

# the missionary

AUGUST 2023



## “We had nothing . . .”

**Florentino and Cecilia were hit hard by a devastating crisis . . . but you were there to support them!**

Florentino and Cecilia never expected to get knocked down like they did.

They checked all the boxes for a good life—a nice home, car, good-paying salary and more. Together, the two of them had built a beautiful life for their three children.

Then COVID hit. The economy took a turn for the worse—and so did the family’s circumstances.

Florentino was out of a job. Suddenly, he and Cecilia no longer had enough means to feed their family.

“We couldn’t afford enough food to feed us all,” says Florentino. Their problems grew only worse.

As Florentino looked for work, he started to feel sick. His illness grew so bad, he had to be hospitalized.

**Continued inside ▶**

URGENT SUMMER NEED

# Vulnerable families need YOUR help today!

People across the D.C. Metro area will be enjoying the last month of summer . . . But poverty, homelessness and hunger won't be taking a vacation.

In this final month of summer, every \$3.21 you give will provide a meal, relief from the intense heat, and genuine life transformation.

Vulnerable men, women and children are out of options . . . and hope. Your gift today will help them become self-sufficient and find faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you!



**Every \$3.21 will provide a meal and care that opens the door to rescue and restoration!**



## Now's the time to update your will!

August is National Make-A-Will Month. And when it comes to updating your estate plan, you too might find it helpful to "phone a friend." Here's what that could look like:

**Get your priorities on paper.** Meet some friends for coffee to talk through what's most important to you—and then write it down. Our free Wills Guide can be a helpful resource.

**Hold each other accountable.** Tell some friends and ask them to follow up with you. The best part? You can do the same for them!

**Share ideas and insights.** Inviting others to join you in the process gives you access to their knowledge and experience. Plus, good friends know your heart. They can help ensure your plan truly reflects what's most important to you.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Lifeline to Your Estate Plan" by visiting [christianwill.org/missiondc/contact-us](http://christianwill.org/missiondc/contact-us) to bless your family with an up-to-date will.*

*Return this form with your gift to change a life today!*



**"I want to help a man, woman or family facing hunger"**

Yes, Joel! I want to help provide meals that lead to genuine life transformation. I'm sending:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to care for as many people as possible.

Caring Friend  
123 Street Address  
City, State ZIP

**Every \$3.21 provides a meal and HOPE!**

**WAYS TO GIVE**  
**Mail:** Mail this form and your check payable to: Central Union Mission, PO Box 96763, Washington, DC 20090.  
 To give with a credit card, please see back of form.  
**Phone:** 202-745-7118  
**Online:** [missiondc.org](http://missiondc.org)  
 Please send me occasional updates on how my giving transforms lives.  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**“We had nothing . . .”** (Continued from Page 1)

Twelve days and many tests later, the doctor confirmed he had cancer.

Everything came crashing down. They had no income, no food source and no health insurance, “We had nothing,” says Florentino. “But we believed God would take care of us.”

### **Hope in the midst of crisis—thanks to YOU**

The road was rough. While Florentino received cancer treatment, Cecilia searched for help. There was no way she’d be able to care for their three children—one of them autistic—AND her sick husband. They desperately needed help to make it through this crisis.

Cecilia got in touch with a social worker at the Mission and they told her to come in. She and Florentino were blown away by the blessings that followed.

Thanks to your generosity, they were able to access the vital necessities they’d been missing through our Comprehensive Family Resource Center. Cecilia could take her pick of fresh dairy, bread, produce and meats. “Everything was provided for us, even birthday cakes for celebrations,” she says.

### **A testimony of faith**

After a year and a half of

cancer treatment, the doctor told Florentino that the cancer is gone! As he recovers, he and Cecilia plan to build a beautiful life for their family again and fully get back up on their feet.

“God knows why we are here and what our purpose in life is,” says Florentino. He took that to heart and wrote a book about his testimony. He hopes it will inspire others to trust God in all circumstances.

Cecilia and Florentino couldn’t have made it through the devastation of an unexpected crisis without your generosity. It’s by God’s goodness and your faithful giving they were able to overcome!

“You might not realize how much your gift impacts a family like ours,” says Cecilia. “As a mother, your giving shows me you care about my oldest son with autism. You care about my husband and his sickness. You care about me being able to feed my children. We have everything we need because of you.”

*Many more families are falling on hard times, just like Florentino and Cecilia. But you can bring them live-saving help and hope!*



**Provide meals and life-changing services to families!**

## Community is the key



**JOE METTIMANO**  
President & CEO

Whether going into work downtown or driving around your local D.C. neighborhood, you see it just as I do—homelessness is a fast-growing problem.

And the people it's hurting are right in front of us on the streets of our own communities.

Many of the families who come to our doors are suffering from poverty because of an unexpected crisis. They were once like you and me—thriving members of society who don't worry about putting food on the table.

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**The problem of homelessness is community-wide . . . and so is the solution.**

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Without coming together, we can only go so far to combat poverty. That's why I'm so thankful for you and other committed friends who genuinely care about people struggling on the streets.

It's local partnerships, volunteers, your generosity, and so much more that go into making life transformation a reality.

Today, I hope you'll prayerfully consider a special gift as we head into this last month of summer. Many other families like Florentino and Cecilia's (on page 1) aren't sure they'll make it out of the hole they're stuck in. You are the key to their stability! Thank you!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe".



## Changing men's lives . . . one suit at a time!

When Andrew walks into the Mission, he's often greeted by guests as "The Suit Guy." And there's a special story behind the nickname.

Andrew has lived in the D.C. Metro area for 18 years. Seeing firsthand the problem of homelessness in the city, he started asking the question, "How do we help?"

"I think every company should have non-profit partners," says Andrew. So when he started his own business, Andrew started looking for a non-profit partner that was doing good, local work. The Mission was just the place.

Andrew started looking for a specific need that the Mission needed help to meet. Suits were the perfect opportunity.

A suit may seem like a small thing. But it means a lot for a guest taking the final step in our Workforce Development and Education program. "It allows people to feel proud and confident as they go into the workforce," says Andrew.

Andrew has rallied other organizations and businesses to join him in providing suits to men at the Mission year-round. "It's our community, and these are our neighbors," he says. "The Mission is doing the real work, and it's rewarding when we play a part in that."