

## Will we be able to feed them all?

Just \$2.09 will provide an Easter meal . . . and so much more!

Easter will be here before you know it. And this year, we're expecting to serve more than 57,900 meals to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in the D.C. metro area.

Will you help with a gift now so nobody gets left behind?

Every \$2.09 you send will provide a nutritious Easter dinner that carries a powerful message of hope and practical help like counseling, life- and job-skills training and addiction recovery for those struggling to get back on their feet again.

With so many people expected to come to the Mission for help this Easter, we're already preparing so there will be enough for everyone.

To make a life-changing impact this Easter, return your gift today in the envelope provided with this newsletter.

Or to put your gift to work even faster, give a secure online gift by visiting [missiondc.org/Easter](https://missiondc.org/Easter)

Thank you. And God bless you!



## Be part of the Season of Miracles

For many, Easter means new life. And at Central Union Mission, new life often begins with a hot meal.

Ask anyone who's coming off the streets, and they'll tell you that when you're hungry, your thinking is clouded. But satisfy that nagging hunger, and life begins to look different. Suddenly, hope seems within reach.

If that meal comes at Eastertime, the possibility of new life through Christ's resurrection suddenly becomes real — leading people to reach out to God for a second chance. Miracles happen at this time of year because of God's grace and your giving!

This Easter, your gift can restore a broken life, reconnect people to their Heavenly Father and rebuild hope where there was once only despair.

*Please give again and be a part of this year's Season of Miracles. With each meal costing just \$2.09, you have no better way to see our community transformed!*

## UPDATING YOUR ESTATE PLAN

### What kind of legacy are you building?

If you're like most people, you've invested much of your life into raising a family, making a career and preparing for retirement. But are you building a legacy that aligns with the values you most want to express? You can leave:

**A legacy of provision.** An up-to-date estate plan ensures your loved ones are provided for and any minor children will be raised by the guardian of your choosing.

**A legacy of love.** Many people include personal letters, special family stories and affirmations of love to make a rich and enduring gift.

**A legacy of generosity.** Planning a legacy gift to Central Union Mission is a powerful way to communicate your values — and inspire loved ones to consider their legacy too.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Consider the Power of Your Legacy" 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](https://christianwill.org/missiondc).*

# the missionary

FEBRUARY 2022

## Restored . . . and rejoicing

### Jonathan is living a brand-new life this Easter, thanks to you!

Jonathan was homeless, hungry and didn't have a penny to his name.

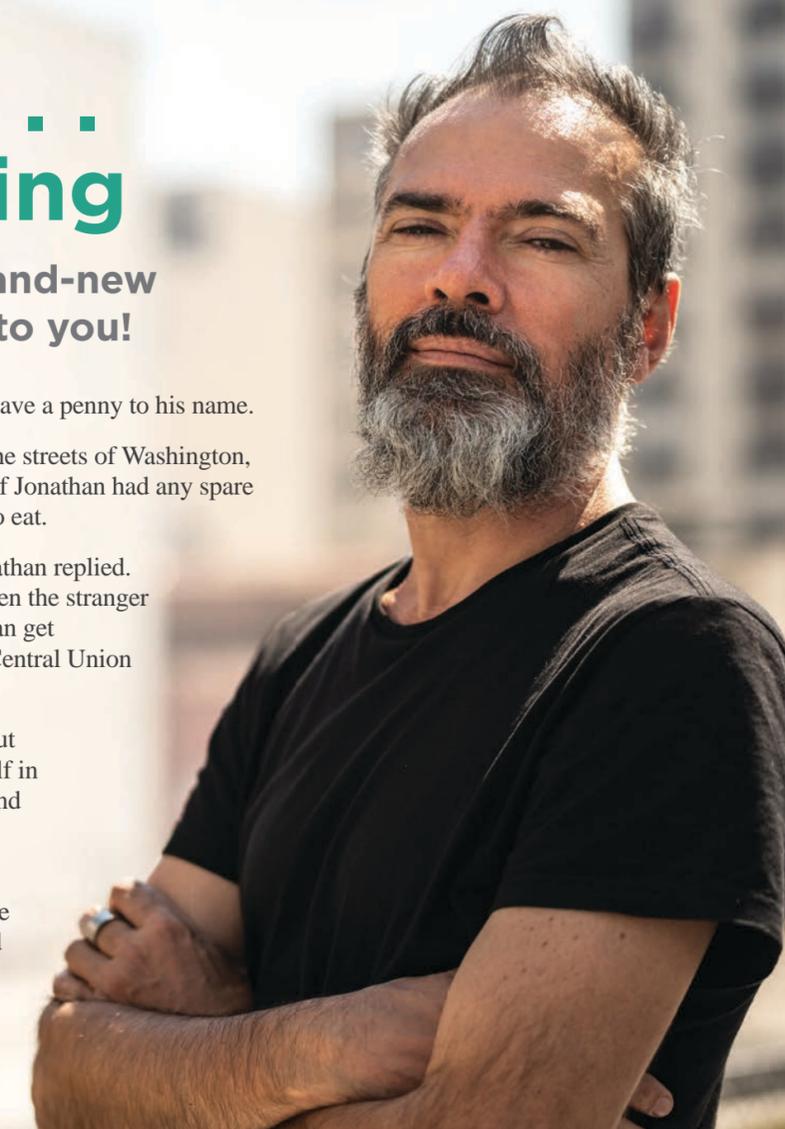
So it was ironic that while panhandling on the streets of Washington, D.C., a stranger approached him and asked if Jonathan had any spare change. The man wanted to get something to eat.

"Listen, man, I don't have any money," Jonathan replied. "I need something to eat myself." That's when the stranger suddenly remembered, "I know where we can get something to eat." He brought Jonathan to Central Union Mission. But he didn't stay long.

Jonathan grabbed a sandwich and left without saying goodbye. That night, he found himself in the same sad situation — drunk, homeless and alone.

Jonathan remembered how hopeless his life had seemed the last time he was living on the streets. That's when Jonathan says he sensed God telling him to go back to where he got the sandwich.

Continued inside ▶



## 3 EASY STEPS to transform a life this Easter

**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.



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

He returned to the Mission the next day, desperate to find the hope that seemed so elusive.

This time, Jonathan began to take small steps toward turning his life around. He went through detox and started attending church. But our staff challenged him to go deeper, asking him, “What do you really need?”

“I knew I had to be vulnerable and I had to be honest about what I was in need of, so I told them everything,” Jonathan admits. “I told them I was struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. I told them I needed counseling. And I admitted that I needed all the help I could get.”

*“God, I know you didn’t bring me here for me to do this again.”*

— Jonathan

Knowing he couldn’t keep panhandling with another bitterly cold winter about to bear down on Washington, D.C., Jonathan joined our Restoration and Transformation Program, which is designed to free men from drugs, alcohol and other destructive behavior.

Although Jonathan admits the first six months were hard, he finally surrendered to God’s redemptive love — and saw his life do a dramatic 180-degree turnaround!

“This program does exactly what the title says,” Jonathan explains. “It restored my whole life and helped me reconcile my relationships with my family,” including reconnecting with his ex-wife and their four daughters. “It transformed me.”

Thanks to God’s grace and your support, Jonathan is rejoicing this Easter because you helped restore him to wholeness. Now he’s working on his bachelor’s degree in biblical studies and will soon be joining D.C. Central Kitchen’s culinary arts program, which he hopes will lead to full-time employment.

“Once I’m fully independent,” he adds, “I look forward to pouring back into Central Union Mission the way they poured into me.”

*This Easter, please be generous – and give others like Jonathan a second chance at life, starting with a meal. Thank you!*

Every \$2.09 will share an Easter meal and hope!

## The Mission announces a critical expansion of our Family Resource Center

*Together, let’s flood the Washington, D.C., area with hope*

Over the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on thousands of poor people in the Washington D.C., area.

As much as we’ve tried to keep up — providing food, overnight shelter and other assistance such as healthcare, legal aid, counseling, addiction support and housing assistance — we haven’t been able to keep pace with the need.

But that’s about to change in a dramatic way. Thanks to you and other generous and faithful supporters, we can announce that we’ll soon be expanding our Family Resource Center.

This expansion will deepen support programs, add services and increase the number of people being served — now as many as 5,750 each month. Changes will include:



**A wider variety of educational opportunities (especially computer literacy) and retraining for jobs in the new economy**



**An expanded daycare referral program**



**Increased health care assistance**



**Greater access to help with addiction recovery**



**Transportation access**



**Expanded veterans’ benefits**



**Increased availability of legal assistance**

This is the vision God has given us for the coming year — a vision that can only be accomplished through your commitment to helping people in crisis find stability, restoration and hope.

You’re a part of every success story at Central Union Mission. Thank you for standing with the Mission to address the growing needs of our community through highly effective ministries like the Family Resource Center.



*By working together, we can flood Washington, D.C., with hope and bring the opportunity for new life to every corner of our community.*

## Planting seeds of hope at Easter



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

You’re receiving this special Easter edition of our *Missionary* newsletter because I want you to know how much good you’re doing for people like Jonathan, who is featured on page 1.

If he could meet you in person, I just know his heart would be overflowing with gratitude for all you’ve done to give him hope for the future.

Since that’s not possible, allow me to express my sincere thanks for your faithful and generous support.

Giving \$2.09 to provide someone like Jonathan with a special Easter meal may not seem like much.

But when you consider the challenges these people are facing — battling hunger, addiction and despair every waking moment! — even a small act of kindness provides an opportunity for faith to grow.

**At Central Union Mission, we love watching seeds of hope grow into transformed lives through the power of God and the kindness of good people like you.**

So on behalf of Jonathan, and hundreds of others who are living new lives this Easter because of your kindness, thank you!