

the

# missionary

OCTOBER 2022

## One meal changed Fernando's life in a BIG way

Now, thanks to you, he wants to  
help others find the same transformation

Can one meal really lead to a brand-new life? Just ask Fernando.

Hoping that a change of scenery would help him escape his meth addiction, Fernando left California for the nation's capital, believing, "This is where I can finally get clean." There was just one problem: he had no money for food or a motel room.

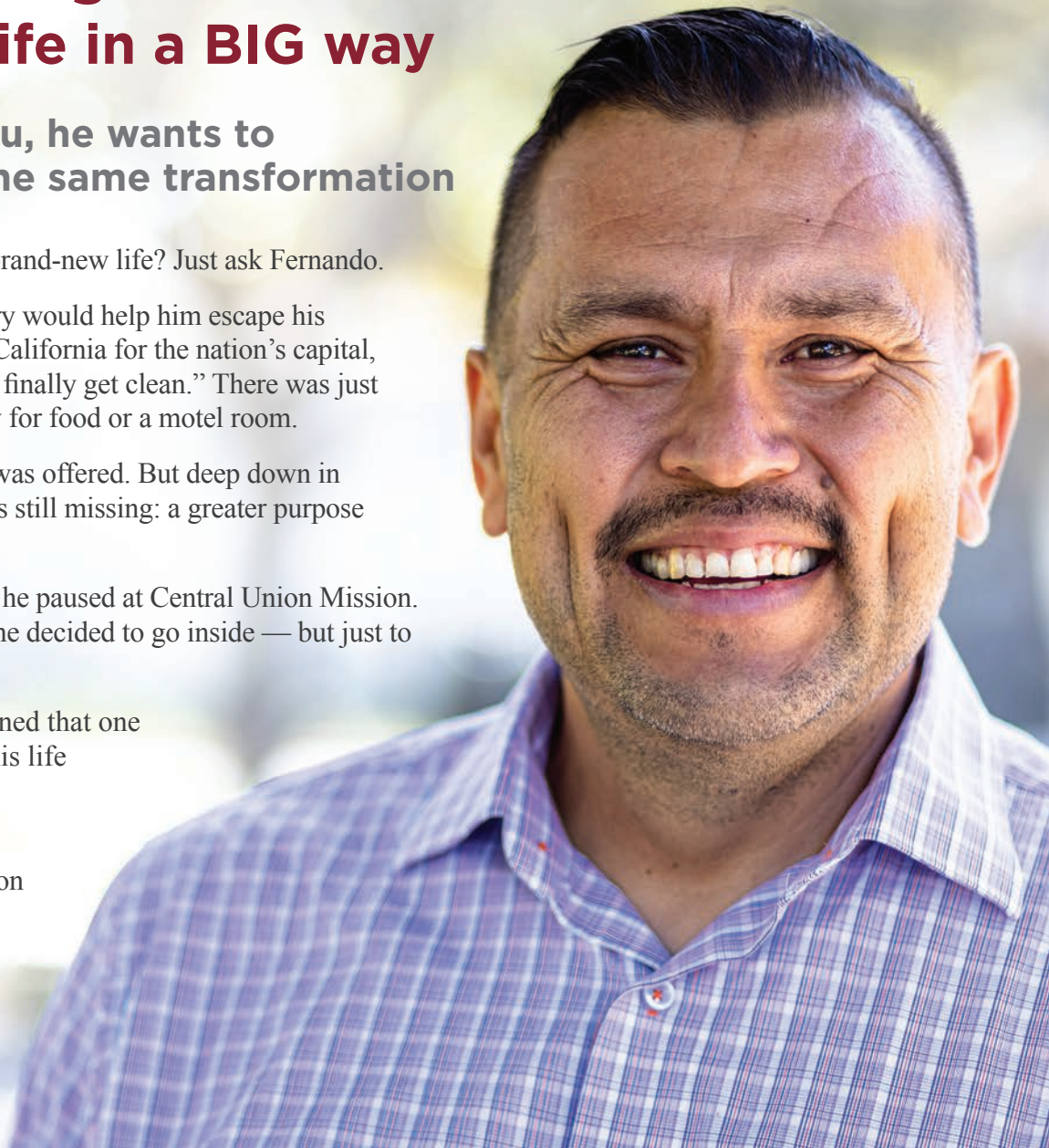
Fernando took the first job he was offered. But deep down in his heart, he felt something was still missing: a greater purpose to his life.

Wandering the streets one day, he paused at Central Union Mission. Since he was hungry anyway, he decided to go inside — but just to get something to eat.

Fernando couldn't have imagined that one simple choice would change his life forever!

Once his meal was finished, he ran into our chaplain, Pastor Ron Stanley, who told him about the Mission's Spiritual Transformation Program. That's when it suddenly

**Continued inside ▶**





Every **\$2.09** will provide a meal and more this Thanksgiving!

**One meal changed Fernando's life** (Continued from pg. 1)

dawned on him: this was why he needed to come to Washington, D.C.

Fernando was so excited about what the Mission could offer him that he decided to fully devote himself to the Bible and the classes he was taking.

"In the past, I had time for drugs, women . . . everything but God," he says.

When Fernando began to share about his own life during group therapy sessions, a whole new world opened up to him.

"Hearing men express themselves and talk about what they were going through helped me a lot," he says. "We realized we had a lot in common, especially when it came to managing addiction."

Slowly, with God's help, he was able to free himself from the guilt and shame he had been carrying.

Now that Fernando has graduated from the Mission's

program, he has set his sights on even bigger accomplishments: being an ambassador for Christ.

"I want to open a version of Central Union Mission in my native Mexico," he says. "This kind of place is needed everywhere. I can teach what I learned here . . . how to manage homeless people and how to not only feed their bodies but their souls as well."

He continues, "Central Union Mission is the solution to this city's problems. I just wish more people knew that."

***You can make a important impact on our community this Thanksgiving by helping the next "Fernando" who comes to the Mission. Each \$2.09 you send now will provide a meal that can open the door to new life — an investment that will truly pay dividends.***

Thank you, and God bless you, for doing your part to change lives!

**"IN THEIR OWN WORDS"**

## Why our Thanksgiving meals are so important to our guests

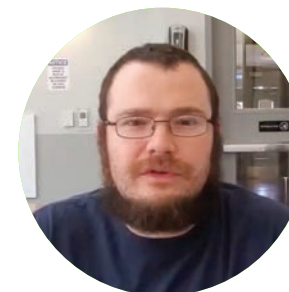
Facing hunger and homelessness day after day is disheartening for those who are seeking a better life. That's why our holiday meals are so transforming.

*Here is what our guests say about finding hope when they came here for a Thanksgiving meal . . .*



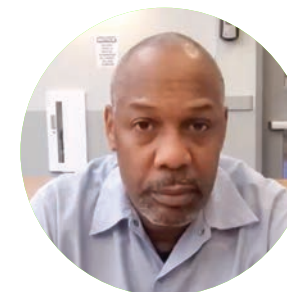
"The Mission introduced me to Jesus Christ, so I'm saved and have eternal security. God has now given me a second chance to fix my life."

— Mohammed



"If I wasn't for the Mission, I would probably be dead."

— Gino



"Two years ago at Thanksgiving, I missed being over at my sister's house. Instead, I was here, so I was still surrounded by people who cared about me."

— Darrell

The truth is, there's nothing magical about a Thanksgiving meal from the Mission. Still, something life-changing can happen after that meal.

That's when our team often has the chance to talk to our guests — many whose hearts are broken by circumstances and bad choices — about how life can be better than it is today.

We talk to them about broken relationships — specifically about their broken relationship with God — and how restoring that connection can be the beginning of a new life of hope.

When that happens, like it did for Fernando (see his wonderful story on page 1), and they join one of our Christ-centered programs, life begins anew.

Your partnership can impact even more lives this holiday season. Because giving today can transform someone's tomorrow — and all tomorrows after that!



## A reason for hope



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

In these difficult times, it's comforting to know that you're a partner in this work.

You understand better than most that the Mission is more than just a building. We're a compassionate community helping people facing hunger and homelessness.

This Thanksgiving season, we plan to feed 331,000 men, women and children — one of the largest holiday outreaches in our 138-year history.

But this isn't about the numbers. It's about real people who come to us broken and hurting — barely clinging to hope. It's on their behalf that I ask for your help today so their physical, spiritual and emotional needs can be met.

This is a job I never get tired of doing — maybe because I never get tired of seeing people like Fernando (whose story is featured on page 1) discover new life.

Thank you for being someone we can always count on!

As long as you and other great friends are standing with us, there will always be hope for people in need.

# Don't let them go hungry this Thanksgiving

Nobody should go hungry at Thanksgiving.

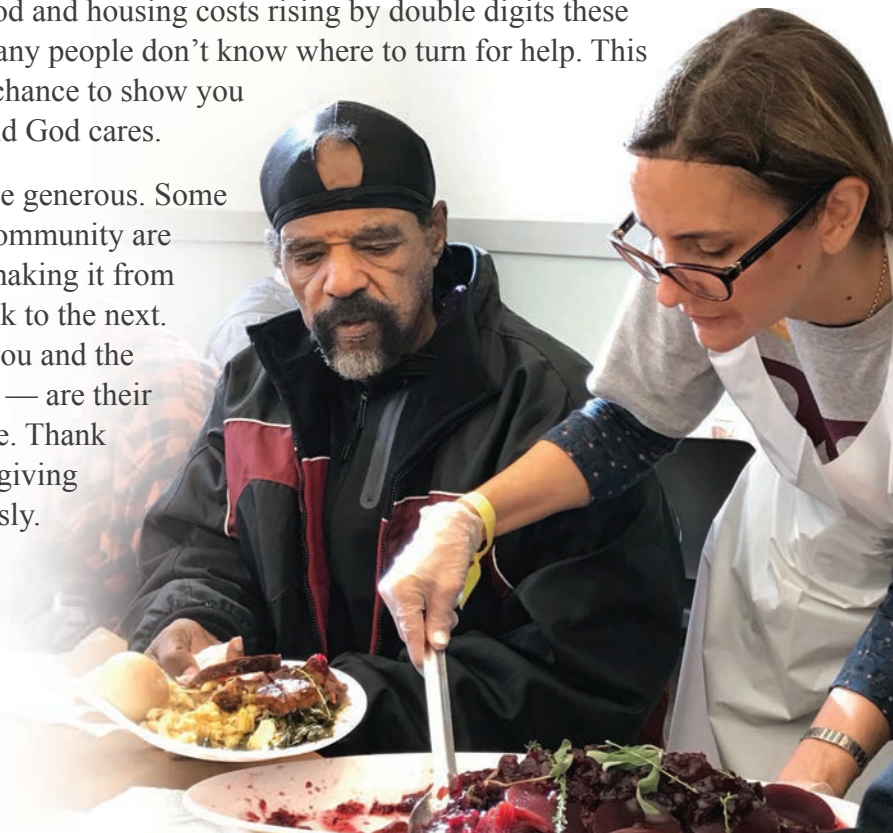
Yet that's exactly what's going to happen unless caring people like you stand with the Mission to provide meals and care for people facing hunger and homelessness in the D.C. area.

It costs so little to make a difference this Thanksgiving: just \$2.09 per meal. Think about how many people you can feed with a gift of \$25, \$50 or even \$100.

These meals change people's lives, helping them reconnect with God in a way that brings healing to body and soul. Right now, so many in our community are looking to start over.

With food and housing costs rising by double digits these days, many people don't know where to turn for help. This is your chance to show you care. And God cares.

Please be generous. Some in our community are barely making it from one week to the next. We — you and the Mission — are their last hope. Thank you for giving generously.



## 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).*

## Thanksgiving is almost here!

Give now to share meals and essential services with people in need

### 3 EASY STEPS to transform a life this Thanksgiving

- 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.

Central Union Mission • PO Box 96763 • Washington, DC 20090-6763 • 202-745-7118