

## Your generosity is important this holiday season!

Consider these  
3 ways to give . . .

### 1 GIVE NOW IN RESPONSE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the most difficult time of year for many trapped in poverty. *But you can give them hope by returning the enclosed reply form with your special Christmas gift.*

BONUS: Give before midnight, Friday, December 31, and whatever you send will automatically be DOUBLED by our \$75,000 Christmas Challenge Gift.

### 2 GIVE MONTHLY

When you become a Meals-A-Month partner, each and every gift will restore lives. Monthly giving is the easiest way to create lasting hope for those who are hungry and homeless in D.C. *To give monthly, please see the back of the accompanying reply form.*

### 3 GIVE NEW OR CLEAN, GENTLY USED CLOTHING

Including warm coats, hats, caps, gloves, mittens, new socks, new underwear and jeans.

*Your donations are welcome Monday - Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm, at 3194 Bladensburg Rd. NE, Suite B, Washington, DC. The Family Ministry Center is located down the driveway between the Popeye's and the collision center. We're closed on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and federal holidays.*



## Make TWICE the impact to restore lives this Christmas

Christmas will be here before we know it. And now's a great time to bless a man, single mom or even an entire family in need!

**If you can give by Friday, December 31, a \$75,000 Christmas Challenge Gift will DOUBLE the impact of whatever you send.**

A group of generous supporters has offered these matching funds as a challenge to you and other partners to match their giving for TWICE the impact — more meals, shelter, education, job training and other transforming services at the Mission.

Will you rush your best gift today? The Challenge expires at midnight on New Year's Eve, so please don't wait to give.

*Thank you for giving generously before year's end so more people can find hope and help!*

### UPDATING YOUR ESTATE PLAN

## The Nativity you never knew

Each December, we display nativities that include the "three wise men." Here are two surprises you may not know about them:

**1. There may have been only two.** Because the magi brought three gifts, it's assumed there were three. But the Bible doesn't say for sure.

**2. They didn't arrive the night Jesus was born.** Matthew says the men arrived "after Jesus was born" at the "house" where Jesus was. It's believed Mary and Joseph were in another location, at a later time.

We follow in their footsteps, giving gifts and worshiping the King. One way we can do both is through the practice of biblical stewardship.

We can donate our time or update our estate plan to include a trusted charity, like Central Union Mission, that is impacting peoples' lives.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Nativity You Never Knew" 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).*

## 3 EASY STEPS to transform a life this Christmas

**1. Choose** one or more of the Meal Tickets to send with your gift.



**2. Write** out your check for that amount.



**3. Return** your Meal Ticket(s), reply form and check in the envelope provided.



[facebook.com/missiondc.org](https://facebook.com/missiondc.org) [twitter.com/CentralUnion](https://twitter.com/CentralUnion) [instagram.com/CentralUnionMission](https://instagram.com/CentralUnionMission)

# the missionary

DECEMBER 2021

## A Christmas miracle — thanks to you!

### How your generosity makes Christmas a reality for struggling families

Like so many struggling single moms in our community, Tamara (not her real name) wanted Christmas with her kids to be a season of peace, joy and celebration.

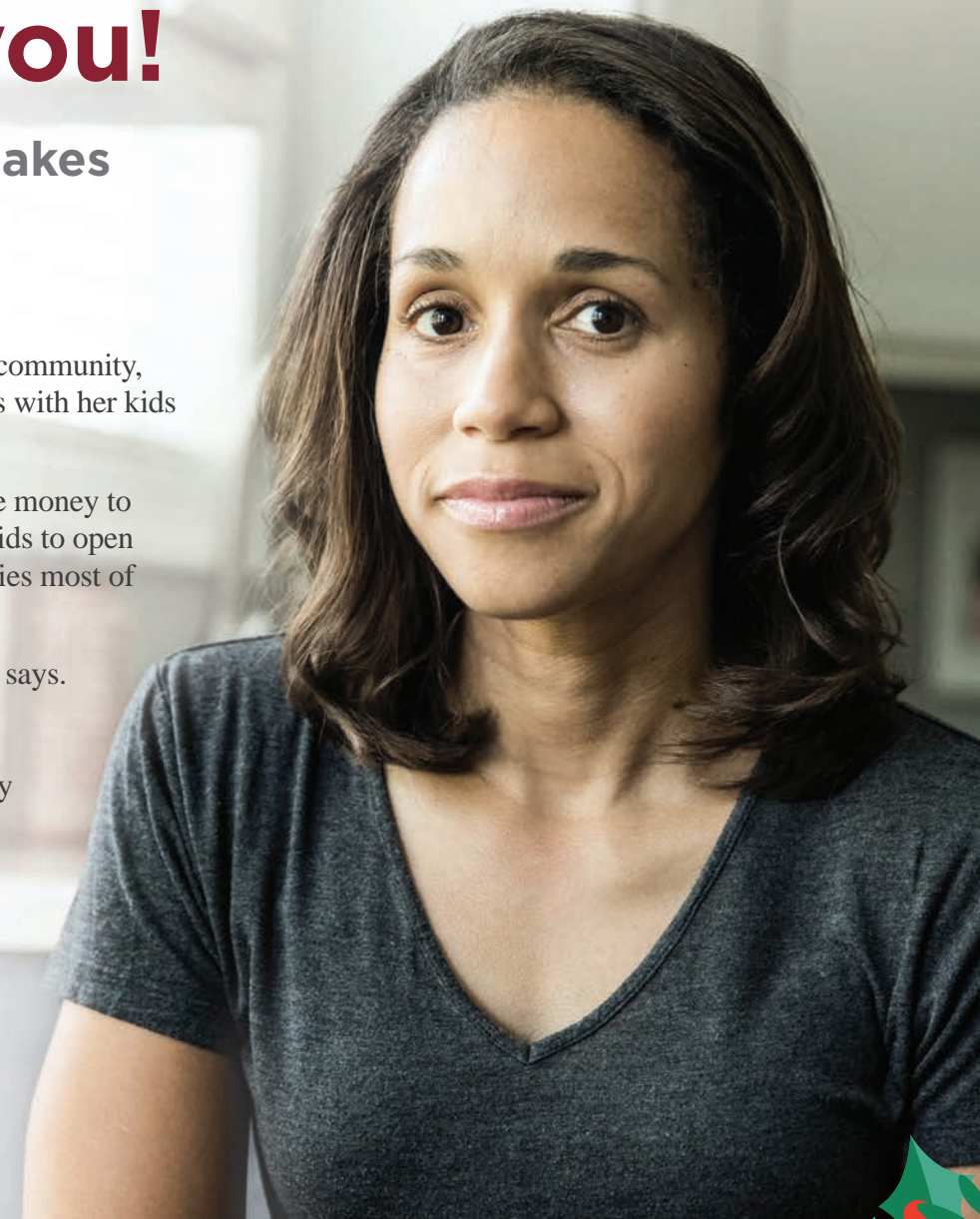
But times were tough, and she didn't have the money to make the holidays special with gifts for her kids to open on Christmas Day and other treats and activities most of us take for granted.

"I remember having to make a decision," she says. "Whether to provide Christmas gifts for the children or pay the electric bill. I ended up paying my electric bill. We didn't have money for gifts. We barely had money for food."

Most of us probably can't imagine that kind of need. But here at the Mission, we see it every day. And it's heartbreaking, especially at Christmas.

After that disappointing and depressing Christmas, Tamara decided she never again

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A Christmas Challenge Gift means you can have TWO TIMES the impact now!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Going big at Christmas



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

I like to think of Christmas as God's invitation to healing, restoration and, ultimately, eternal salvation in His Son.

That's why the holidays are a big deal at Central Union Mission. It's our invitation on His behalf to those facing hardship — hunger, homelessness, addiction, family crisis — to experience the new life Jesus offers all who call on His name.

Special seasonal ministries like our *Show Some Love* event are just one way we reach out to the community. This evening of celebration each December is an opportunity to love people living in despair and, especially, show homeless men all we offer through our transformational programs.

We feature live music, gift bags, free clothing and haircuts, plus a delicious meal. Guests leave feeling loved and special. You help make it all possible.

This year, our message to those who are poor in spirit (and in so many other ways) is as relevant as it was 2,000 years ago: Jesus has a special place in His heart for the least, the last and the lost.

Won't you give with a generous heart, just as our Lord does, by sending your special Christmas gift to share His peace, restoration and hope?

Thank you for all you do to make this work possible. May you experience God's richest blessing this Christmas and in the new year.

## Christmas at the Mission You make the miracles happen!

When you've experienced the worst that life can throw at you, Christmas often only magnifies your misery. That's why we make the holidays special here at the Mission. Please know that we couldn't do any of it without the tireless efforts of our caring volunteers AND your faithful financial partnership!

This holiday season, *Operation Christmas Miracle* will show families, and especially children, they're not forgotten. Through your giving, more than 2,000 underprivileged children and youth will know love, laughter and joy.

*Show Some Love* is an evening of love, appreciation and celebration for homeless men. While volunteers transform the shelter into a Christmas wonderland, the men are treated to haircuts, clean clothes, an elegant dinner, gift bags and special entertainment.



Christmas can be a tough time for moms, dads and kids who are facing poverty — a reminder of all they don't have. That's why we go big for the holidays at our Family Ministry Center. They enjoy special food, parties for the children and help with gift-giving so everyone has a reason to celebrate.



Special Christmas Challenge Gift will DOUBLE your impact!

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

wanted to feel the pain of telling her children there would be no Christmas presents.

You and other caring friends made it possible for her to experience firsthand what Central Union Mission's *Operation Christmas Miracle* is all about.

Through your generosity, her children received toys and clothing. Tamara recalls, "I was teary eyed when I saw my 5-year-old's face. She was screaming with joy! She asked me, 'Mommy, did Santa Claus forget our family last year?' I told her, 'Well, Baby, Santa Claus didn't forget you this year!'"

Because of health problems and the pressure of being

a single mom, Tamara wasn't able to hold down a job that paid what they needed to survive. Even with food stamps and other support, her monthly income was so small she could barely afford rent, utilities and food. Hardly anything was left at the end of the month.

Today, Tamara is back on her feet. She has completed her GED and found work with help from the Mission. She can't thank you enough for your help to make both *Operation Christmas Miracle* AND her new life possible.

**"We didn't have money for gifts. We barely had money for food."**

— Tamara

*Please stand with Central Union Mission this Christmas to make even more holiday miracles. You'll help someone like Tamara find stability and self-sufficiency.*