



the



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# missionary



## An unexpected blessing



How you restored hope to Ilesia at Christmas—and year round!

Escaping the cycle of poverty felt impossible for Ilesia. As a single mother to five children, it was no easy task to stay afloat.

Even with a job, Ilesia struggled to keep a roof over their heads, put food on the table and meet the basic needs of her family. Despite the challenges, she was vibrant and devoted to doing whatever it took to make

ends meet. But the pressure caught up with Ilesia.

Like many other single parents, she was battling depression brought on from the pain of poverty. But Ilesia felt there was no other option than to persevere alone—until she came to the Mission.

When Ilesia came through our doors, it wasn't for groceries or a place to stay. It was to take a position

Continued inside ▶



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**Page 3**  
How do we make Christmas unforgettable?

**Page 3**  
Keeping Christ at the center

**Page 4**  
Help TWICE as many people in need



**An unexpected blessing** (Continued from pg. 1)

at Mission Muffins. In no way did Ilesia take this job anticipating that the Mission would be there for her in her time of need. She kept carrying on doing whatever it took to keep her precious family housed and fed.

It was only a matter of time before Ilesia hit a wall. Poverty and the emotional struggles that come with it were taking a toll. Staff at the Mission noticed that Ilesia needed extra support and referred her to an on-site counselor. What started as a job opportunity turned into an unexpected blessing.

Over several months of hard work, Ilesia addressed the matters of her heart that needed healing. She found relief from anger and depression, along with other vital tools she needed to lift herself out of poverty.

The Mission was able to help Ilesia and her family with food, clothing, housing assistance and even

furniture for their new home. The care Ilesia received is made possible with your help and is all designed to alleviate the financial and emotional challenges brought on by poverty. At Christmas, that's exactly what so many hurting families need.

***“The Mission has changed my family’s life”***

Ilesia says, “Everyone at the Mission is so kind and truly seems to care about me. They constantly show me kindness and even bought gifts for my kids at Christmas.”

Now, Ilesia is able to provide for her children. This Christmas, they have joy and a new year of endless opportunity to look forward to. “The Mission has changed my family’s life,” Ilesia says.

***Thank you for all you do to help people like Ilesia find stability. You can bless even more struggling families this Christmas with your gift today!***

## How do we make Christmas unforgettable for people hurting from homelessness and poverty?

Christmas is anything but merry and bright for individuals and families facing poverty. Parents who can't afford gifts don't know what to tell their children. Veterans on the streets have no holiday dinner, no warmly decorated home and no family. Whatever someone's circumstances are this Christmas, they're in need of a glimmer of hope. Thanks to you, we get to make that happen with two special holiday events!

### Bring Christmas joy to children!

Operation Christmas Miracle provides local families who are financially struggling with presents for their children to open on Christmas morning. On December 16, we expect more than 500 children from our program-participant families to join us at our Comprehensive Family Resource Center for this annual event full of joy, laughter and love!



### Care for people who feel forgotten

At our "Show Some Love" event, we pull out all the stops to lift the spirits of men experiencing homelessness. On December 15, we'll host a full afternoon of festivities—haircuts, holiday music, fellowship, gift bags and an elegant dinner. It all ensures no one feels alone or unloved on Christmas!



## Keeping Christ at the center



**JOE METTIMANO**  
President & CEO

Jesus is the center of everything we do here at the Mission.

From large holiday outreaches to small daily acts, we want to love

like Christ—compassionately and selflessly. Wrap-around services—such as job training and English as a second language classes—make a genuine difference for people facing poverty. But it's the redeeming love of Jesus that truly changes lives.

One Christmas gift, one home-cooked meal, one bag of holiday groceries, one night of shelter or one encouraging word could be all it takes to set someone on the road to restoration and restore their relationship with Jesus.

As we show Christ-like care to our guests this Christmas, my prayer is that they will begin to care about themselves, see their value through God's eyes and take steps toward lasting stability.

I hope you know that your generosity is no small act. Having you stand alongside the Mission today will be such a blessing. Thank you for all you do to help provide lasting solutions to homelessness and hunger!





## Give creatively and make a lasting difference

Your creative giving impacts lives! Here are three unique ways you can support the work of Central Union Mission, no matter your season of life or the size of your budget.

**PRAYER.** Interceding for the ministries you love is a gift that accomplishes just as much good as any financial generosity.

**IN-KIND GIFTS.** You may have resources that will help us restore even more lives. Get in touch with us to learn what in-kind gifts can make the most difference.

**OTHER ASSETS.** Much of your wealth is held in non-cash assets like IRAs, real estate, stocks or personal property. Other compassionate supporters like you have also found that creative giving could leave a legacy through a gift in their will to the Mission.

Want to learn more about how you can give creatively this Christmas? For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Ways to Give in Every Season of Life" by contacting Megan Schmoll at (202) 745-7118 ext. 219 or [mschmoll@missiondc.org](mailto:mschmoll@missiondc.org)

There's still time . . .

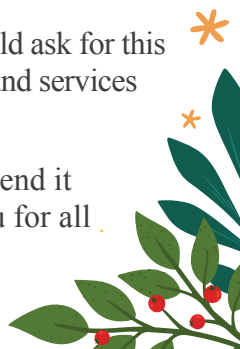
### DOUBLE the impact of your giving and help TWICE as many people in need

In this special season of generosity, there's no better time to show struggling people in our city that you care—especially because a \$100,000 Christmas Challenge will **DOUBLE** any gift you send today.

Every \$3.21 will provide *twice* as many nourishing meals for men, women and children experiencing hunger, facing the pain of poverty or scraping by on the streets.

A fresh start is the best gift a hurting individual or family could ask for this Christmas. Your generosity right now will provide wrap-around services and the hope of Jesus to people across the D.C. metro area.

Please don't wait to give. To ensure your gift is doubled, send it today or by Sunday, December 31, at the latest. Thank you for all you help accomplish in our community!



## 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.



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