

## “Home” for the holidays

### Here’s how you made Ed’s Thanksgiving a celebration of hope and new life

Ed had a lot of time to think on the long bus ride from Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. And all he could think about was how messed up his life had become.

“I didn’t want to be the captain of the debate team like my sister,” he admits. “Or captain of the football team like my brother.” Instead, he opted to do “nothing” — and ended up getting kicked out of school and out of his parents’ house after a string of bad decisions.

“I’ll just start over somewhere else,” he told himself. But with no money and no plans, he landed at Union Station and ended up panhandling, hoping to get enough for something to eat.

#### Finally, a good decision

It was a kind stranger who offered Ed \$5, along with this warning: “\$5 isn’t going to last very long on the streets. You need to make your way to Central Union Mission.”

Here, finally, was a good decision.

Ed made his way to the Mission, hoping for anything that would give him some hope. When he walked

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Thanksgiving meals can change lives!

A celebration of hope and new life . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

through the doors, he was greeted with a smile and a sandwich. Turns out he needed both, more than he could have imagined.

“The warm hospitality made my heart smile,” he says. “And the sandwich filled my stomach.”

Figuring this was a good place to make a new start, Ed joined our Restoration and Transformation Program just before Thanksgiving.

### “Dread”

“I was dreading spending the holidays without my family,” he recalls. “I had no idea what I would eat or where I would go, but the Mission took care of everything.”

“Volunteers came in and served us this amazing meal prepared by a local chef,” he continues. But what Ed remembers most is, “As much as the Mission could, they made this feel like home.”

**“As much as the Mission could, they made this feel like home.”**

— Ed

As we prepare for the upcoming Thanksgiving season, we can’t wait to meet the next “Ed” who will walk through our doors looking for a meal, hope . . . and the chance to start over.

*Amazingly, that’s possible each time you give. Every \$2.09 will provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal to someone who is hungry and looking for a second chance.*

*Please send your best gift today!*

## THANKSGIVING = HOPE to so many in need!

Something wonderful happens when a hungry soul sits down to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at the Mission.

With their hunger satisfied, they’re able to think more clearly and make better choices — like joining one of our restoration programs that can help them put their difficulties behind them.

That’s why the Mission is kicking off its annual “A Seat at the Table” campaign this month. We expect to feed thousands of hungry people during the coming holiday season.

If you’ve been blessed this year, here are 3 ways you can be a blessing to others . . .

### 1 Meals for those in immediate need

Every \$2.09 you give will feed someone who can’t afford a decent meal.



### 2 Emergency groceries for families

Thanks to you, food boxes will go out to seniors and families unable to feed their children.



### 3 “A Seat at the Table”

Those who walk through our doors at Thanksgiving will find not only a hot meal waiting for them but also a place where they can feel loved and cared for.



only \$2.09 per meal



## Being loved, belonging and being significant



JOE METTIMANO  
President, CEO

Somebody very wise once said, “We all want to be loved, to belong and to be significant.”

I see the truth of those words every day in the faces of the men, women and

children who seek help and hope here at the Mission. Their faces betray the fear, hurt and stress.

As an insightful therapist might say, “They’re looking for ‘validation’” — proof that they matter to somebody, somewhere.

I have to believe that Jesus Christ would have found truth in those sentiments. Who knows the human condition better than the Savior, Who lived among us in human skin?

Jesus’ response was, of course, to love us so overwhelmingly that He gave His life for us. As we head into this special season of thanksgiving, I’m so grateful for His example of love.

I see it in your generous support of this work on behalf of those who are hungry, homeless and convinced that they matter to no one on the planet.

They, most of all, need to know what it means to live in His love, belong to His family and experience the significance of being chosen by Him to live eternally in His presence.

Thank you for making that possible.

May God bless you and those dear to you in the coming days!

New life starts **HERE!**

# Every \$2.09 will provide a meal and the chance for a new start

Want to make a lasting impact this Thanksgiving?

Provide traditional holidays meals and help someone turn the corner on their past and begin living a brand-new life.

At \$2.09 per meal, it's not only the best value in town. It's also the most life-changing!

As we begin to prepare for the busy fall season, your help is critical. Our new Comprehensive Family Resource Center means we can offer long-term help to even more people who are barely getting by.

Because of this new expanded outreach to our community, we expect to provide local families with more than 331,000 Thanksgiving meals. Many of these households are in dire straits and have nowhere else to turn for help.

This is your chance to show them God's love, remind them that our community cares and prove that kindness changes everything.

With so many desperate for help, how many meals will you provide?



## Iceberg-sized generosity

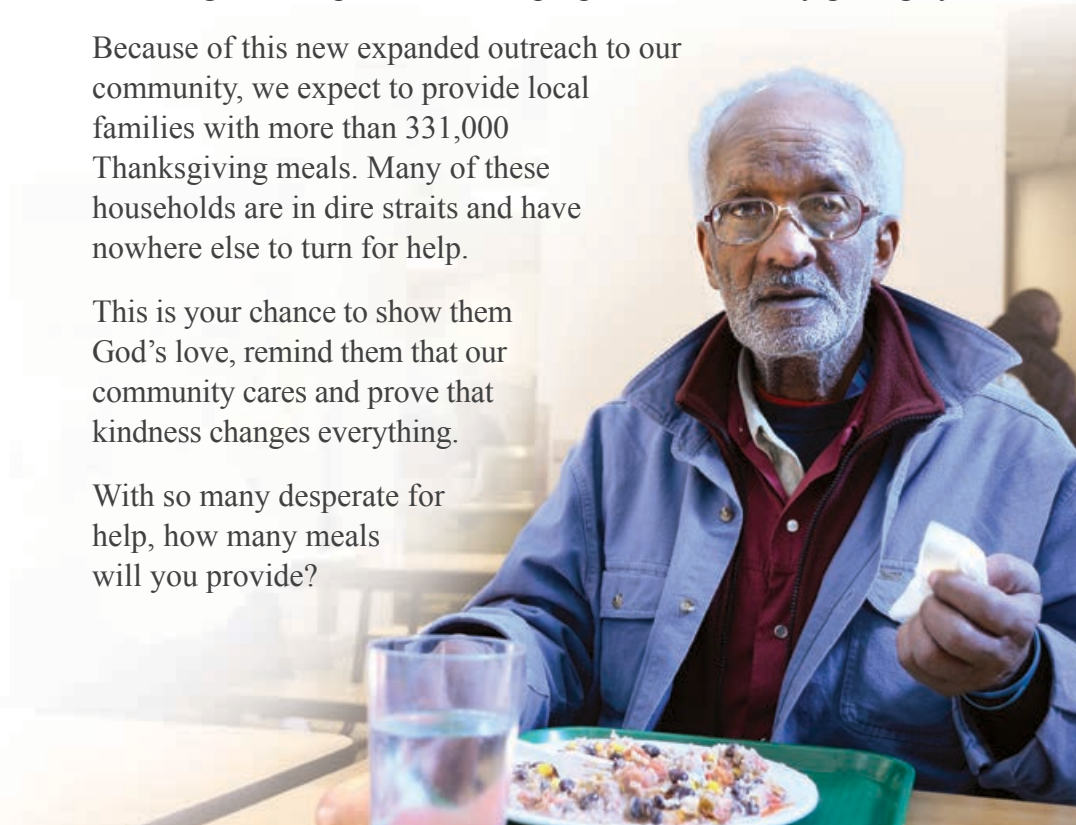
Even though icebergs appear massive, only 10% of the berg shows above the waterline. 90% lies below the surface. This fact is a perfect metaphor for retirement assets.

90% of most people's assets are non-cash. So you might be sitting on resources that could benefit Central Union Mission.

Here are three good reasons to be generous through non-cash gifts:

1. When you name a charity as the next owner of your assets, **they can pass directly to the organization from your estate**, minimizing the tax responsibility on your heirs.
2. Qualified Charitable Distributions can **help satisfy IRA required minimum distributions**.
3. When a charity receives assets from a retirement account, **they do not have to pay income taxes on your gift**.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Tap Into Iceberg-Sized Generosity" 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 WAYS TO GIVE



### GIVE BY MAIL

Central Union Mission  
PO Box 96763  
Washington, DC 20090-6763



### GIVE BY PHONE

Call and use your credit card:  
202-745-7118



### GIVE ONLINE

[donate.missiondc.org](http://donate.missiondc.org)