

central union MISSION

servicing neighbors, changing lives

Central Union Mission Men's Ministry

In Summary

With about 7,500 homeless people in Washington, DC, Central Union Mission's nightly refuge for nearly 200 men may seem like a small effort, but its potential is great. For some, Central Union Mission is only a clean bed and a hot meal, but the Mission offers a redemptive path back to society for all. Through the Men's Ministry, the Mission supports men at any level of their needs and prepares them to rejoin the community and work force.

Men's Ministry offers basic help like food, clothing, showers and clean beds for Overnight Guests. For those who need more help, we provide access to medical, dental and mental health care. The Mission offers rehabilitation to those fighting life-controlling addictions and work programs for those who need to be prepared for real-world experience. The Restoration & Transformation Program not only gives students a spiritual foundation, it provides education, the opportunity to obtain a GED certificate, literacy, anger management, family reconciliation and additional support services as needed.

When students are healed and whole, they are good candidates for the Ready2Succeed programs, where they earn a wage and get on-the-job training in baking, cooking, cleaning or landscaping. After completing a program and living in transitional housing, a student is ready to gain a productive job and live on his own.

Will you prayerfully consider helping to renovate a man's life?

- Your \$1,517 will enable one man to participate in the Work Therapy Program for one month;
- \$9,100 will provide six months of direct costs for one man in the Work Therapy Programs;
- \$18,200 will provide direct costs for a year-long Work Therapy Program for one man, and
- \$23,050 will provide direct costs to enable one man to work in one of the Ready2Succeed programs for one year.



Shawn Chinn's hard work in the Restoration & Transformation Program taught him to be a leader in his job and his young family.

"My Defining Moment"

When Shawn was honorably discharged from the Army in 1992 after serving four years with the 82nd Airborne in Panama and Korea, he moved back to Columbia, MD, without much of a plan. Frustration and boredom led him to experiment with drugs, and before long he was "stealing, robbing and running around on the streets. Drugs didn't help my climb: they just gave me a shovel, and I kept digging," he explains. His habit soon bounced him in and out of jail, but at his final release, he picked Central Union Mission from a list of shelters because he was told it was the cleanest.

"I knew I couldn't recover on my own. I realized I needed Jesus; I knew He could help me."

When he was eating his first meal at the Mission, a new friend, Charles, told him about the Restoration & Transformation Program (RTP). "That was the defining moment for me. I ran to drugs because I didn't want to deal with my life, so I knew I couldn't recover on my own. I realized I needed Jesus; I knew He could help me."

After he completed the RTP, Shawn started at Lincoln College of Technology and graduated with highest marks. While he was going to school and living at the Mission, a certain Mission staff member made an impression on him; Shawn and Dené were married in May 2012.

Today, Dené works at the Mission as assistant director of strategic partnerships, and Shawn works with Ecolab repairing and installing commercial kitchen equipment. They have a three-year-old daughter Moriah, a newborn named Elijah, and they own a house in MD. They both serve at Shechem Covenant Outreach Ministries in Forestville, MD, and enjoy a close relationship with their family nearby.

"God's grace has been holding us and teaching us," Shawn remarks. He calls the Mission "a great launching pad." "You can come let the Spirit of God work on you and be watched over because the Mission takes care of necessities that support life. God's hand is on this place."

"My Life is So Different"

James Starkes was a contractor for the federal government and had two grown children and a young daughter, but he felt an emptiness that he tried to fill with "things that brought only negativity." Drinking, car and motorcycle accidents and a run-in with the law left him broken. "I was looking at jail time and had a restraining order against me for my own home."

His older daughter told him that if he wanted to be involved with his family, he had to make some big changes, so he enrolled in Central Union Mission's RTP. After graduating, James took the Ready2Cook culinary job training, where he won the class cook-off and earned a MVP award from his 25 classmates. He returned to the Mission working part-time at Camp Bennett. He is now working full-time as a Mission cook, supervising the evening meals and special events.

"God didn't make this big change in me just for me to go backwards."

"I found that obeying God makes its own rewards: I've regained respect from my older children, I participated in my daughter's wedding and I'm part of my younger daughter's life again by taking her to school every morning. My life is so different." James is committed to staying on track: "God didn't make this big change in me just for me to go backwards," he explains.



James Starkes serves his homemade chili at a Mission donor event.

"Forever Grateful"

My story is like so many others that have come through the Mission: drug and alcohol abuse and brokenness. In 1989 I found myself arrested for intent to distribute drugs and homeless. The court required that I complete 100 hours of community service at Central Union Mission.



Pastor Fiddemon (center) and friends from Bethel Free Methodist Church.

I badly wanted one of the donated winter coats I was helping to unload. I could have bought one, but I wanted to get one for free. The Mission's generosity was so free and accepting that it made me feel guilty for trying to cheat; it so touched my heart that I joined the RTP and graduated in 1991.

I was baptized and became a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. I found two jobs that helped pay my rent at an Oxford House facility. My church paid my first month's rent and security deposit, and I was determined to repay them.

I became increasingly involved in serving at my church. I was choir director, then men's Sunday School teacher, assistant to the pastor, deacon, and I even became licensed to preach. My first date with my wife was to one of my sermons in the Mission basement.

From those humble beginnings our relationship took off, and I continued to preach at the Mission chapel once a month for 11 years. I became an ordained reverend, and along with my wife Lisa, I pastored New Vision in the City Free Methodist Church on Alabama Ave, SE, and now pastor Bethel Free Methodist Church in Fort Washington, MD.

I've been drug- and alcohol-free for nearly 30 years. I have answered the call to preach, gotten married, become a dad to two beautiful children and own the house that we live in. My children and I like to donate clothes to the Mission together so my kids can see where I've come from. I am forever grateful for the Mission and their kindness and willingness to be used by God to repair and restore broken people. — by Pastor Darrel Fiddemon

Men's Ministry Care and Progression

Men's Ministry programs match the progression of care that each homeless person requires. The Mission helps homeless program participants address issues like: long-term addictions; unemployment; state-issued identification and driver's licenses; health insurance; medical and dental care at the Mission's free clinics; mental health screenings, counseling and medications; legal advice from the Mission's legal aid office; high school graduation; life skills such as anger management, conflict resolution, communication and self-esteem; work readiness and career communication skills; and rebuilding a successful resume so that they can get independent employment.

Overnight Guests Physical Needs

Food, Safety, Rest, Medical Care, Clothing, Cleanliness

Restoration & Transformation Program Spiritual Needs

Faith, Understanding, Purpose, Church Community

Work and Work Therapy Emotional Needs

Recovery, Mental Health, Trauma Relief, Reconciliation, Solid Friendships, Hope

Ready 2 Succeed Employment Needs

Education, Professional Behavior, Job Skills, Accountability, Legal Issues/ Documents, Employment

Men's Ministry Programs

Overnight Guest Ministry

Men who arrive at the Mission on a daily basis for a hot meal and shelter are accommodated in the Overnight Guest program. Their beds are reserved through the daily intake process. They can stay for 30 days initially and then are placed on a 15-day-in/15-day-out rotation to encourage them to find permanent housing. Many wrap-around services and programs are available to help them achieve independence. The men are also encouraged to enroll in other Men's Ministry programs.

Restoration & Transformation Program

RTP is a residential rehabilitation program created to free men from the control of substances and other destructive behavior by establishing an active relationship with Jesus Christ. The program can accommodate 50 students in Bible study, biblical counseling, regular drug testing and work therapy. Classes and tutoring in reading, writing, math, job readiness and computer skills are also provided. After completing the RTP, men enter a Transition Period where they seek employment and are mentored through a gradual transition back into the community. The program enables restoration of family relationships and encourages a strong relationship with a mentor church to deter relapse and ensure continued growth and accountability.

READY²SUCCEED

Ready2Succeed training programs provide valuable job experience and references, as well as the opportunity to earn and save wages for permanent housing.

Ready²Work

Ready2Work is a street-cleaning and beautification service provided by homeless men and women for the Business Improvement Districts in the city. Participants are paid, receive social service support, adult education and job training as well as free transitional housing.

Ready²Cook MISSIONmuffin

Ready2Cook offers two options for culinary-minded students. Mission Muffins is a bakery run by homeless employees, who bake, market, sell and deliver delicious baked goods. Employees are paid and live at the Mission; they receive training for bakery work and business management.

Students can also participate in the Culinary Job Training Program sponsored in partnership with **DC Central Kitchen**. Graduates gain valuable kitchen skills required for cooking jobs as well as soft skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

Overnight Guest Services

Through our Overnight Guest Ministry, donors to our general fund help provide these short-term services for men who are not yet able to participate in our long-term programs:

Work Program

The Work Program is for men who are currently employed full-time but have no place to live. They initially receive a reserved bed for 90 days and are required to save half of their earnings to secure their permanent housing after leaving the Work Program.

Work Therapy Program

The Work Therapy Program provides ten guests the opportunity to work part-time supporting Mission-related work activities. They save half of their earnings toward permanent housing and are required to seek full-time employment (or transition into another program) by the end of their one-year term.

Special Circumstances Program

Men who do not qualify for other programs but need short-term residential services and support can participate in the Special Circumstances Program. Participants must be involved in a productive activity that will lead to self-sufficiency, such as school, training or part-time employment.

Extended Support Program

Extended Support Program participants struggle with mental illness, cognitive impairment and/or physical impairment and are without family or other caretakers. Individuals are deemed eligible based on the Mission's ability to support their level of care. When appropriate, the Mission assists them with obtaining health and income benefits and suitable employment.

Partnership Programs

The Mission partners with the Veterans Substance Abuse and Recovery Program (SARP) to provide temporary housing for up to six veterans in the VA treatment program for two to four weeks while their transitional housing is arranged. An agreement with So Others Might Eat (SOME) allows men to participate in SOME programs during the day and receive shelter at the Mission during a typical stay of three to four weeks.

How We Can Grow

As these programs mature, the Mission will continue to develop other social enterprises to train the men and women we serve, increase existing program participants and provide opportunities for permanent employment. Future growth ideas include a mentoring program connecting program participants with community business mentors and developing additional employment training options.

Annual Funding Needs

Central Union Mission is supported by private donors, churches, foundations and other organizations. We do not receive any government contributions. Funding our Spiritual Transformation and Workforce Development programs for a year requires:

Social Worker	\$24,600
Educator	\$18,500
Work Readiness and Job Placement counselor	\$60,000
Program Managers (2)	\$153,000
Assistant	\$8,500
Ready2Succeed wages (11)	\$187,000
Work and Work Therapy wages (12)	\$218,400
Computers and software (2)	\$4,800
Trucks (2)	\$45,000
Educational Materials	\$2,500
Total funding needed	\$722,300

(Total does not include \$1.4 million from private donors to provide food and shelter.)

Gifts Needed	Number of Gifts	Total
\$100,000	1	\$100,000
\$50,000	2	\$100,000
\$25,000	4	\$100,000
\$10,000	10	\$100,000
\$5,000	20	\$100,000
\$2,500	60	\$150,000
Other	many	\$72,300
Total		\$722,300

Your \$1,517 investment in our Men's Ministries will enable one man to participate in our Work Therapy Program for one month; \$18,200 will provide one year's direct costs for Work Therapy Program wages for one man, and \$23,050 will provide direct costs to enable one man to work in one of the Ready2Succeed programs for one year.

For more information about supporting the Men's Ministry program, please contact Deborah Chambers at dchambers@missiondc.org or 202-745-7118, ext. 227, or Central Union Mission, 65 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Many Thanks

Central Union Mission is funded solely by private supporters. Your donations alone are what allow the Mission to help transform broken, weary men into stable, capable community members. Your commitment is what makes this partnership effective. Thank you so much for your compassion.