

the

missionary

AUGUST 2021

“God, I need a way out!”

How Jonathan found God’s grace—and the strength to turn his life around—thanks to you!

Jonathan learned early on, “If you don’t have someone watching over you, the streets can influence you in a really bad way.”

So many people tried—and failed—to provide Jonathan with the stable home life that he desperately craved. His grandmother tried being a substitute parent. But she could only do so much.

As a teenager, his father came back into his life, but then suddenly passed away. That sent Jonathan even deeper into despair.

Figuring he couldn’t do any worse on his own, Jonathan ran away at 18, got married and had four children over the next 10 years. But without any role models, his marriage fell apart—and his life quickly spun out of control.

“I couldn’t live with myself anymore. My conscience was dirty.”

“I kinda gave up on myself,” Jonathan

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**Even in hard times,
we have much to
be grateful for . . .
starting with YOU!**



JOE METTIMANO
President, CEO

Summers are tough on the homeless in DC.

But August is the worst. And with temperatures at their highest, August promises to be even more difficult as our

community struggles to bounce back from the devastation of the COVID shutdown.

But, thankfully, it's not all bad news.

While we were sheltering in place, we didn't have a single case of COVID-19 in the shelter. And thanks to you, every single need has been met, including a 50% increase in requests for food from hungry parents who are still jobless in the wake of the pandemic.

Now your faithfulness is helping expand outreach at this critical time, not only providing air-conditioned refuge to those in search of relief, but new programs that offer additional job training and placement to those still having trouble finding work.

I can't thank you enough for your faithfulness during these tough days.

I realize many of our friends are concerned about their own jobs. But you continued to give in obedience to Jesus' greatest commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 22:39). Because your kindness has provided food, clothing and other vital services, many local families have been able to stay off the streets.

On behalf of all those who have found refuge here and those who have staved off homelessness—thank you for your abundant kindness!

Joe Mettimano

Thank you for providing cooling relief—and lasting hope—to our people in need



"God, I need a way out!" (Continued from pg. 1)

remembers. Ignoring the pain that drugs and alcohol had caused his mother and father, he dove headlong into addiction: running the streets, buying and using drugs, drinking heavily . . . basically involved in "a whole lot of nonsense."

After a year of wild living, he came to a life-changing conclusion: "I couldn't live with myself anymore. My conscience was dirty." That's when he cried out, "God, I need a way out."

A couple of days after grabbing a sandwich at Central Union Mission, Jonathan came back. This time he joined our Restoration and Transformation Program. "I needed the Word of God. And I needed strong people around me," he remembers.

Your generosity gave Jonathan all that and so much more.

Over time, Jonathan's life was restored—mentally, physically and spiritually. With your help, he retrained his mind to draw on positive experiences to navigate the tough times. He reconnected with his wife and daughters. And he's learning to trust God with his future.

"I'm learning that we're all called to do something," he says. "When we discover that, life gets easier. We discover we have a purpose."

To prepare for the future, Jonathan is attending Bible college and hopes to one day study culinary arts. He says, "I thank God for the people here. One day, when I'm on my own, I want to give back."

Jonathan's life was spinning out of control until your giving made it possible for him to find God and sobriety—all starting with a simple meal. Today he's learned a brand-new way of living.

Please continue to support the life-changing work at Central Union Mission so that others like Jonathan might be able to say, "This place restored my whole life."

Here's what you can do to help save lives this summer!

The hottest month of the year in DC is here. And that means many people who are homeless in our community face heat exhaustion or even heatstroke if they can't stay cool. Left unchecked, high body temperatures can damage the brain and cause other vital organs to shut down, especially for those who are already vulnerable. The fear and uncertainty of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic have only made their struggle worse. Here's how you can help save lives this summer . . .



Provide cold water

Staying hydrated is the first line of defense in a heat emergency. Thanks to you, Central Union Mission will distribute thousands of bottles of water this month to provide instant relief to those who can't escape the area's suffocating heat and humidity.



Bring them inside

Spending hour after hour in the hot sun can be exhausting. You make it possible for them to rest in our air-conditioned shelter, or take a cool shower, providing much needed relief to those overwhelmed by the sweltering conditions outside.



Offer them a meal

That's right. A meal can bring a welcome reprieve not only physically but emotionally. Once someone is no longer hungry, they can think more clearly, helping them to make better choices. Choosing to get long-term help from the Mission means they're no longer facing the heat all alone.

These are the best ways to bring hope and a changed life—good work you make possible when you support Central Union Mission. Thank you for not forgetting those who are struggling.



PLEASE HELP NOW!

August heat putting thousands at risk

Summer in DC poses a real threat to those experiencing homelessness. Dehydration, and even heatstroke, makes August doubly dangerous, especially for families with little children. Imagine sleeping in a car or in a tent in this heat.

When you give today, every \$2.09 will provide a meal, vital care and more. You'll open the door to stability, self-sufficiency and hope—maybe for the first time ever.

Won't you please give as generously as you can right now?

This can't wait! Even one person trapped on the streets in this miserable heat is one too many. You can make sure they're safe, sheltered and have the chance to experience life-changing help, simply by giving.

Thank you!



Don't patch together your legacy

During an appointment, a patient indicated frustration with his medication patch. When the doctor asked why, he replied "The nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and now I'm running out of places to put them!"

Sometimes details get lost in translation and can put us at risk . . . like how often we should update our will.

Did you know nearly 7 of 10 Americans do not have an up-to-date will? Good estate planning may help you avoid:

1. LEGAL RISKS. Your will could help loved ones avoid delays in receiving an inheritance or property.

2. FINANCIAL RISKS. Ensure your loved ones are provided for and keep your estate from becoming tangled up in expensive probate proceedings.

3. LEGACY RISKS. Take time to consider your estate plan in light of your values, and you may discover you'd like to leave a gift in your will to a charity like Central Union Mission. Your will can be a great place to communicate a legacy of personal faith.

Is it time to create or update your will?

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "How to Avoid Risk and Promote Family Peace" 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 christianwill.org/missiondc.

3 WAYS TO GIVE



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