

# THE Missionary

February 2020

A publication of Central Union Mission [missiondc.org](http://missiondc.org)

*No one  
should live  
hungry and  
homeless*

## Circuit Breaker

WITH THE MISSION'S HELP, WENDELL KINNEY  
STOPS THE CYCLE OF DRUG ABUSE AND POVERTY

By H. Patricia Blackshire

**W**ENDELL CLARENCE KINNEY, Sr., a DC native in his mid-60s, calmly spoke about his past life without flinching, as if he was telling someone else's story. In a way, he was.



*Wendell Kinney, Sr.*

His parents abandoned him and four brothers. Around age ten, he was sent to a juvenile detention center for stabbing an elementary school bully—with two pencils—in self-defense. As a young adult, his life became more unsettled and directionless. He overdosed numerous

times and had to be hospitalized and evaluated at a psychiatric ward.

He married another drug-user, and together they had five children (along with two he had from a prior relationship), until their marriage soured, and they separated. Wendell revealed that she was not able to “kick the habit” and passed away in November 2019.

### Inspired to Change

What brought him to Central Union Mission? Wendell saw one of his homeless friends, Leon, clean shaven and well-dressed. Leon announced he had just spent six months at Central Union Mission. Wendell says he took one look at Leon and wanted what Leon had. The

next day, Wendell signed up for the Mission's Overnight Guest program, and he never missed a day.

His initial introduction to the Mission was challenging, he says. He was not used to structure and following the rules, which he blamed on his chronic drug use. He went through a withdrawal period of excruciating pain and insomnia. He began having suicidal thoughts and was regularly counseled by one of the Mission pastors.

After three months in the Overnight Guest program, he enrolled in what is now called the Restoration & Transformation Program (RTP). The experience led him on a spiritual journey—to seek God and to come face-to-face with a lifetime of unceasing pain. After graduating from the RTP in 2007, he lived at the Mission and received stipends to help him commute to work. The day he was ready to leave the Mission, a permanent job awaited him.

Today, he is remarried. His second wife, Gwen, is also a member of Shechem Covenant Outreach Ministries, where they first met. According to Senior Pastor Tommy Terrell, “Wendell and Gwen's involvement in our Bible study and outreach functions has strengthened

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Washington, DC, has one of the highest homelessness rates in the country, but through your compassion, God is transforming lives every day at Central Union Mission.

## Thank you!



*Photo by Scott Streble*

# Want to Feel More Alive?

**A**T OUR BEST, humans desire leading fulfilling lives that leave a positive impact on our world. So, how do we live truly alive? Here are three simple ways:

- **Invest in experiences, not things.** We don't need more things. In fact, research shows that excitement over a new purchase wanes by the second day, but meaningful memories last a lifetime.
- **Practice gratitude.** What if you could record everything you said or thought for one week straight and listen back? Would you be proud of what you heard? Would there be any recurring themes? Consider practicing "grateful touch" for a week—simply thanking God for anything you touch—and see how it changes your perspective.
- **Give.** Acts 20:35 echoes the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and now we know science backs this up. Giving releases oxytocin and endor-



phins into your body, rewarding the same pleasure centers in the brain as receiving does!

Giving of your time or money to an organization like Central Union Mission has the added benefit of impacting lives. Many people have decided to update their will or living trust to include a gift to a ministry they care about. This is a unique way to feel more alive now and to ensure your legacy will outlive you. ■

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of **Secrets for a Fulfilling Life** by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at [dchambers@missiondc.org](mailto:dchambers@missiondc.org) or (202) 827-3078, or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at [www.christianwill.org/missiondc](http://www.christianwill.org/missiondc)

## From the President Their Witness Makes a Way



**N**OTHING WARMS MY HEART like the success stories from Central Union Mission program graduates and current participants. These folks have overcome obstacles that many of us can hardly imagine: abuse, addiction, homelessness, poor education and worse. The path to their new lives

requires discipline, spiritual strength, knowledge and hard work, but hope is always the first step.

Most of our guests experiencing homelessness do not even dare to battle their destructive habits, but living examples

like Wendell Kinney (page one) and so many other Mission graduates help make the dream accessible to the dedicated few. In fact, our education and job program participants—current and past—are our strongest advocates and the best encouragers.

That's why it's so rewarding to participate in the Mission's ministry. Because of your gifts, we can provide not only the opportunities, but also the hope men need to seize them. Thank you for making their new lives possible. ■

**Joseph J. Mettimano**  
President & CEO

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 2 Corinthians 9:11, NLT*



# Lambert House

OUR PROGRAM'S LAST STEP IS THE FIRST STEP TO INDEPENDENCE

**A**FTER MEN experiencing homelessness get their addictions under control, gain physical and emotional health and find employment through our Workforce Development & Education program, they can move to the Mission's Lambert Transition House. As an apartment building, it's home for up to 24 men who are making their way back to leading productive lives.



Residents live there, paying modest rent, so they can save their paychecks for their future apartments. They navigate life together, sharing kitchens and bathrooms and practicing real-life decision-making with help from Mission counselors. The Lambert House experience helps cement new habits and lifestyles, which can prevent relapses. However, Lambert House currently is in need of a new roof, renovations, furniture and new appliances to make it fully habitable. We have program graduates ready to move on with nowhere to live!

We estimate that getting the building back to a respectable condition would cost \$350,000. With your help, we can fully utilize the Lambert House, preparing our graduates for successful new lives. Please visit [missiondc.org/special-email](http://missiondc.org/special-email) to help today. ■

## Helping Where it Counts

**T**HE MOST EFFICIENT and flexible gift the Mission can receive is a financial donation. With these general cash donations, we are able to support all of the life-saving programs we provide, and we can access resources to purchase items at a much lower cost than the general public can. But outside of monetary gifts, our next most valuable gift comes from volunteers who think outside the box.

Is your company hiring? Do you have a professional skill like social work, grant writing, journalism, photography, counseling or ministry? Are you a genius at technology? We



will gratefully find a spot where your skills can be life-changing—for our guests, as well as for you. Contact Rev. Deborah Chambers at [dchambers@missiondc.org](mailto:dchambers@missiondc.org) or 202-827-3078 to brainstorm! ■

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Shechem. To God be all the glory that through embracing the teaching of biblical principles, Wendell has turned his life around and become a pillar of our congregation."

### Minding Their Business

Wendell worked for several years at an electrical company before striking out on his own. He became a master electrician through training at Local Union #26, and together the couple has owned Wendell and Gwen Kinney Electrical Contracting Services for six years. Wendell plans to move forward with his

growing company and to help train disadvantaged men suffering from homelessness and drug addictions.

Wendell is a living example of the kind of work and results that Central Union Mission focuses on every day: meeting people where they are in life, helping with their needs and, through God's grace, helping them become whole and healthy. It is wonderful to see Wendell paying it forward. ■

*H. Patricia Blackshire is a committed volunteer who blesses Central Union Mission with her organizational and journalism skills.*



**GET INVOLVED!** Please visit [missiondc.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://missiondc.org/get-involved/volunteer) to volunteer for these and other events.

#### Senior Fellowships

February 21 and March 20, 2020

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

February 28 and March 27, 2020

9:00 am to 1:00 pm *In Spanish*

Volunteer to offer breakfast, play bingo, celebrate birthdays, distribute food and other gifts and share a word of encouragement.

#### KARIS Golf Tournament

March 14, 2020

10:00 am

Join Joe Mettimano for a day of family fun that also benefits the Mission. Please register at [bit.ly/karisdc](http://bit.ly/karisdc).

#### Taste of the Mission

April 2, 2020

11:00 am to 1:30 pm

This event is for you! Join us for a tour of the Mission, some words and songs from program participants and a tasty lunch. Please RSVP at [missiondc.org/tasteandsee](http://missiondc.org/tasteandsee).

#### Revival Week

April 6-9, 2020

7:00 to 8:00 pm

Join shelter guests for an inspiring week of evangelistic services.

Contact [mobrien@missiondc.org](mailto:mobrien@missiondc.org) for more information about volunteer opportunities.

*God bless  
you for  
caring!*

# 2020 KARIS Golf Challenge

Saturday, March 14 • Benefiting Central Union Mission



**100%** of your sponsorship goes to Central Union Mission

### Topgolf Loudoun

20356 Commonwealth Center Dr.  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
Arrive by 9:45 am • Event begins promptly at 10:00 am and ends at 12:00 pm

Registration includes a lifetime membership to Topgolf Loudoun, Topgolf games, complimentary golf pro instruction and a brunch buffet featuring brisquet tacos and Topgolf's famous injectable donut holes. Topgolf provides men's, women's and kid's clubs if needed. Prizes for top men's, women's and kid's score.

**Adults \$80, Kids 16 and under \$45**

Pre-registration is required

Go to [bit.ly/karisdc](http://bit.ly/karisdc) to register or become a sponsor



**We Need Event Sponsors!**  
The first \$10,000 in sponsorships will be matched!

KARIS is a 501(c)3 charity registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a financial statement is available from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request.

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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.



## Starting the Year Off Grateful

*I'm trusting God's promise in Proverbs 19:17, which says, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done."*

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](http://missiondc.org), or visit Facebook at "**Central Union Mission, DC.**"

#### Central Union Mission

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