



# THE Missionary

November 2020

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

*No one  
should live  
hungry and  
homeless*

**T**HIS THANKSGIVING WILL NOT BE THE SAME as in the past. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted life for all of us, but one thing the pandemic did not stop is the number of people who need food, care and support. Demand for many of our programs and services has already risen over 50 percent, and we expect that number to increase through the winter.

That's why, more than ever before, we believe it's important that everyone has *A Seat at the Table* this Thanksgiving.



One thing the coronavirus has taught us is that we are all equal in the eyes of the Lord—whether in hardship or in abundance. And we still are called to care for our neighbors in need with the blessings we have received.

When you take *A Seat at the Table*, you are helping feed and protect people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the DC area—and giving them a real reason for Thanksgiving. Check out these fun and meaningful ways you can maximize your Mission engagement:

## Host a Virtual Fundraiser

We may not be able to gather with our friends, but we can still work together to help neighbors in need. A fun

way to do that is to **set up your own fundraising website**. With our free and easy tool, you can use the webpage we supply or create one that reflects your personal message. Start your personal web page at [missiondc.org/MyTablePage](http://missiondc.org/MyTablePage).

## Become an Event Sponsor

Would your company, club or church group like to show your commitment to compassion in Washington, DC? Our rewarding sponsorship opportunities will give your organization a social media boost. Your family can also sponsor *A Seat at the Table* to show your gratefulness for God's blessings. Become an event sponsor at [missiondc.org/TableSponsor](http://missiondc.org/TableSponsor).

## Donate Now

Your Thanksgiving gift is so needed right now! You can visit [missiondc.org](http://missiondc.org) to donate online, or mail in the response coupon on page four.

## Join the Virtual Event

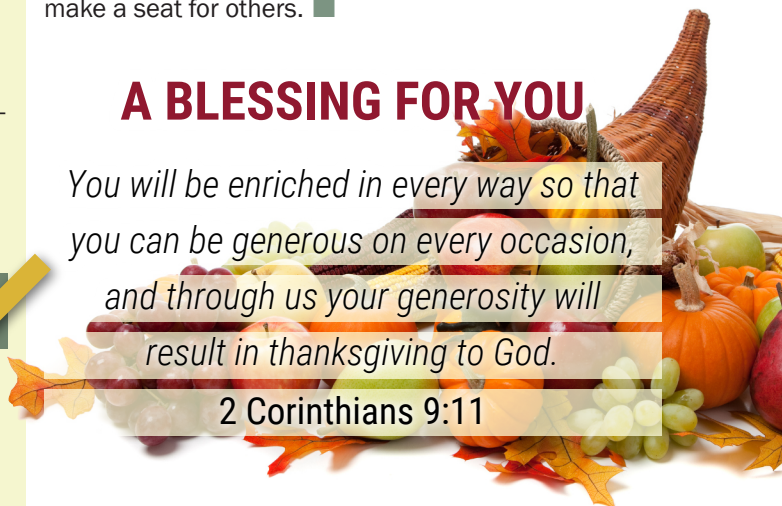
Remember that the main event is online on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 7:00 pm. You will hear Mission stories, testimonies and memories, meet special guests and also support people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the DC area. Register for *A Seat at the Table* at [missiondc.org/Register](http://missiondc.org/Register).

There's a seat for you at the table. Please help us make a seat for others. ■

## A BLESSING FOR YOU

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

**2 Corinthians 9:11**



# Life is Short— Make it Count.

**M**OMENTS AFTER TAKE-OFF from La Guardia Airport, a flight collided with a flock of geese. Both engines lost power, forcing Captain Chesley Burnett Sullenberger, III, to make an emergency landing—in the Hudson River. He told the passengers and crew to brace for impact, splashing down ninety seconds later. Everyone survived, and Sullenberger became a hero. (Story reported by History.com)

We've all heard "tomorrow is promised to no one," and it's true; life can turn on a dime. It's humbling to realize we are one breath away from becoming an empty seat at the table, but this thought shouldn't strike fear in our hearts—it should move us to action.

Here are three ways to make your life count today:

- Serve others rather than self. Every human is born egocentric, but as we grow we learn that our actions

have great impact on others. God honors our sacrifices. Hebrews 6:10a says, "God is not unjust, he will not forget your work and the love you have shown."

- Focus on giving rather than getting. Americans are consumed with acquiring, but a legacy of generosity demonstrates God's love. Would you consider a gift in your will to Central Union Mission? This could be a powerful way to give even after you die.
- Move from fear to faith. Many people are consumed with the cares of life, but God created you for peace.

You don't have to worry away your days. Trust God for freedom from fear, and choose to make each day count. ■

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of **Three Ways to Make Your Life Count Today** by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at (202) 745-7118, ext. 227, or [dchambers@missiondc.org](mailto:dchambers@missiondc.org), or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at [christianwill.org/missiondc](http://christianwill.org/missiondc).

## From the President Pumpkin Pie with a Purpose



**W**E DO THANKSGIVING strategically here at Central Union Mission. It's an important holiday because it reminds people of home. While that can be painful for those estranged from their families, Thanksgiving can also motivate guests to get their lives in order by participating in a Mission program.

There's a seat at the table for everyone at Thanksgiving. While this year's meal might be served differently, the purpose remains: to connect guests with God, living and job skills and, hopefully, their families.

During our *A Seat at the Table* virtual event on November 19, at 7:00 pm, I invite you to imagine yourself sitting at the table with our guests, enjoying with them the warmth, camaraderie, savory food and—best of all—the hope that comes from learning you have a second chance. Your faithful gifts make that hope possible. Thank you so much for your compassion. ■

Joe Mettimano

President & CEO

# My Incredible Journey

by Marc O'Brien



Marc O'Brien

**A**S WE ALL KNOW, life is a series of journeys each of us take. Some of our journeys are small, some large; some only take a short while, and some last a lifetime. My incredible journey with Central Union Mission will impact the rest of my life.

About five years ago I was battered with a series of life-altering events: I survived a catastrophic illness, then someone very close to me died. At work, my contract was not renewed, and I lost my job—and everything else. At the suggestion of a friend who lived near the former Mission neighborhood, I found myself at Central Union Mission: homeless, hopeless and convinced my life was over.

## Strength to Rebuild

To my utter surprise, however, I was embraced by a group of people who began to restore my faith as they demonstrated to me what true Christian kindness looks like. The Men's Ministry personnel, the social work counselors, the support staff were all remarkable and caring—to me, a total stranger! I found a leadership dedicated to guiding souls back from the brink, using the teachings and princi-

ples of Christ. I worked with the Mission's social workers to calm my inner fears and started rebuilding my life.

Since I already had my college degree, I was put in the Special Circumstances Program and assigned kitchen detail, and shortly thereafter, thanks to the Mission, I got my food handlers' license. Soon I was working in the kitchen regularly and had the opportunity to meet the wonderful volunteers who came in each day to help out. I embraced them with gusto because they were wonderful people deeply committed to improving the human condition. I learned about the Mission's history and mandate so I could share with the volunteers and answer their questions.

## Perfect Fit

Then, when the Mission created the volunteer coordinator position, they asked if I would help, which was an answer to my prayers! Now, all because the Mission had faith in me, I get to work with an incredible variety of people who truly care about their fellow humankind, and I can show them the many opportunities the Mission provides guests for teaching self-discipline, improving their education and restoring their faith.

I cannot imagine a more meaningful way to use my talents, and I have it all because Central Union Mission cared. ■

*Marc O'Brien contributes his organizational and journalism skills to Central Union Mission as our volunteer coordinator.*

Good Morning! I would like to first thank you and the entire Mission for being there for me and my family mentally and physically. Your help and prayers have brought me and my children into supportive housing, mental health, food, clothing and more. I also want to thank all the Mission donors—without their help none of this would be possible.

Love, the H. Family ♥

## Calling All Turkeys...

**T**HE FAMILY MINISTRY CENTER received this grateful email today. Because of your support during the coronavirus pandemic, we provided emergency groceries, clothing and household goods to hundreds of parents, who could then devote their limited resources to rent, transportation or medical expenses. That's the reason we like to provide Thanksgiving turkeys and traditional side-dishes;

we want to give families a chance to bond and enjoy the holiday without added financial stress.

Last year we struggled to get enough turkeys, and unfortunately, we anticipate the same or worse for this year. This is especially challenging because the number of people seeking support continues to rise daily. Our families will appreciate your donations of turkeys and other food or even grocery store gift cards for Thanksgiving. You can safely drop donations at the Family Ministry Center, 3491-B Bladensburg Rd., NW, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thank you for your generosity. ■





# By the Numbers



*God bless  
you for  
caring!*

In Fiscal Year 2020, your support of Central Union Mission provided:

## Men's Shelter

- 49,155** Bed-nights of shelter
- 117,736** Meals on-site for men experiencing homelessness
- 13,091** Donated sandwiches for people who came to our doors
- 15** Employed program alumni living at Lambert House transitional home
- 312** Medical and dental exams performed and free medical testing for 186 men
- 80** U.S. veterans served
- 48** Mission residents moved into permanent housing
- 3,960** Counseling sessions were held
- 42** Men dedicated or returned their lives to Jesus

## Workforce Development & Education

- 328** Participants completed 1,040 hours of vocational and employment counseling
- 25** Educational certificates received

- 356** Hours of educational enhancement and skills training
- 121** Men gained employment outside Mission programs (75 full-time, 19 part-time and 27 contract)

## Family Ministry Center

- 5,750** People served monthly
- 290,000** Bags of groceries distributed
- 3,156** Seniors per month for Senior Fellowship programs
- 1,000** Children received gifts from Operation Christmas Miracle, and 400 received new backpacks filled with school supplies
- 40,200** Clothing and houseware items distributed
- 29** Participants dedicated or returned their lives to Jesus
- 222** Health Fair participants
- 181** Participants in Family Book Club and early stages education classes

*Thank You!*

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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.



## A Seat at the Table For Thanksgiving

No one should be left out from the comfort and encouragement that Thanksgiving brings. Your generous gift here or at [missiondc.org/TheTable](http://missiondc.org/TheTable) will help to care for folks who have been living without hope. Thank you for your compassion.

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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