

the

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# missionary



## A “Christmas miracle”

### How you saved the holidays for Jan and her family

How do you tell your children they’re not getting anything for Christmas?

There’s no good way, really, as Jan and her husband found out. After Jan’s husband lost his job, this young couple did the very best they could to try and save Christmas for their four children. But everywhere Jan and her husband went, the answer was the same:

“Sorry, we can’t help you.”

As the sleepless nights began piling up, they wondered, “How did things go bad so quickly?”

When they first got married, Jan’s husband was making enough money from his home business that Jan could afford to be a stay-at-home mom. Just when they

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**A "Christmas miracle"** (Continued from pg. 1)

settled into a comfortable routine, COVID-19 hit, and their home business dried up.

The loss of their only source of income, along with debts from their business, could have easily cost this family everything.

Eventually, they began receiving a small amount of emergency help, but it was barely enough to cover food, rent and utilities. Money for Christmas toys? Out of the question, they sadly told their children.

When a caring social worker told Jan and her husband to contact the Mission's Comprehensive Family Resource Center, a flicker of hope emerged—even if they had to be put on a waiting list.

A few days before Christmas, Jan and her husband got the call they had been waiting for . . .

It turned out that a generous donor had made a generous donation to Operation Christmas Miracle, the Mission's annual toy drive. Now, there would be

enough toys for Jan's children and hundreds of other desperate families.

But that wasn't all. The family also received a carload full of groceries and an invitation to come back to the Mission in the days and weeks that followed, as long as they still had need.

Some might call it a timely coincidence. Jan and her husband prefer "Christmas miracle."

When people are at their lowest, your giving provides food, shelter, life-changing services—and at Christmastime, toys and special meals for families to enjoy.

You saved Christmas for Jan's family. Now's your chance to do the same for others. Thanks!

*Please stand with Central Union Mission this Christmas to make even more holiday miracles happen. You'll make it possible for people like Jan and her family to find hope and help.*

**You saved Christmas for Jan's family**



**Pulling out all the stops to make Christmas unforgettable for people, young and old**



Depending on your age, Christmas looks different when every day is lived in poverty. Children say all they want is a new toy under the tree on Christmas morning. But that's just code for "Can my family still take care of me?" Seniors, meanwhile, say they enjoy our special holiday meals—but deep down inside, they're looking for reassurance this community hasn't forgotten them. Thanks to you, we get to host several Christmas events that bring joy to all—young and old—regardless of the challenges they face at other times of the year.



**You can bring joy to children**

*No child should miss out on Christmas. That's why for almost 100 years, we've been hosting Operation Christmas Miracle for local families in need. This is their chance to experience love, laughter and joy during the holidays—and give presents to their children. We expect 2,000 neighborhood children to join us for this annual event.*

**Help people feel special**

*For many of the people we serve, their biggest fear at Christmastime is being alone. That's why we pull out all the stops for our annual Show Some Love event, an over-the-top celebration featuring an elegant dinner, special music, celebrity appearances—and special gift bags for all in attendance.*



**Christmas: the power of Christ on display in a broken world**



**JOE METTIMANO**  
President & CEO

When Jesus walked the earth, He met the practical and spiritual needs of everyone He encountered.

Today, we follow His example when ministering to every soul God sends our way.

It is the highest privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus every day, but especially at Christmastime. I hope you feel the same way, because when you support the Mission, YOU, too, have the joy of sharing the love of Jesus in both practical and spiritual ways.

Every dollar you donate at this special time of year helps transform lives.

In these especially difficult times, when we have more people than ever living at or below the poverty line, your generosity reminds struggling people that God cares, and you care, too.

I hope during this holiday season that you'll prayerfully consider giving an extra generous gift to bring help and hope to those who come to Central Union Mission in desperate need.

Thank you, in advance, for your faithful prayer and financial support. It is because of you that so many lives will be changed this Christmas—a moving testimony to the power of Christ in a broken world.





## Try creative giving to make a greater impact

When it comes to your finances, accuracy is of utmost importance.

The trick is learning to navigate your financial world wisely. For example, understanding current tax laws can open up a whole new world of generosity toward the charities you care about, like Central Union Mission.

Here are a few tax-wise giving tools you might want to consider:

- **Giving from your IRA.** If you're at least 72 years old, you can donate all of your required minimum distribution.
  - **Gifts of Stock.** When you donate stock that has appreciated for more than one year, you can avoid capital gains, deduct the fair market value and have a greater impact.
  - **Donor Advised Funds.** When you contribute to your DAF, you are generally eligible for an immediate tax deduction, and your funds grow tax-free.
- Smart giving tools make it easy to reduce your tax burden and support nonprofits like the Mission.
- Not sure what tools are right for you? Consult with your tax adviser or contact Rev. Deborah Chambers at 202-827-3078 or [dchambers@missiondc.org](mailto:dchambers@missiondc.org) and let us help you choose the option that's right for you.

There's still time for . . .

## A Christmas Challenge to DOUBLE the impact of your giving

Thanks to a special \$75,000 Christmas Challenge, any gift you send today will be automatically DOUBLED.

But you must act quickly. To have your gift doubled by the Challenge, your gift must be postmarked by December 31.

Please help us take advantage of this amazing opportunity while there's still time by sending your very best gift today. You'll be giving men, women, children and veterans food, shelter, hope and the chance to make a fresh start this Christmas.

Best of all, you'll point them to Jesus, the One Who promises peace, comfort and everlasting hope to all who follow Him.

*Thank you, and God bless you, for allowing our Christmas Challenge to DOUBLE your gift so even more people can receive help and hope at this special time of year.*

## 3 EASY STEPS to transform someone's 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.

