

## LEANING ON COMMUNITY

**When Conishea was struggling to feed and clothe her family, YOU helped her!**

Conishea was used to making ends meet all on her own.

There was nothing she wanted more than to be able to provide for her family. But the burdens of being a single mother weren't letting up.

Many parents are in the same position as Conishea—hit hard by rising living costs and struggling to keep up. Other single mothers are fleeing domestic violence. They never expected to face hunger or homelessness. All have a painful story to tell.

Conishea's includes major crises that made stability for her family feel impossible. Her special needs daughter is in the hospital full-time. And Conishea battles her own distressing health concerns. "I have HIV," she says. "I just want to get better."

**Continued inside ▶**





# This Thanksgiving, you'll make a fresh start possible



**Thanksgiving meals  
can restore lives!**

*“Before I found the Mission,  
I was so lonely.”—Conishea*

**Leaning on you and our community . . .** (Continued from pg. 1)

It’s already a challenge for Conishea to provide for her children on her own, let alone while battling a serious illness. She received some help from family, but was running out of options to get by.

Conishea says, “When I didn’t have any more money and couldn’t go to my family anymore, I decided to come to the Mission.” Here, she found the relief she desperately needed.

## **AN OPEN DOOR**

When she walked through the Mission’s doors, Conishea felt genuine hope for the first time in a long time.

At the Comprehensive Family Resource Center, she was able to take her pick of groceries and clothing. But more than just physical care, she found emotional and spiritual support.

“Here, I receive prayer when I’m down, clothing for my children and food for our table,” says Conishea. “Before I found the Mission, I was so lonely.” Now, she has a community to lean on in her time of deep need. And it’s thanks to your generosity.

Whenever she feels out of hope or options, Conishea knows the Mission’s doors will always be open. And at Thanksgiving, this means so much to her and other families who are facing unexpected challenges.

“Last Thanksgiving, the Mission brought me a whole turkey and a box of food for a Thanksgiving meal,” says Conishea. “Thank you so much.”

***Your gift of Thanksgiving meals will bless other families like Conishea’s who are struggling to scrape by. You can help them thrive!***

# You can provide MORE than a MEAL

Something transformational happens when a weary soul sits down to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at the Mission.

Once their hunger is satisfied, they can finally think clearly and consider their next steps—starting with the variety of restorative programs you help make possible.

That’s why our annual “A Seat at the Table” event is such a crucial time of ministry. A transformed life begins with a hot Thanksgiving meal—provided by you!

## 1 Meals for those in immediate need

Every \$3.21 you give will feed someone who is facing hunger, homelessness or addiction.



## 2 Emergency groceries for families

You’ll help send out food boxes packed with nutritious groceries 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 a hot meal waiting for them—AND a place where they can belong.



Only \$3.21 per meal



# The power of an invitation



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

A favorite meal, enjoyed at a table full of family and friends, brings a special sense of comfort and belonging.

That’s why an invitation to our table means so much to a man, woman or family facing hunger and homelessness—especially during the holidays.

Our doors are open for anyone to come as they are, and we never turn a person away. *Your giving makes that possible.*

*Jesus dined with people who no one else would invite to their table. Here at the Mission, we seek to do the same.*

The nourishing plate of food you provide makes a guest feel seen and loved as much as it fills their growling stomach. For the first time in a long time, they feel surrounded by a community that cares for them. The future starts to look brighter . . .

I hope you’ll consider giving again today to help share the deep love of Jesus through your gift of Thanksgiving meals. Your kind partnership is the reason we’re able to reach so many struggling people in our community. Thank you!



Restoration starts **HERE!**

# Every \$3.21 you give will provide a hot meal and transformational care

Imagine cooking food for more than 95,000 Thanksgiving meals . . . that's the deep need the Mission is preparing for.

It takes an entire community to feed all the people who will come through our doors for help this Thanksgiving. That's why your support to provide nourishing meals is so critical.

**All it takes to feed one struggling man, woman or child is \$3.21. Won't you give generously today to provide a traditional holiday meal for many?**

This is your opportunity to show the deep love of Christ through compassionate care. Help us ensure that no one is turned away. Your gift of meals can make a life-changing—even eternal—impact! Thank you, and God bless!

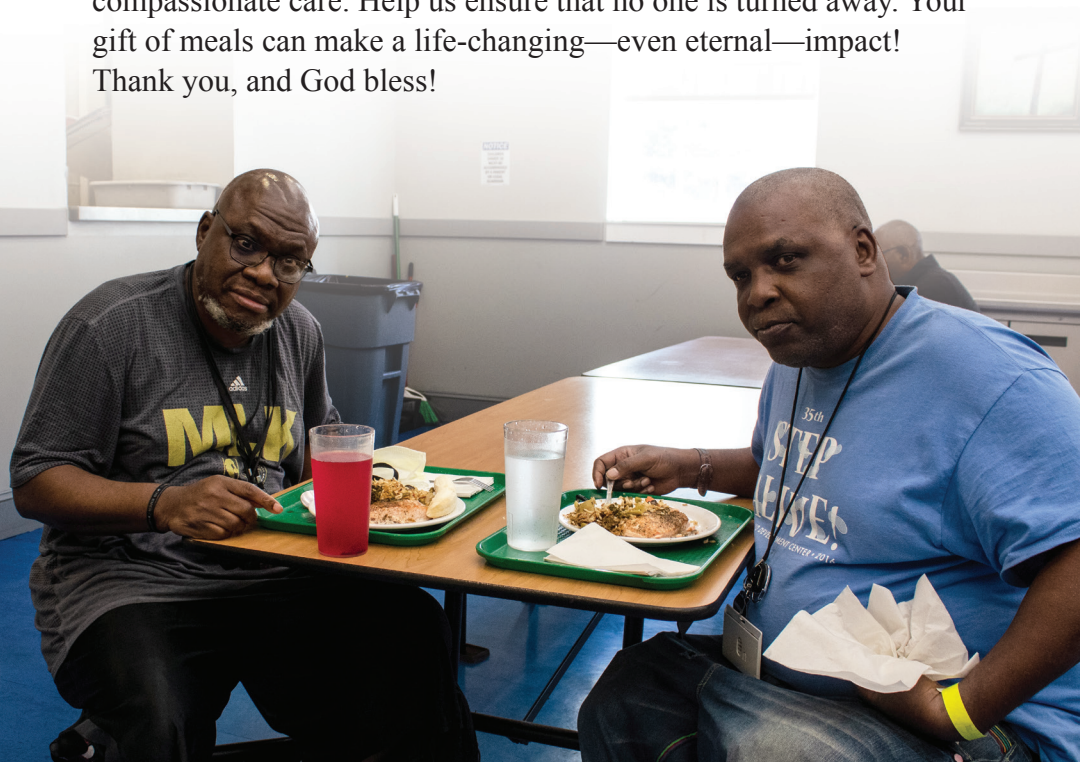


## SHARE YOUR STORY

Your faithful support over the years makes you a significant part of the Mission's story. But you also have your own story worth telling! Here are three ideas for how to share it with family this holiday season:

- 1. Interview yourself.** Find interview templates online or come up with your own questions to answer and share.
- 2. Use online tools.** Smartphone apps and web-based tools like Storyworth or Remento are available to prompt and capture your life story.
- 3. Impact others.** At the heart of your story are the values most important to you. Including a gift in your will to Central Union Mission is a meaningful way to share your story of generosity—and impact others.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "4 Ways to Share Your Story This Holiday" by contacting Megan Schmoll at 202-745-7118 ext. 219 or [mschmoll@missiondc.org](mailto:mschmoll@missiondc.org). Or, bless your family today with an up-to-date will at [christianwill.org/missiondc](http://christianwill.org/missiondc).*



## 3 WAYS TO GIVE



### GIVE BY MAIL

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Washington, DC 20090-6763



### GIVE ONLINE

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



To help now, scan this QR code with your mobile device. Or visit [missiondc.org/Thanksgiving23](http://missiondc.org/Thanksgiving23)