

Kwasi was hungry, hopeless and sleeping on the streets

YOU gave him a seat at the table and helped him rebuild his life with Christ as his foundation!

“I was at a point in my life where I had nothing,” says Kwasi.

When Kwasi says nothing, he truly means *nothing*—no job, money, roof over his head, ID or family to take him in.

Like so many others who come to the Mission for help, Kwasi found himself in a position he never expected to be in. “After I lost my job, I couldn’t pay rent anymore,” he says. “I became homeless.”

Kwasi remembers the frigid cold of sleeping outside on the streets. “Nothing like that had ever happened to me before,” he says. “I wondered what went wrong in my life.”

After several nights out on the street, Kwasi found warmth and safety at a men’s shelter. But he knew he needed more help than just a temporary bed to sleep in. “I was praying for a change in my life,” he says. He found that change at Central Union Mission.

RELYING ON GOD

Walking through the Mission’s doors was the beginning of a new life for

Continued inside ▶



EVERY \$3.21 THANKSGIVING MEAL YOU PROVIDE



Every
\$3.21
will provide a meal
and more this
Thanksgiving!

Kwasi lost everything . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

Kwasi. Here, he found the physical, emotional and spiritual care he needed.

Through participating in our PATHWAYS Workforce Development Program, Kwasi was able to earn 17 professional certifications. He plans to secure his own housing and work his way up to a CEO position in the civil engineering field.

As Kwasi saw transformation happen in his circumstances, he also saw transformation happen in his heart. “I’ve learned to rely on God and not myself,” he says. “We have to hold on to our faith, even in difficult times—and there will be difficult times.”

Kwasi could begin to focus on rebuilding a firm foundation only after his physical needs were met. His story goes to show how the nourishing meals you help

provide truly lead to life-transformation.

“A hungry man is an angry man,” says Kwasi. “That was me when I had nowhere to turn. But the Mission was there, and they totally changed my life.”

God’s love—paired with the power of your generosity—can restore any life, no matter how far gone someone might seem. Kwasi was about to give up hope. But you introduced him to an everlasting hope. He says, “When you give, God will multiply your giving to change lives—including your own.”

**“God will multiply
your giving to
change lives . . .”**

— Kwasi

In this special season of gratitude, you can help the next Kwasi who comes through our doors for a hot meal and help. Make Thanksgiving not just memorable, but transformational for men, women and children facing homelessness and hunger!

“IN THEIR OWN WORDS”

The *more* behind Thanksgiving meals

A Thanksgiving meal may seem like it plays only a small part in providing solutions to homelessness and poverty. But often, it’s the first step that leads to lasting transformation.

Here’s what some of our guests say about coming here for a meal . . .



“They accommodate everyone. People can walk in from off the streets saying they’re hungry, and the Mission gives them food.”

— Carolyn



“The Mission is clean and safe. The people are helpful, and they don’t judge you by your looks.”

— Johnny



“Because the Mission takes care of your life necessities, you can just come and let the Spirit of God work on you.”

— Shawn

A meal you provide today is so much more than a plate of food . . . a meal opens the door to life-changing conversations around our Thanksgiving table.

As each guest enjoys their nourishing holiday feast, we tell them about the restorative services available at the Mission.

We listen to their stories—each one unique. And as their empty stomachs are filled, we share with them how their broken hearts can be healed by God’s love and grace.

The meals you provide this Thanksgiving are the beginning of long-term stability and a new life in Christ!



Indescribable blessings



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

This crucial season of ministry can feel daunting sometimes.

But no matter how demanding the Thanksgiving need is, I know God will provide right on time. And He uses you to make that happen.

I’m so encouraged knowing you’re a part of the compassionate community that makes the Mission’s work possible. You truly are someone we can count on.

I’m inspired by Kwasi’s words on page 2: “When you give, God will multiply your giving to change lives—including your own.”

You understand more than most that generosity is good for our hearts. Hearing transformation stories . . . seeing a man or woman graduate from one of our programs after years of homelessness . . . watching God make miracles happen here at the Mission. It blesses us all in indescribable ways.

And it begins with your giving.

Thank you for being obedient to the Lord as He leads you. The work you make possible here at the Mission—not just at Thanksgiving, but year-round—has eternal value.

A meal = a miracle

It's hard to imagine your dining table without food on Thanksgiving.

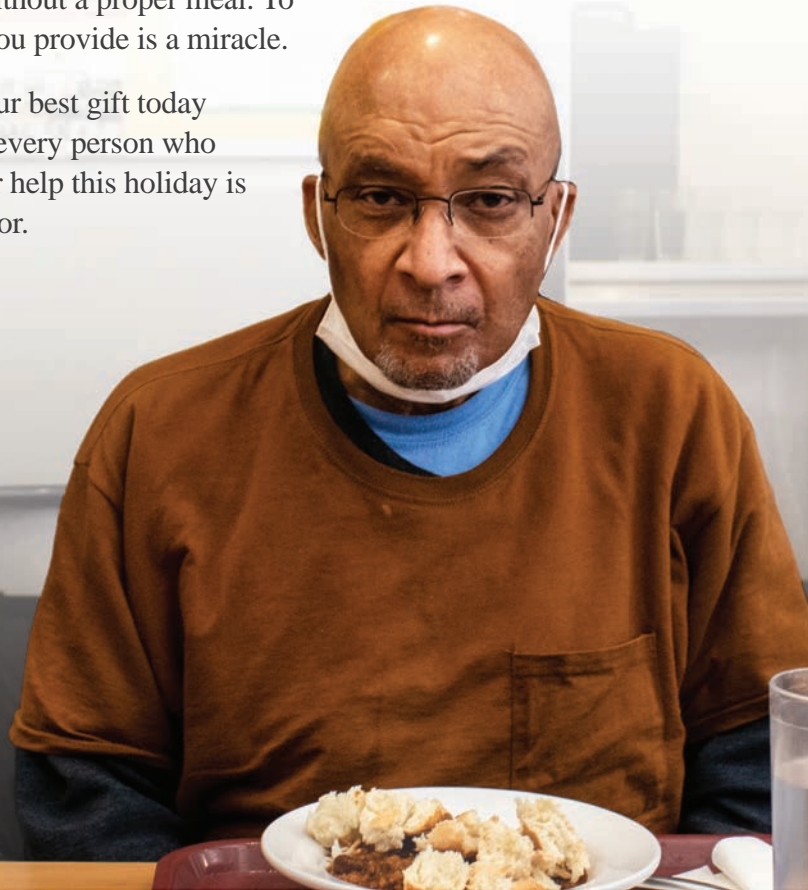
Yet that will be the reality for thousands of families in the D.C. Metro Area this holiday. No family should go hungry—especially on Thanksgiving.

It costs so little to make a difference during this season of gratitude: just \$3.21 per meal.

Think about how many men, women and children you can feed with a gift of \$25, \$50 or even \$100.

A hot, nourishing meal means so much to our guests who've gone days, even weeks, without a proper meal. To them, a meal you provide is a miracle.

Please send your best gift today to help ensure every person who comes to us for help this holiday is fed and cared for.



Your investment in impact

The average person spends about 90,000 hours at work during their lifetime. What went into your 90,000 hours?

No matter the jobs you held, your retirement assets can be turned into a blessing for the ministries you care about. Here are three ideas:

1. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION The simple effort it takes to add Central Union Mission as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) can make a significant impact on the work we do and people we serve.

2. QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD) A tax-free distribution from your IRA to a charity, a QCD enables you to make a lasting difference now.

3. CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA) A CGA allows you to use your assets to give to a charity while also receiving income during your retirement years.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The 90,000 Hour Investment" by contacting Megan Schmoll at 202-827-3078 ext. 219 or mschmoll@missiondc.org—or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at christianwill.org/missiondc.

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

THANKSGIVING IS ALMOST HERE!

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.



To help now, scan this QR code with your mobile device. Or visit missiondc.org/thanksgiving23