

THE Missionary

April 2020

A publication of Central Union Mission missiondc.org



No one should live hungry and homeless



From the President

I'M WRITING THIS LETTER in the midst of a global crisis as we all struggle with the impact of COVID-19. I wanted you to know about how Central Union Mission is helping our neighbors despite the worst of circumstances. When you read this, I hope that our community has been spared the worst projected after-effects. We stand in faith that our God is in control of the outcome and that the Mission will still be caring for people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

In the midst of this emergency, we celebrate Easter, the resurrection of the Savior. So with God's protection, we're counting on your generous support for vulnerable people in need. Please also pray for the health of our shelter guests and our dedicated staff.

We know this situation is impacting you, too. Please know our staff is praying for you. Thank you so much for partnering with us during this trying season.

Joe Mettimano

Joe
President & CEO

For Such a Time as This

THE MISSION CARED FOR OUR NEIGHBORS in the aftermath of the Civil War, during the Spanish Flu of 1918, through two World Wars and other crises. Today, we are committed to protecting all people in our care from the effects of COVID-19.

Will the Mission stay open?

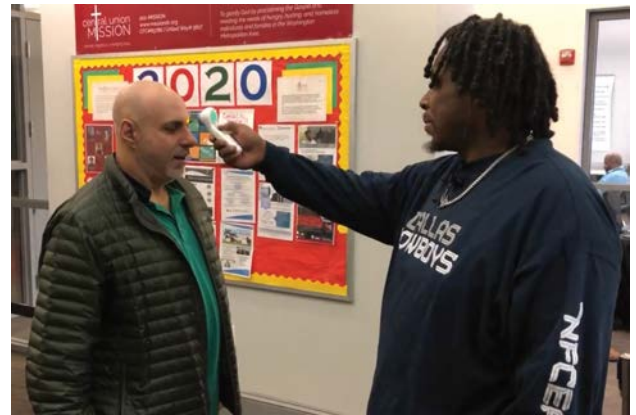
The coronavirus emergency has changed life for all of us in many unsettling ways. We want to assure you that, in the midst of this upheaval, Central Union Mission stands firm. We are committed to serving lost and hurting souls in our community—no matter the challenges we face. We remain open and fully operational, sheltering the homeless and feeding the hungry.

We have an emergency contingency plan that will enable us to provide continuity of services as long as

we're able. Utilizing our camp and Lambert House properties if needed, we'll do all we can to ensure neighbors experiencing homelessness have a place to stay.

What is the Mission doing to help?

We continue to shelter the homeless and feed the hungry. It is critical that we keep our already-vulnerable homeless and low-income neighbors safe. We are daily



checking the body temperature of both shelter guests and staff and sending anyone with a fever for a medical evaluation. We are requiring everyone to continue with standard protocols such as hand washing, no touching of the face and cleaning all hand surfaces.

Our Family Ministry Center continues to distribute desperately needed food to families in need. We have canceled all volunteer activities and social functions like Seniors Fellowship, book clubs and English classes, etc. Many of these program participants are older, and we want to limit their exposure. As well, we continue to accept all gifts-in-kind at the Family Ministry Center (3194-B Bladensburg Rd., NE). ■

THANK YOU

We are grateful that you are helping "for such a time as this."

Esther 4:14



What Can You Do?

THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK has impacted the Mission in unexpected ways. Regular financial giving is down as people feel unsettled about the future. We are short on food and cleaning supplies because grocery stores are empty from hoarding. Our staff is overburdened because our usual volunteers can't come in to work.

- **Financial contributions** remain the most flexible help to the Mission permitting us to purchase just what is needed, often with discounts. To donate online, please visit missiondc.org/givecovid. Thank you for giving what you can.
- We also need **food** for our shelter guests and **groceries** to help sustain our families, women, children and seniors at the Family Ministry Center. During normal times, our families live in a "food desert," with lower access to nutritional food, but recent hoarding has completely emptied local stores.

- Keeping our locations clean is a big job, and we go through a tremendous amount of **cleaning supplies**. We welcome donations of sanitizer, wipes, bleach, soap and other cleaning tools. ■



Help the Mission Prepare as the Needs Increase

Please use the coupon below to mail your contribution to P.O. Box 96763, Washington, DC 20090-6763. To donate online, please visit missiondc.org/givecovid.

Please bring food and cleaning supplies to the shelter at 65 Massachusetts Ave., NW, and to the Family Ministry Center at 3194-B Bladensburg Rd., NE. Thank you so much for your compassion.



Our friends at Amazon.com provided a cash donation to support our work providing shelter, hot meals and services to neighbors experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 crisis. We are grateful for their partnership and support.

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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.



Provide Easter Meals and Help

Even in the midst of the current COVID-19 outbreak, you can still help share hope with neighbors facing homelessness this Easter season. Now more than ever, we're counting on your generous gift today to provide nutritious meals, safe shelter, recovery services and a second chance!

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
- \$ for COVID-19 relief
- \$ 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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NAME

ADDRESS

God bless you for caring!