

THE Missionary

October 2019

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No one should live hungry and homeless

"I'm Living Proof"

Although the Mission is primarily known for our work with people experiencing homelessness, we really do so much more! Meet a man whose life was turned around through our summer camp program at Camp Bennett in Brookeville, MD.

IN 2003, CHRIS FRYE WAS 15 and at loose ends in New Castle, PA. Recovering from a serious back injury that left him unable to play sports or "do anything constructive," he was being drawn to the negative lifestyle choices available in his neighborhood.



Chris Frye (center) with his family

That is when his grandparents told him about a counselor's job at Camp Bennett.

Chris was hired in a leadership position as a Camp Bennett counselor. Chris reminisces on that time stating "we had Bible study, the ropes course, recreation in the gym, the dining hall with family-style seating, trails, swimming, frog hunting, all types of things. Not having had my own camp experience, being a Camp Bennett counselor served a dual purpose for me."

More Than a Job

Chris expected to be outdoors, running around with kids and teaching the word of God, however, what transformed him was a "great family" of other counselors and camp staff, who lived and fellowshiped together during that summer. He has come to understand that "we transferred all the communication and love we received from one another back to the kids at the camp."

The "camp family" is what drew Chris back to Camp Bennett for three more summers. His experience as a counselor gave him a new and unexpected focus. Upon graduation from high school, Chris decided to major in social work at Gannon University in Erie, PA. His first college internship was to help run a summer camp for at-risk youth. After receiving his masters of social work degree in Community Organizing and Social Administration from the University of Pittsburgh, Chris became a therapist and neighborhood development coordinator at Cray Youth and Family Services in New Castle, PA. Chris now serves as a community supports coordinator for Lawrence County Community Action Partnership, where he works with youth on juvenile probation.

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

Campaigning for the Future

Chris credits Camp Bennett for igniting his leadership and communication skills. Currently, Chris is running for the office of mayor in his hometown, New Castle, PA, a city of 20,000 which some describe as an economically distressed city with a serious drug and crime problem. Chris states "I thank God every day because I could have gone down a completely different path if I had not been immersed in the Christian values and connected to the supportive people of Central Union Mission and Camp Bennett."

Chris' underprivileged background, his Camp Bennett experience and his social work training have helped him become the man he is today. Chris emphasized, "I'm living proof of what the ministry of Central Union Mission and a camp that teaches Christian values can do. Just think of what opportunities Camp Bennett will create for every camper's future!" ■

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Currently, Camp Bennett is undergoing a renovation with plans to re-open in the summer of 2020. If you're interested in learning how you can help impact the lives of young people in our community, contact dchambers@missiondc.org.



Too Important to Miss

PAVEL SEMENYUK may have the largest family on earth—346 living descendants!

According to Pavel, the only difficulty with a family so large is, “I often cannot remember the names of the young ones.”

Most of us will never have to remember as many names or birthdates as Pavel, and yet it’s not uncommon for us to rely on our calendar or phone to trigger an important reminder.



Family changes

A marriage, divorce or new child added to the family by birth or adoption.

Financial changes

The acquisition or sale of a business or significant asset or changing tax laws.

Life changes

A recent move or an emerging desire to include a charity like Central Union Mission.

What if you had helpful triggers to remind you it’s time to update your estate plan? You may be surprised to know, these “triggers” are actually happening all the time. Some include:

It’s important to know that if too many of these “triggers” are left unconsidered, your will could become obsolete. Planning wisely will bring peace and ensure your loved ones are taken care of. ■

For the full version of this article, request a free copy of **Four Changes that Could Affect your Family’s Future** by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at (202) 745-7118, ext. 227, or dchambers@missiondc.org—or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/missiondc

From the President A Personal Touch



YOU DON’T HAVE to go to school to learn. Our experiences can have some of the biggest effects on our understanding and priorities. In this issue of The Missionary, we share about some special friends who were affected and shaped by their experiences helping Central Union Mission.

If you want to feel the heart of the Mission, volunteering is really the best way. We’re so grateful for the folks that come in—many quite regularly—to serve God and make life a bit better for men, women and families in poverty. Providing for peoples’ needs with excellence, compassion and purpose explains the building’s peace and friendliness. The warmth is noticeable.

YOUR GIFT

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10 ESV

If you’ve never served at the Mission, I invite you to come. Even if you’re a financial donor, you’ll find that the one-on-one time personalizes your commitment to helping the needy. To check out the opportunities at the men’s shelter and our food pantry, the Family Ministry Center, visit missiondc.org/get-involved. You’ll be glad you did.

Whether through our ministry at Camp Bennett or any of our programs at the shelter, lives are being impacted for eternity because of your support. I’d be honored to give you a tour to show you just some of what your partnership is accomplishing, so please contact me at jmettimano@missiondc.org or 202-745-7118. ■

Joe Mettimano
president & CEO

Henry Learns to Do Hard Things and Homeless Neighbors Benefit



Henry Church's pieces were purchased immediately after his presentation; his mother bought the last plant stand. Henry volunteered at the Mission again this past summer.

grade this past year, Henry's interest in wood-working inspired him to build rustic-style furniture and hand-carved kitchen tools.

With help from his dad and YouTube, he trained in wood-working skills by remodeling the family's laundry room with shiplap. Then with his own money, he purchased tools and the wood to make two plant stands, two end tables and six large spoons—one each out of oak and pine and four from cherry. The base for his bigger side table was a stump from a fallen tree he found in the woods. Henry commented, "I

STUDENT Henry Church explains, "You were supposed to pick a project in middle school that would stretch you in your abilities—and faith, too." That's how Lorian Wood, a Christian PreK-8 school in Vienna, VA, teaches students to "Do Hard Things." In eighth

ended up building less stuff than I hoped, but it stretched me and challenged me and made me learn how hard woodworking is, which was also a goal of the project."

A Generous Community

Then his plan took a noble turn when Henry remembered a service trip his seventh grade class took to Washington, DC. At his year-end presentation, he announced that all his pieces were for sale to benefit Central Union Mission. "Many of the teachers were interested in buying them. When they realized I was donating the proceeds to the Mission, they paid more for the pieces than I was asking for!" Henry's work brought in \$290.

Henry's mother Jennifer Smyth Church said, "The 'Do Hard Things' project is designed to force teens out on their own a little bit. It built Henry's confidence. He hit pockets where he was thinking, 'I can't do this; this is way too hard,' but he learned that just the action of working on hard things is a golden opportunity for growing and changing." And now Henry's hard work is helping to feed and care for people experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC. ■

Thank you for being
a faithful and
dedicated partner in
the work of Central
Union Mission.

"Because of you, I have a full-time job with benefits and will be in my own housing soon."
—Shawn



My Serving Experience

"I didn't really know what to expect because I'd never been in a homeless shelter before. I was blown away by how happy everyone was, how blessed they looked and how smiley they were. We take for granted what we are going to have for dinner, but they don't know if they're going to have something, so it's good there's a place that they know they'll have a meal.... I was a waiter and gave chili and cornbread to some of the people. I had such a fun time that day that I knew I wanted to channel my project toward helping Central Union Mission." —Henry



Want to show you care at Christmas?
Be a Show Some Love sponsor.

For more details, contact Rev. Deborah Chambers
at dchambers@missiondc.org
or 202-745-788, ext. 227

Join Us!

Senior Fellowships

October 18 and November 25, 2019

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

October 25 and November 22 in Spanish

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Volunteer to help us serve a nutritious lunch and visit with our seniors. Contact mobrien@missiondc.org to register.

Taste of the Mission

November 1, 2019

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

You're invited to meet President & CEO Joe Mettimano, enjoy a meal, hear stories of transformation and get a special behind-the-scenes shelter tour. Please RSVP at tasteandsee@missiondc.org.

Veteran's Day Program

November 11, 2019

11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

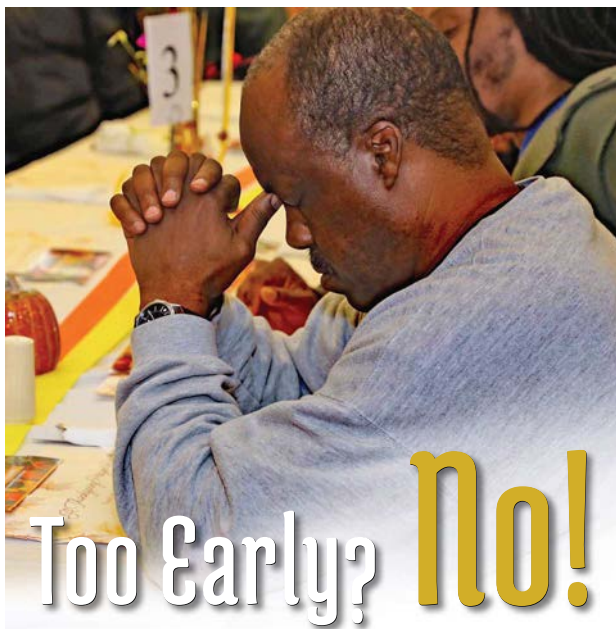
Join Mission guests and program participants at a special program commemorating veterans.

Thanksgiving Banquet

November 28, 2019

12:00 PM

Help serve and fellowship with our guests; other holiday tasks are also available. Please RSVP to volunteer at thanksgiving2019@missiondc.org by November 8th.



THANKSGIVING? Yes, because we're now preparing for the Mission's biggest event of the year! When thoughts of home and family draw hungry and hurting neighbors to our doors, they'll get more than turkey with all the trimmings—they'll get a chance for a new life. A gift of only \$2.09 will turn a holiday memory into a milestone for one of our guests. Thanks so much for your compassion. ■

God bless
you for
caring!

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Unless otherwise noted, photos are from Adobe Stock. A copy of Central Union Mission's current financial report is available upon request by writing to 6811 Kenilworth Ave, 600-B, Riverdale, MD 20737 or by calling 202-745-7118. In Maryland, copies of documents and information submitted by Central Union Mission are available for the cost of copies and postage from the Secretary of State, Statehouse, Annapolis, MD 21410, 401-974-5534. In Virginia, a financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209, 804-786-1343.



Needs Grow as Temps Go Low

When cold temperatures make street life dangerous, Central Union Mission is prepared to save lives with more than just hot food and warm beds. Wrap-around social services, educational opportunities, workforce development and the Mission's Restoration & Transformation Program are just some of our available services. With God's help, restored men can put their lives back on track.

Please use my donation of:

- ☐ \$20.90 to feed and care for 10 guests
- ☐ \$52.25 for 25 guests
- ☐ \$104.50 for 50 guests
- ☐ \$156.75 for 75 guests
- ☐ \$_____ to help as many as possible

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

Central Union Mission

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