

the

JANUARY 2024

# missionary



*You help us provide lasting solutions to poverty*

## **An urgent New Year's message from our President**

*by Joe Mettimano, President & CEO*

Jesus said in Matthew 26:11, “The poor you will always have with you.”

When I hear these words, I could ask if our hard work in the face of a persistent homelessness crisis is making any difference. But instead, I hear an invitation—an invitation to partner with the Creator of the universe to accomplish His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus knew that poverty would be part of the human condition until His return. That’s why the Mission has promised to do whatever it takes until then to meet the needs of struggling men, women, children and veterans. *And God is using you to deliver.*

Since the expansion of our Comprehensive Family Resource Center (CFRC), more and more families have

Continued inside ▶

## Providing lasting solutions . . .

(continued from Page 1)

come to us for help. You've made it possible to provide not just immediate physical relief, but also strategic care that equips families to rise above poverty.

You're equipping once-homeless men to find living-wage jobs. You're walking with parents while they work hard to break cycles of violence in their families. You're helping households rise above the poverty line for good.

It touches my heart to see these men, women and families share their stories of restoration with the world. Those are the "joy" moments for us—seeing people go from broken-hearted to rising above the circumstances they never thought they'd see the other side of.

In 2024, we want to see people find more than just temporary relief from homelessness. We want to see them find lasting freedom.

With you standing alongside us, I have faith that thousands more will receive the tools they need to achieve lasting stability. Thank you for being obedient to God's call to care for those in deepest need until Jesus returns!



## Richard lost everything to addiction

### He thought he had reached his end. But you helped Richard rebuild his life and find hope in Christ!

"What is there to live for?"

The heavy thought ran through Richard's mind over and over. He felt the same as so many other people who walk through our doors seeking help—defeated, without purpose and hopeless.

Richard had followed in the footsteps of a generational alcohol addiction. "I started drinking when I was 15," he says. "My two brothers and my dad all drank."

Drinking cost him everything. Richard lost his job, his home, his relationship with his children and his wife to a divorce. The devastation of addiction made life feel meaningless. "After my wife separated from me and I was evicted from my home, I tried to commit suicide," says Richard.

When he came to the Mission, Richard was looking only for a place to lay his head. But he found so much more than just physical relief from homelessness.

Through counseling, recovery programs, workplace training and spiritual development, Richard rebuilt everything that he'd lost to addiction. "Coming to the Mission has helped me realize what triggers depression and the desire to drink," says Richard. "I'm not drinking anymore, and I lean on Jesus now."

Today, Richard is most thankful for the breath in his lungs, his own place to call home and his family.

"If I hadn't come here, I would be on the street or worse," he says. "I owe it all to the Mission. Your giving helps rescue people off the streets and gives them a second chance at life. A hot meal and clothing helps open your eyes to who you really are."

**Your gift in this new year will provide the vital care so many others like Richard need to overcome life on the streets. A nourishing meal is the beginning of restoration!**



*"Your giving helps rescue people off the streets . . ." —Richard*

# ital care for struggling men, women and families



## You provide hope for 2024 and beyond

At our Comprehensive Family Resource Center (CFRC), men, women and children find hope not just for tomorrow, but for years to come. That's because the wrap-around services you make possible are designed to restore long-term stability and lift them out of poverty.

Here are just three of the restorative programs you provide that are equipping people across Metro D.C. to overcome homelessness and find self-sufficiency.



### Parenting classes

*"Parenting class has helped me a lot. It's taught me how to better understand how to talk to my grandkids and to take quiet time to relax before I interact with them when they are over. It also taught me how to cope with stress."*

—Cheryl



### Job training

*"I felt held back by my prison record and learning disabilities. The Mission hired me for their Ready to Work street clean team. Thanks to you and other friends, I received job training, social service support and continued education to prepare for employment."*

—Steven



### Housing assistance

*"I was assisted in every way possible. The Mission helped me find an apartment by motivating and empowering me to find places for myself. And luckily, I was able to find an apartment. Without them, I wouldn't have gotten this place. I know that."*

—Jasper

# Give meals, restore lives

Many struggling men, women and children in your community are starting the new year hungry and homeless.

When you renew your partnership with the Mission today, you'll help make 2024 a year of transformation for struggling people in the D.C. metro area who are desperate for a fresh start.

Every \$3.21 will provide a meal, wrap-around services and a fresh start for a man, woman or family who needs urgent relief. Will you

help them realize their God-given potential and overcome poverty?

If you feel the Lord calling you to do even more, you can help restore lives each month by becoming a monthly partner. (Or if you already give monthly, any extra gift you give today will be a blessing to the people we care for!)

Please send your best gift today. Thank you, and God bless you, for making an eternal difference in 2024!



SO MUCH GOOD  
IN JUST ONE YEAR



## Your impact at a glance

When you support Central Union Mission, restoration takes place. And it's no temporary change. Your generosity makes a lasting difference in Jesus' name.

Five wins you helped make possible last year . . .

-  **109,487** meals served
-  **43,582** nights of safe shelter
-  **356,700** bags of groceries distributed
-  **179** participants in our Workforce Development and Education program
-  **39** permanent housing placements

You can find our full Annual Report online by scanning the QR code below with your mobile device or by visiting [missiondc.org/annualreport](https://missiondc.org/annualreport)



*Give now to share meals and life-changing care with people in need!*

## MAKE YOUR IMPACT IN THE NEW YEAR

**1 GIVE BY MAIL** by sending your gift and reply form in the enclosed envelope.

**2 GIVE ONLINE** by visiting [missiondc.org/give](https://missiondc.org/give)

**3 SCAN HERE** with your mobile device.

