



THE

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 4 • SEPT 2009

Missionary

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



This fall, we will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary season with a major initiative to spread the word about all the great things God has done and continues to do through Central Union Mission. Our goal is not just to celebrate, but to use this time to raise awareness and encourage support for hungry, sick, homeless and friendless people in our neighborhoods.

Right now more than 12,000 people in metropolitan Washington are living in shelters, transitional housing or on the street. Recently, the tough economy has been forcing more and more people over the edge and out of their homes.

The Central Union Mission *125th Anniversary Campaign for Compassion* offers many opportunities to learn, get involved and make a difference. The campaign, which includes five months of public programming, special events and online projects, will run from this September through January 2010.

With your help, we can open eyes and draw caring people closer to those in need. ■

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Campaign for Compassion Website

The Mission's newly designed website will be the main headquarters for Campaign news and information. You will be able to find and share information about the Mission's programs and services, read about the Mission in the news, view volunteer opportunities and make donations online.



Visit www.missiondc.org today to participate in the following campaign projects online:

Compassion: A Conversation Blog

An Open Conversation on Poverty, Compassion and Urban Transformation
Mondays beginning October 5

Each week, Washington area thought leaders from the pulpit, the academy, social services, business and public administration will lead a conversation about poverty and the role of compassion in urban transformation. You can share your comments, opinions and questions at www.missiondc.org.

Moderated by Patricia R. Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Nyack College-DC.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

125 Years of Compassion

Our 125th anniversary is a precious opportunity to thank you for your valuable support and to share the full measure of our ministry with you.

That's why we're starting the *Campaign for Compassion*. We need more friends like you to continue to give hurting people help and hope.

We see the great need for more compassion every day: Men are desperate for jobs, freedom from drugs, more education, even for their next meal and a place to sleep. Women are trying to raise children alone on minimum wage. Hard-working people are seeing their jobs disappear. Poor children are trying to keep safe and keep up in school without proper supplies.

The need for our services continues to grow. At the same time, we are increasingly burdened by inadequate facilities and lack of space. It breaks my heart when we have to put out the sign announcing that we're full for the night. It's a sign that means someone may go without a clean bed, a hearty meal, a hot shower—and hope.

Many of our fellow Washingtonians are begging for our compassion. Our

President has rightly pressed us to volunteer—and we offer you many opportunities—but our goal for the campaign goes even further. God calls us to care for the poor and to have hearts of compassion.

I am asking you to do four things throughout this season:

1. Pray that hearts will be touched like never before.
2. Join us for a campaign event—we'd love to see you in person!
3. Share your compassion stories with friends, family, co-workers and others.
4. Continue to remember the poor in everything you do (Gal. 2:10).

Jesus began his ministry with compassion, His disciples learned from His example and the rest is history. May we do likewise through our prayer, generosity and service to aid those in need.

Blessings,




SIGN OF HOPE

THE STORY OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION

Did you know?

- Central Union Mission is the oldest social service agency in the nation's capital.
- Peter McSweeney, the Mission's first success story, committed his life to Christ in January 1885.
- The Mission once ran an emergency home for children.
- Camp Bennett was opened in 1934, during the height of the Great Depression.
- Central Union Mission is a gospel rescue mission ministry. In 2008, North America's rescue missions provided 16.9 million nights of lodging and 48.4 million meals—enough to feed the entire population of Texas twice.

To learn more, visit "Sign of Hope: The Story of Central Union Mission," at the Historical Society of Washington, 801 K Street NW, Washington, DC, from October 18, 2009-January 10, 2010.

Campaign for Compassion Website

(continued from cover)

125 Years | 125 Stories

Make **Your** Story Part of Central Union Mission's Story

Through this website project, we tell the Mission's story through 125 years of testimonies from those whose lives have been touched by our work. Has Central Union Mission helped you? Have you been a volunteer or contributor? We invite you to explore these remarkable stories and to add your—or your family's—own personal story at www.missiondc.org.

See page 3 for a sneak peek at a few stories.

Take Action!

Sign our Support Letter

Friends, we appreciate all of your support and depend on your continued friendship for the Mission's future. This is your opportunity to tell others what Central Union Mission means to you and how you think we're impacting the city.

Check out our Take Action! website at www.missiondc.org to tell us what you think! ■

Mission Receives 2009 Best of Washington Award

Central Union Mission has been selected by the US Commerce Association (USCA) for its 2009 Best of Washington Award in the Individual & Family Services category.

Each year, the USCA identifies organizations that have achieved exceptional success in their category. These are local organizations that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their community.

125 Years | 125 Stories

One feature on our new website will be the **125 Years | 125 Stories** project. This section will be filled with testimonies of those who have been touched in some way by Central Union Mission since its inception in 1884—and this includes YOU! **We need your stories!**

Tell us why you support the Mission, why you volunteer, how you learned about Central Union Mission, any encounters with our clients and/or staff, what keeps you coming back and stories from events you've attended.

Ask your friends who have volunteered, ministered here or who support financially to share their stories. This includes groups who have volunteered through your church or organization.

You can submit your story online, e-mail it to Duane Gross at sgross@missiondc.org, drop it off the next time you come to the Mission, or mail it to us.



1930s

Central Union Mission served meals to my mother's family in the late 1930's. This 1935 picture shows my mother, great-grandmother, three aunts and uncle at Camp Bennett. I am so thankful, as my mother was a wonderful person.... I wish I could help you more.

- Judith M. Hurley, 2009



1950s

I turned to whiskey for escape and became an absolute slave to alcohol. When my family and friends deserted me, the thought occurred to me that I could escape by running away. The Lord led me to Washington and the Central Union Mission, where I accepted Christ as my personal Savior the night of March 4, 1951.

That night Christ did in a wink of the eye what some of the best doctors, psychiatrists and I, myself, had been unable to do in years. He not only forgave my sins and gave me a new life but took all desire for alcohol away from me. I praise and thank God for His saving and keeping power.

- Ben C. Guthrie, 1951



2000s

In October 2000, during the most difficult time of my life, I followed two ladies into Central Union Mission and discovered the Hispanic Family Ministry. Pastor de Casanova helped me accept Jesus as my Savior. My life has changed dramatically since that moment.

Through the Hispanic Ministry, I was blessed with a beautiful apartment, furniture, clothes, a used computer and even my driver's license! Now I help at the Mission however I can, but nothing I can give compares to the great help I have received.

- Doris Rubio Esperanza, 2003

Major Campaign Events



Sign of Hope: The Story of Central Union Mission

*A Community Exhibition at the Historical Society of Washington
801 K Street, NW, Washington, DC
Sunday, October 18—Sunday, January 10*

Founded in 1884, Central Union Mission is the oldest social service agency in Washington, DC. For 125 years, the Mission has continually operated a shelter for homeless men and has helped women, children and families in need, as well as veterans. This community exhibition traces Central Union Mission's growth through the Great Depression, two world wars, 24 presidential administrations, neighborhood transitions and numerous relocations. It explores the ideology behind gospel rescue missions and the role of urban ministry in transforming communities.

125th Anniversary Gala

Gala Dinner and Silent Auction Reception

Join us for a lively evening of celebration featuring a silent auction reception and dinner with inspiring presentations and live entertainment. Visit www.missiondc.org for tickets and details.



Help the Homeless Walkathon

*National Mall, Washington, DC
Saturday, November 21*

Join Central Union Mission as hundreds of its friends walk together in the annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon. Proceeds from Central Union Mission team walker registrations benefit the Mission's programs and services.

"Here Now to Tell the Story"

A Playback Theater Production

Friday, December 4—Sunday December 6 (tentative)

We invite you to share in an intimate evening of improvisational dramatizations of the personal stories of actual people whose lives have been touched by Central Union Mission. Part theater, part social work and uniquely entertaining, "Here Now to Tell the Story" is the culmination of a professional theater company's four-month-long collaboration with a group from Central Union Mission's residential and community programs.



MORE GREAT WAYS TO BE INVOLVED!

Central Union Mission Days

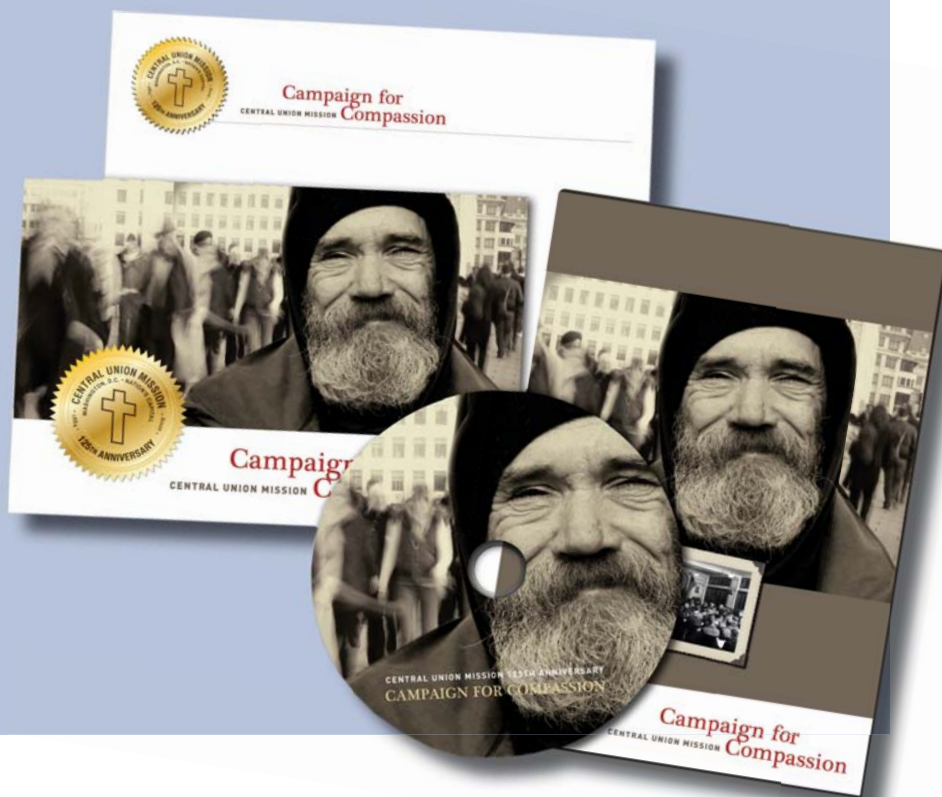
Shop, dine out—and do good. Check www.missiondc.org for upcoming locations and exact dates when a portion of your purchase will be donated to Central Union Mission. Register online for updates, coupons and special offers.

Compassion Sundays

Talk to your pastor about hosting a *Compassion Sunday* to explore what the Bible says about serving and giving. Contact us for evangelism tools to help share God's heart for the poor, and invite friends to your church. We can even arrange for a Mission representative to speak, program graduates to share their testimonies and our Men's Choir to lead songs of praise.

Compassion Parties

Host a benefit fundraising event or fundraising drive on behalf of Central Union Mission. We'll supply the invitations or e-mail templates, support letters and a promotional video. You invite your friends, family, small group or co-workers—and bring the fun!



Remembering an "Angel"

Elizabeth "Lee" Kirkpatrick, a Washington, DC, native, was already an accomplished professional photographer when she dedicated herself to serving the needy in her home town. Before she died unexpectedly at age 44 this April, she was known to her beneficiaries as the "Angel of Logan Circle." She frequently walked the four miles from her residence to this popular congregating spot for homeless people, distributing sandwiches and cash as she was able.

In admiration of Mother Teresa, Lee became associated with the Missionaries of Charity and the Sisters of Mercy convents, where she served hospice patients and children as well as the poor. To further her compassionate service, she earned a Certificate in Practical Nursing and worked as a primary caregiver for her stepfather.

Lee's family selected Central Union Mission to receive memorial gifts for Lee because they believe that Central Union Mission's help for the homeless is in line with Lee's own dedication and generosity. Located only four blocks from Logan Circle, the Mission will continue to serve those dear to Lee's and God's hearts.

We give grateful thanks to those family and many friends who contributed in Lee's memory. If you'd like to send a gift in memory of Lee, please write "Lee Kirkpatrick" in the memo section of your check, and mail to Central Union Mission, 1350 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. ■

To inquire about making a memorial or honorarium gift, a bequest or other planned gift, please contact Deborah Chambers, Director of Development, by e-mail at dchambers@missiondc.org, or by phone at 202-745-7118.



125 Years | 125 Stories

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I grew up in Southeast DC with my mother and nine brothers and sisters. As a single parent, my mother turned to Central Union Mission for help. We attended meetings on Saturday mornings, received Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts. I was 5 years old the first time I attended Camp Bennett. At Camp Bennett we sang songs about

Jesus—songs about His faithfulness that would carry me through tough times ahead.

My siblings and I had no idea the impact Camp Bennett would have on our lives. The Lord began to put a deep desire in my heart to teach. Last year, I served as a camp counselor, and this year I am going to be the Senior Girls' Counselor! If it wasn't for God using Camp Bennett to plant seeds, there is no telling how I would have ended up. Thank you for sponsoring children and giving them a chance to make a difference in life.

- Vonic Deon Harrison, 2004



I was in crisis and living in a safe house on North Capitol Street when someone told me about Central Union Mission. They said it's a good place to get back up on your feet. I lived there as an overnight guest for six or seven months. At that time, the Mission paid for me to go back to North Carolina to see my children. Now I'm living in a rooming house and looking for a place to live and a job.

I like to get by Central Union Mission every day to see my friends and keep in touch with Pastor Howard. Central Union Mission is the best shelter in the city: it's clean and safe, the people are helpful and they don't judge you by your looks.

- Johnny Gorham, 2009 ■

Put Your Compassion into Action!

The Campaign for Compassion offers exciting opportunities for you and your group. For ways to get involved, visit the Campaign website at www.missiondc.org.

Central Union Mission Parties

Interested in hosting a 125th birthday party? Share your story about Central Union Mission with your friends, family and colleagues. We'll supply the invitations and literature—and you help raise the funds. For more information, contact Deborah Chambers at **202-MISSION**.

Central Union Mission Days

You can help raise additional funds for the homeless this fall just by shopping or eating out. Whole Foods Market, Chicken Out Rotisserie, Chick-fil-A and other local businesses will donate a portion of their sales to the Mission. Check our website (www.missiondc.org) for upcoming locations and exact dates when a portion of your sale will be donated to Central Union Mission.

Walk with Us

On Saturday, November 21, join Central Union Mission's team for the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Last year, Mission supporters joined the more than 16,000 walkers who helped raise \$5.6 million to benefit local organizations that help homeless people.

By registering and walking with us, you will be helping provide a temporary home and hope to the men, women and children we serve. Your registration fee and participation will count toward the total amount Central Union Mission receives from Fannie Mae.



There are several ways to participate:

- As an individual—Select Central Union Mission as your beneficiary and register online at www.helpthehomelessdc.org or complete the form below, and mail it to us with payment. The pre-registration fee is \$15 for youth (age 25 or younger) and \$25 for adults and is valid until Wednesday, November 18.
- As a church or community group—register your group to walk with our team. Visit online at www.helpthehomelessdc.org or contact Sarah Spinler at **202-MISSION** to register your group. (Each participant must be registered.)
- As a school, church or community group—Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Program invites schools, community groups and faith-based organizations to host Mini-Walks so students can learn about homelessness and help raise funds. Please visit www.missiondc.org for more information, or call Sarah Spinler at **202-MISSION**.
- As a business or corporation—Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Walkathon is an excellent opportunity for your employer or business to demonstrate community involvement, raise needed funds and encourage team-building. For more information about how to get your workplace involved, or for corporate volunteerism and sponsorship opportunities, contact Deborah Chambers at **202-MISSION** or dchambers@missiondc.org. ■

Help the Homeless Walkathon Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Youth (age 0-25) \$15 Adult (age 25+) \$25

T-shirt size: Youth XL Adult XL

Amount enclosed: _____

Complete a separate form for each registered walker and mail with payment before November 18 to Help the Homeless Walkathon, Central Union Mission, 1350 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 or register on-line at www.helpthehomelessdc.org.

Enlist Me in the Campaign for Compassion

I want to help you feed and care for the homeless in our nation's capital. I have enclosed a gift of:

- \$25.00
- \$50.00
- \$125.00
- \$1,250.00
- \$10,250.00
- \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Central Union Mission." To donate by credit card, please see our website at www.missiondc.org.

Name _____

Address _____

Please mail to
Central Union Mission
P.O. Box 96763
Washington, DC 20009-6763

Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We'll send a receipt for your records. God bless you for showing compassion!

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Campaign for Compassion

Support Our Campaign

At Central Union Mission, we are blessed by what the Lord has done over the past 125 years. Today, however, we are concerned about people in need who suffer in our city.

As the economy swallows more jobs, we're seeing previously stable people now struggling. With your help, families can stay together, the hungry can be fed and the jobless can be employed.

Please join us as we celebrate 125 years of serving neighbors and embark on our next 125 years of changing lives. Donate online at www.missiondc.org or call 202-MISSION for more information. ■

Annual THANKSGIVING Campaign 09

We at Central Union Mission know that you don't need to wait until November to count your blessings. As fall approaches, the Mission gears up for its busiest season of the year. Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming, and we need your help serving food for our holiday meals. We also need funds to buy turkey with all the trimmings for many homeless and recently jobless people.

Please show your gratitude to God through your service and generosity this season. It's not as hard as you might think: only \$1.98 buys a meal for one hungry neighbor. For volunteer and donation opportunities, go to www.missiondc.org today! ■

THE *Missionary* PUBLISHED BY CENTRAL UNION MISSION

1350 R ST, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20009 | MISSIONDC.ORG | (202) MISSION
Proudly printed by Todd Allan Printing Company. For more information, contact Greg Warner at 301-982-0300 x174.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
David O. Treadwell

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Karen Heal

MANAGING EDITOR
Deborah J. Chambers

WRITERS/CONTRIBUTORS
Sarah Spinler | Leah Williamson