunday, June 15th, Central Union Mission will host our annual Father’s Day Luncheon in honor of the everyday heroes we call “Dad.” All are welcome to join us for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and volunteers are needed to host and serve.

THE

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