

the missionary

JANUARY 2023

**It will take YOU
to keep hope alive
for people struggling
with hunger and
homelessness
in 2023**



An urgent message from our President

by Joe Mettimano, President and CEO

Few people escaped the devastating impact of COVID-19 these past two years.

Not only did people facing hunger and homelessness see their lives turned upside down—both physically and emotionally—but I know many of our supporters were also affected after being caught up in the day-to-day uncertainty.

That's why I'm so grateful for faithful friends like you, who have kept giving—sometimes sacrificially—to see lives changed and hope restored among the poor in our community.

It is only because of God's mercy—and your compassion—that we were able to reach thousands of men, women, children and veterans with practical help

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and the life-changing hope of Jesus this past year.

Now the real work begins. A growing number of people in the Washington, D.C., area are being ravaged by the effects of runaway inflation, on top of still trying to recover from the upheaval caused by the pandemic. For many of them, every day has become a struggle just to survive.

That's why I'm so excited about 2023 and the life-changing programs we've been able to put in place because of your continued generosity. Programs like enhanced job training, improved recovery classes, more life-skills, budgeting and parenting courses and so much more.

Please know that all of us at Central Union Mission are deeply grateful that God is using friends like you to grow our ministry to meet the urgent needs we see all around us.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus at a time when, more than ever, we need the hope only He can give.



Nobody knew Phillip was homeless

How your support of our Family Resource Center moved him off the streets into his own apartment

Phillip hadn't eaten in days, so he called his brother, something he hardly ever does.

"I need a favor," Phillip explained. "I'm living in my car. I haven't eaten in four days. I'm hungry."

For months, Phillip hid the fact that he was penniless and living in his car after his wife died and his in-laws took everything he owned, including his fencing business. To maintain his appearance, he would visit the local Veterans Administration three times a week to shower, shave and wash his clothes. But he couldn't stay in the shadows forever.

It took all the humility he could muster to finally call his brother, who lived six blocks away.

"Alright, man, I got you," Phillip's brother told him before bringing Phillip a week's worth of food from the

neighborhood dollar store.

While he appreciated the kindness, Phillip knew he couldn't last much longer on the streets. That's when he came to our Comprehensive Family Resource Center.

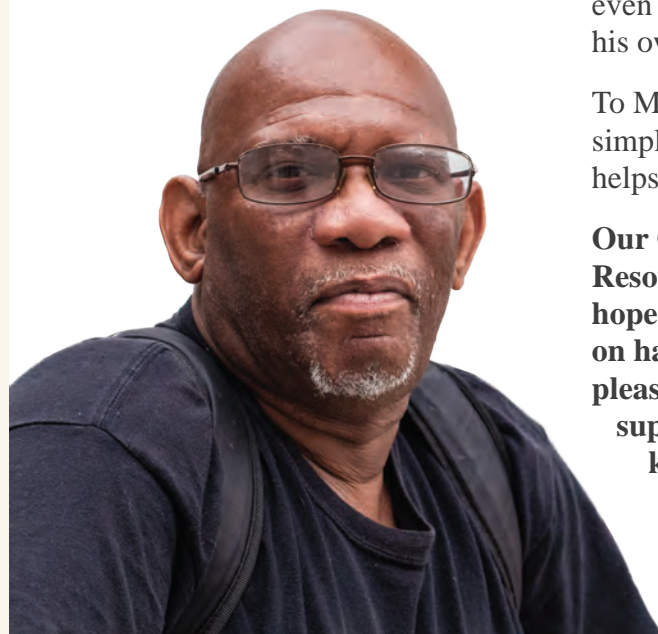
"Anything I needed, they helped me: with food, transportation, prayer support . . ." he says. "People here have shown me they have compassion, and it's made a huge difference."

Today, thanks to you, Phillip has his own apartment. He even received his dream bicycle, donated to the Mission one Wednesday afternoon when he arrived to pick up food.

And even though Phillip is battling cancer, he's grateful for all he has, even the little things . . . like having his own bathroom.

To Mission supporters, he says simply, "Thank you! What you do helps so many people."

Our Comprehensive Family Resource Center is a beacon of hope to so many who have fallen on hard times. If you are able, please renew your commitment to supporting the Mission in 2023 to keep hope alive for Phillip and others like him. Thank you!



Offering hope for a brighter tomorrow

Central Union Mission's Comprehensive Family Resource Center serves some of the poorest women, men, families and senior citizens in the D.C. metro area. Our goal is to reduce family poverty, lessen the likelihood of homelessness, restore people's dignity and provide an additional foundation for hard-working families to advance on the path to independence.

Here are three of the innovative programs that are offering people hope for a brighter tomorrow...



ESL (English as a Second Language)

Half of the people who come to our Resource Center are Hispanic. Our ESL classes are designed to improve their English language skills, both oral and written, to assist them in finding a job that will pay them a livable wage.



Job training

Helping people find sustainable employment is one of the best ways we know to lift people out of poverty and help them become self-sufficient. Our job training program is specifically designed to help them succeed vocationally.



Life-skills courses

Many of the men and women who come to the Mission lack basic skills like budgeting, parenting, building healthy relationships and conflict resolution. We teach life skills to strengthen families, neighborhoods and entire communities.



AT A GLANCE

What your generosity accomplished in 2022

When you support Central Union Mission, good things happen—things that have a positive impact on people in our community who are struggling with hunger and homelessness.

Here are a few of the things that were accomplished last year because of your generosity...

- **61,677** meals served
- **28,085** bed nights provided
- **306,000** bags of groceries distributed
- **5,100** people helped monthly with food and clothing
- **1,000** children received gifts through Operation Christmas Miracle
- **226** children sent to summer camp
- **109** men gained employment
- **519** educational enhancement and skills training hours conducted
- **And so much more**

You can find our full Annual Report online using the QR code below or by visiting missiondc.org/AnnualReport



Choose to transform lives in 2023

RENEW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!

Start the new year off right. Renew your partnership with Central Union Mission today, and make 2023 the year of transformation.

Any gift you send now, big or small, will bring life-changing help and hope to men, women, children and veterans who are in desperate need of rescue, relief and restoration. Your giving will help them overcome their circumstances—through the power of Jesus Christ—so they can begin living lives that are both positive and productive.

Want to do even more?

Choose to give monthly as one of our trusted Meals-A-Month partners. (If you already give monthly, any gift you give today—above and beyond your regular giving—would be a blessing to those in our care.)

These are tough times, to be sure, but especially for those facing hunger and homelessness. If you are able, please send your best gift today. You'll provide genuine relief and open the door for someone to experience new life.

Thank you, and God bless you, for wanting to make a difference in 2023!

3 WAYS TO GIVE

GIVE BY MAIL

Central Union Mission
P.O. Box 96763
Washington, DC 20090-6763

GIVE BY PHONE

Call and use your
credit card
202-745-7118

GIVE ONLINE

donate.missiondc.org