



THE Missionary

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No one should live hungry and homeless

Our Deepest Gratitude to a Vital Partner

ON BEHALF OF THOSE WE SERVE, we thank Amazon for its generous donation of \$250,000 in support of Central Union Mission's work to shelter the homeless and feed the hungry. Two of Amazon's charitable funding priorities are immediate food relief and affordable housing, which are a perfect match with the Mission's efforts. This gift, on top of two other recent Amazon donations totaling \$80,000, helped the Mission to have an effective, life-saving response to the COVID-19 emergency. We are very thankful for Amazon's commitment to our community! ■



Looking Up at Lambert House

FOR MEN COMPLETING the Mission's employment programs and starting jobs, the Lambert House is a godsend. After men experiencing homelessness get their addictions under control, gain physical and emo-



Many thanks to Love Your City volunteers who beautified the Lambert House backyard.

tional health and find employment through our Workforce Development & Education program, they can move to the Mission's Lambert House Transition Home, a building with six apartments housing up to 24 men.

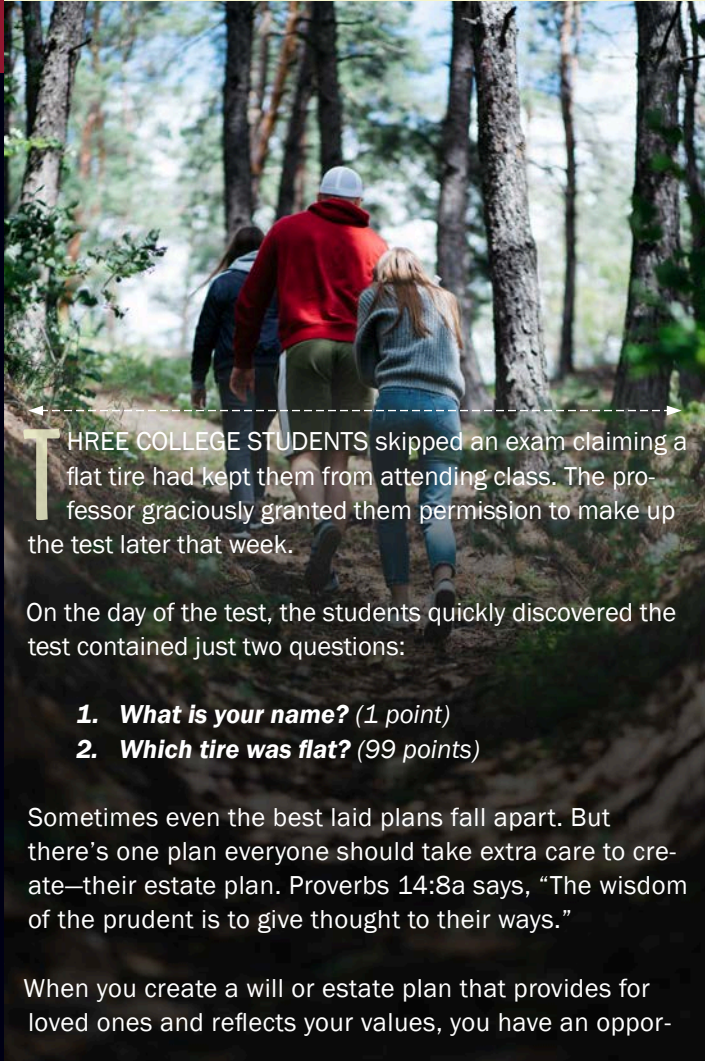
New Habits, Lifestyles

Residents pay modest rent, saving their paychecks for their future apartments. They navigate life together, sharing kitchens and bathrooms and practicing real-life decision-making with the support and supervision of our social work department. The Lambert House experience helps cement new habits and lifestyles, which can prevent relapses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is also home to Mission shelter guests who are essential workers.

The Lambert House continues its mission of helping people get a stable foothold in society.

Lambert House was added as a Central Union Mission campus after a merger with Gospel Rescue Mission in

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THREE COLLEGE STUDENTS skipped an exam claiming a flat tire had kept them from attending class. The professor graciously granted them permission to make up the test later that week.

On the day of the test, the students quickly discovered the test contained just two questions:

1. **What is your name?** (1 point)
2. **Which tire was flat?** (99 points)

Sometimes even the best laid plans fall apart. But there's one plan everyone should take extra care to create—their estate plan. Proverbs 14:8a says, “The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways.”

When you create a will or estate plan that provides for loved ones and reflects your values, you have an oppor-

Don't Leave the Future to Chance

tunity to make an uncertain future more certain. An up-to-date will also allows you to:

- **Protect your family.** You're the best person to make tough decisions about your care or personal estate. Preparing ahead means you'll remove the possible burden from loved ones and allows you to name a guardian for any minors.
- **Reduce your tax load.** Numerous tax reduction strategies exist to help keep more money in your estate. The key is to plan sooner rather than later.
- **Support your favorite cause or ministry.** Just because estate planning is considered a “legal” transaction doesn't mean you can't plan with your heart. Consider leaving a gift in your will for Central Union Mission to impact lives for years to come. ■

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of **How You Can Create a More Certain Future** by contacting Deborah Chambers at 202-827-3078 or dchambers@missiondc.org, or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/missiondc.

From the President Step In the Right Direction



THINK OF AN INGRAINED HABIT of yours—something you've “always” done. It feels normal. What if you learned you were 180 degrees off? How hard would it be to change?

For many at the Mission shelter, what's all wrong may just feel normal to many of our guests. That's why we create our pro-

grams to give men a taste of spiritual fulfillment, responsibility and belonging. However, the hard work of change really comes down to their personal determination. Flipping

your life upside down is not easy, and sometimes it doesn't work, but when it does, a new life begins.

At Lambert House, Central Union Mission has been able to provide the smoothest transition—the firmest foothold—for re-entering society as productive and dependable adults. With practice and training, good habits stick and follow our men into independence, and that happens only because of your support. Thank you, so much, for your compassion. ■

Joe Mettimano, President & CEO



This Generous Partnership is Changing Lives



Wayne Tyree with his wife Kelly

OCA-COLA CONSOLIDATED, the nation's largest Coca-Cola bottler, provides over 300 brands and flavors to 66 million consumers across 14 states in the Southeast, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic and the District of Columbia. As senior manager of culture and engagement, **Wayne Tyree** marshals Coca-Cola Consolidated's teammates and resources to serve people in need, fulfilling the company's Purpose statement—"to honor God in all we do, serve others, pursue excellence and grow profitably."

Servant Leaders and Partners

Each one of Coca-Cola Consolidated's Mid-Atlantic facilities has a designated stewardship team with the mission of bringing its Purpose statement to life by practicing servant leadership and partnering with community organizations.

Wayne explained, "Several of our teammates suggested Central Union Mission, and we started supporting the Mission through donating product, making hygiene kits and volunteering in the pre-COVID world. Here we are—four years later—still growing and serving in various ways with the Mission."

Last fall, the stewardship team jumped at the chance help renovate the Mis-



Coca-Cola Consolidated dispatched their Response Team to Lambert House.

sion's Lambert House Transition Home. "We started planning close to two years ago how we could remodel three of the building's six apartments," commented Wayne. "Our local team from the Alexandria and Capitol Heights facilities helped, as well as some leaders from our Charlotte, NC corporate office and our Response Team, which responds to our teammates' needs during emergencies. In about ten weeks, we did everything from replacing windows to replacing carpet to painting walls to helping install new appliances. It just was a great opportunity for us to bring our Purpose statement to life and to partner with an organization that has such a positive impact in the lives of so many."

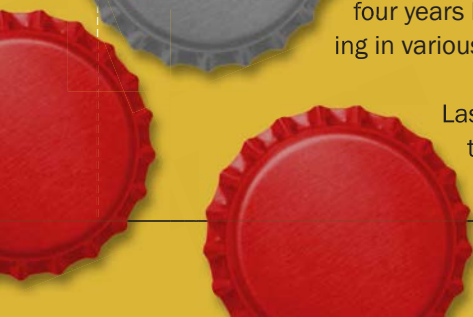
"For me, Christ's words 'For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat...' show the greatest example of servant leadership."

A Personal Connection

Although he didn't know it at the time, Wayne's association with the Mission started close to five years ago. He came to DC with his family for a company community service event, and they stayed only a few blocks from the Mission shelter. "We live in rural Central Virginia, and it was the first time that my family had seen the situations of people experiencing homelessness. Our children were affected by their needs; our oldest son and our youngest daughter asked us what we were going to do to help," he said.

Fast forward a year or two, and Wayne made the connection between their community service weekend and the

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2013. "Although there was damage, and renovations were needed, Central Union Mission was grateful to receive this tremendous blessing, which came at an opportune time. We were confident that God would make a way to get what was needed," commented Senior Director of Social Work Shirley Johnson.

The Reno Starts

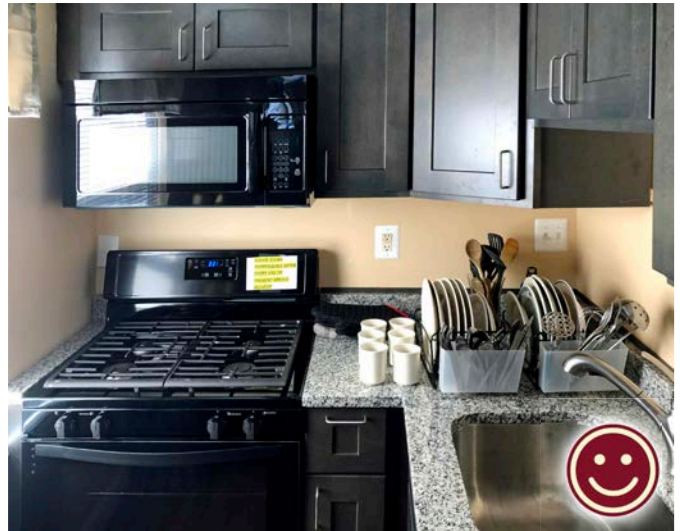
Last fall, we began renovating Lambert House with a \$55,000 donation in materials and an incalculable amount of labor from Coca-Cola Consolidated. Their investment and labor allowed us to replace the roof, replace carpeting, paint walls, replace windows, repair and replace HVAC units, refinish kitchens with new appliances and make some critical repairs, fully remodeling three apartments. Restoration & Transformation, Ready to Work and Lambert House program men also provided hands-on support throughout the process.

On the outside of the building, Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (capitolhillrotary.org) volunteers landscaped the front yard and enhanced curb appeal. Love Your City, a volunteer program organized by Hope Multiplied (hopemultiplied.org), created a backyard paradise. Volunteers landscaped with mulch, bushes and flowers, painted the wooden fence and built a platform for the barbecue grill. They also created a peaceful space with a screen canopy and patio furniture.

We are grateful to Coca-Cola Consolidated, Rotary Club of Capitol Hill and Hope Multiplied for their financial generosity and their volunteer hours, making the Lambert House a proper home for our program graduates. For a closer look at Lambert House, visit missiondc.org/LHPHotos. ■



Water damage before the renovation.



The kitchens were completely refurbished with new appliances.



Lambert House residents practice responsibility by caring for Oreo, their formerly homeless mascot.



Rotary Club of Capitol Hill volunteers landscaped our barren front yard.

“It Doesn’t Make Any Sense”

On a day off from his Work Therapy job in the Mission kitchen, **Mohammad Hossain** paused to share his story about the 18 months since he came to Central Union Mission. He completed the Restoration & Transformation Program (RTP) this past December and has been building his skill-base and résumé by assisting the chef, washing dishes, prepping food and serving the guests. He also took advantage of education opportunities by earning a food handler’s certificate and completing a 16-week information technology course.

MOHAMMAD IS A BANGLADESH NATIVE who came to the U.S. at age 18 through a lottery that his cousin sponsored for him. Living in New York, Florida and Maryland, he worked and attended community college, but the lure of marijuana distracted him from his responsibilities.

“Honestly, my main goal is to make a difference, because I have to be a witness for Christ.”

He dropped out of school to work in restaurants, using his money to party. He experienced a frightening mental breakdown with hallucinations and paranoia. He called 9-1-1 and went to the hospital, staying for three days. When the doctor asked him where he would be released, Mohammad knew he didn’t want to go back to his home or with his parents or relatives. He told the doctor he was totally lost and “needed peace in his life.” His doctor gave him \$20 and referred him to Central Union Mission.

While sitting in one of the Mission’s dayrooms watching TV, Mohammad was so hungry that he asked a guest if he could buy half of his chocolate bar. The guest was an RTP participant, who patiently showed Mohammad where he could get a real meal in the dining room and shared about the Mission’s programs. Mohammad joined the RTP that day! Out of curiosity, he attended Mission chapel services

even though he was raised Muslim. After a couple of weeks, he started to sober up and to understand the circumstances that brought him to the homeless shelter. Then, during one morning’s devotions, he “just began to cry.” He walked up in front of everyone and said, “I think I need Jesus in my life.”

Looking for Peace

One night in 2019 while smoking drugs, he experienced a frightening mental breakdown with hallucinations and paranoia. He called 9-1-1 and went to the hospital, staying for three days. When the doctor asked him where he would be re-



Mohammad Hossain with Executive Chef Monique “Mo” Woodland

leased, Mohammad knew he didn’t want to go back to his home or with his parents or relatives. He told the doctor he was totally lost and “needed peace in his life.” His doctor gave him \$20 and referred him to Central Union Mission.

God Did It

His healing began; he said “everything started normalizing.” He doesn’t understand how the change happened, but he knows God did it. After a couple of months he realized he wasn’t even cursing anymore. He laughs, “When Jesus gets to you, He’s going to polish you from bottom to top.”

Nearing the end of his program at the Mission, Mohammad says “Honestly, my main goal is to make a difference, because I have to be witness for Christ. I have deeper plans to do missionary work. God gave me a second chance, and I have to take advantage of it.” He is lining up housing, saving money and preparing to apply to Lancaster Bible College’s D.C. campus.

His family thinks he’s “crazy.” They don’t approve of his conversion, and he faces dangerous opposition. However, he says he loves them even more now and is waiting on God to mend their relationship. “God made me to be here; He is training and teaching me, and he really has a plan for me.” Mohammad wants Mission supporters to know “their generosity has changed me so much. I am super, super grateful for them helping us to be a part of the community, and that’s what touches my heart.” ■

You Made “A Seat at the Table”

YOU DID IT! You gave more than \$170,000 during the Mission’s “A Seat at the Table” campaign and our first ever virtual event—nearly doubling our goal. Your generosity is providing food, shelter, support and safety this winter for even more hungry families and struggling men. Thank you so much. ■



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Central Union Mission that his teammates were eager to help. At one of his first Mission meetings, he remembers getting off the elevator and seeing a young man who appeared to be reading Scripture. “The Lord spoke to my heart, and I began to talk with him,” Wayne recalled. “It just so happened that what I shared with him were the exact verses that the Lord had laid on his heart to read that morning. Mohammad shared some of his testimony with me and about how he was in the Mission’s Restoration & Transformation Program. We connected and became friends, and we continue to text and talk.” (See Mohammad’s story on page 5.)

What inspires Wayne and his teammates to contribute their time to the Mission is the care and love in Christ that Central Union Mission shows. He noted, “In 2020, we held over 400 service events throughout the Mid-Atlantic area market unit, and I don’t know of an organization that is more committed to helping others, to serving. I’ve been impressed with the leadership, the men that I’ve been able to meet and the programs that we’ve been a part of. The Mission is truly an organization that desires to become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.” ■

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.



Take the Next Step

For people experiencing homelessness and hunger in the nation’s capital, life is short on options. Your gift today will equip struggling men and hungry families to break the cycle of poverty. Thank you for sharing the gift of hope.

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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