James prayed for a transformed life. Today, he’s on the path to stability and success — thanks to YOU!

New Year’s Eve was anything but a party for James, when he found himself being rushed to the emergency room. His throat began to swell earlier that evening, making it difficult for him to breathe. After hours of uncertainty and agony, he was strapped to a hospital bed, unable to move, with only his thoughts moving freely.

This was not the way James wanted to go into the new year. But as he lay there, he began to reflect on his past. “I thought about every mistake I’d made, and I promised God that if He’d bless me with one more chance at life, I’d take advantage of any and every opportunity given to me.”

Those mistakes were the result of his 20-year battle with drugs and alcohol. Addiction cost him relationships, his marriage and countless jobs.

The next morning, the doctors told James...
The Mission is standing by to serve our community this Christmas. Please join us!

Christmas Connections

JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

The holiday season can be an especially difficult time for people who struggle with hunger or homelessness. What’s more, for many who come to the Mission this Christmas, their hunger will be not only physical but emotional, psychological and spiritual.

They’re lonely, isolated and fearful, making it unlikely they’ll immediately trust us.

But your support makes it possible to earn their trust as we create an environment that is warm and welcoming.

Often, Christmas connections begin with a nourishing holiday meal served with a kind word and genuine smile. We try to let each person know how much we care.

James, featured in our cover story, is a great example of the difference you’ll make by not just providing meals and shelter — but also by enabling an outreach of acceptance, understanding and practical help.

We’re here to meet these important needs because you and other compassionate partners give faithfully.

Thank you.

I’m so grateful for you.

May you and your family have a holiday season filled with God’s hope, joy and peace.

The Mission helped James rekindle broken relationships with his family. He says, “My brother and sister are so happy for me. And for the first time in my life, my mother told me she was proud of me. This is what that program can do.”

James is currently taking classes at Catholic University and enrolled in the Mission’s Workforce Development Program. This provides him with work in our kitchen, preparing and serving meals to other shelter residents.

“I realized that I became a better person once I was exposed to better situations,” he says. “This program truly changed my life.”

Please stand with Central Union Mission at this opportune time to help someone else like James experience new life.

Christmas Connections

Just $2.09 will provide a meal and more this Christmas!

One more chance . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

“I appreciate being surrounded by brothers who have the same goals in mind.” — James

“At Christmas, especially, your generosity makes the Mission a blessing in so many lives!

More people in the D.C. metro area than we’d like to believe are battling poverty, hunger, homelessness or addiction. But through your prayers and financial gifts, you make special ministry like our annual December “Show Some Love” event possible. It’s an opportunity to show the men in our restoration program how much we — and you — care about them. Your generosity and God’s grace will be the difference between despair and hope . . .

“I knew Central Union Mission was a place where I could get cleaned up and I could get closer to Christ. I had a lot of bitterness in my heart, and the Mission just kind of turned me totally around. I was taught how to live.” — Mission guest

“Central Union Mission allowed me to take advantage of some things I really needed: grief counseling, AA meetings and the Spiritual Transformation Program. God is certainly working behind the scenes. I’m so grateful and thankful. This is a place that I’ll have a connection to for the rest of my life.” — Mission guest

“When you’re homeless, it’s easy to lose hope during the Christmas season. That’s what happened to me. When I got to Central Union Mission, having a good meal again was the best thing in the world. And the people at the Mission, they’re family.” — Mission guest

“Last Christmas, the kids and I just sat around and had scraps for food. I started thinking that if it wasn’t going to get better, then why continue?” — Mission guest

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“He no longer showed any symptoms. “They were all shocked,” he says. “They didn’t understand it. But I knew it was God. I knew He had answered my prayer.”

Now it was time for James to hold up his end of the deal. “I was spiritually bankrupt,” he admits. “There was a void in my life, and I needed help. But more importantly, I knew where I needed to go.”

Familiar with the Mission and our Restoration Transformation Program, James called and asked if there were any available spots. It wasn’t long before he was enrolled in the program. “I can’t explain how grateful I am for this program,” he says.

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