

FREE INDEED

Antonyo was living in the darkness of addiction. Now, his life is restored!

Before Antonyo came to the Mission, he was homeless and addicted to drugs. He calls it the darkest time of his life.

“My life revolved around drugs. I would do anything I could to get them.”

Antonyo floated from place to place—staying at friends’ houses, riding buses and trains until they stopped running and sleeping in his car. He describes homelessness as “horrible.”

The darkness Antonyo felt grew heavier than ever when one of his sons was murdered in a drive-by shooting.

“That was the worst day of my life,” he says. Addiction tightened its grip on Antonyo as he grappled with grief.

The temporary relief that drugs gave Antonyo felt worth the cost—until one night when he almost lost his life. Antonyo was on his way to buy some drugs when he was jumped by a group of men. They stabbed him in the head and crushed his ankle, putting him in the hospital for weeks. He felt surrounded by darkness.

Continued inside ▶



Restore lives this Easter! Every \$3.21 provides a meal

A second chance . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

But a conversation on the phone changed everything for Antonyo. His daughter called him in tears, saying, “Dad, I’m praying for you, that you can get your life back together. You’re a good dad.

“Her phone call was my wake-up call,” says Antonyo. “She made me want to be somebody better. I decided to fight back.”

Antonyo says he came to the Mission as a broken man. But walking through our doors was the beginning of his transformation.

“The Mission taught me not just how to get off drugs like other programs do. It also taught me the Bible,” says Antonyo. “The people here don’t have an ulterior motive. They’re real men and women of God who care about me as a person and saw something in me that I couldn’t see.”

Now, Antonyo is living in Lambert House, our transitional housing program for men on the road to recovery. He’s looking forward to finding his own place, getting married and being someone his children can look up to.

“I’m so thankful to not have to be so scared all the time, or wondering where I’ll get money for my next high,” says Antonyo. “The God I serve says, *Who God sets free is free indeed.*” Antonyo is living proof of that promise.

If you meet him in person, Antonyo will tell you that your generosity opens the door to restoration.

“You’re saving someone’s life—someone who doesn’t have the means or tools. This program has opened up so many opportunities to change lives. It changed mine.”

“I’m so thankful to not have to be so scared all the time.”

—Antonyo



Celebrate 140 years of restoring lives!

Because of your special partnership, we are the oldest private social services agency in the D.C. metro area. So we at Central Union Mission invite you to celebrate 140 years of transforming lives and building futures!

We couldn't have done it without you!



SCAN HERE to purchase your ticket online. All proceeds will help us move ahead into many more years of helping people facing homelessness and hunger!



What starts a new beginning?



Every transformation story starts somewhere. At the Mission, someone's second chance often begins with a hot meal or a bed to sleep in.

But food and clothing are just the start of transformation. Everything at the Mission is designed to help people rise up out of poverty *for good*.

This Easter, you'll make that possible for struggling families and individuals who come to our Comprehensive Family Resource Center (CFRC).

Help share the Easter message of renewal, rebirth and redemption with hurting men, women and families!

Whether through job training, English classes or mental health services, your giving will spark a glimmer of hope in someone who comes to the CFRC for help this Easter.

But above all, you'll open the door to Christ's love, introducing His everlasting hope in a way that matters to them. Make this Easter a life-changing day for men, women and children across Metro D.C.!



Magnifying God with our mission



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Our mission statement is not what people expect.

They tend to think it's about sheltering and feeding the homeless. But we have a big goal

before we even provide a meal or bed to sleep in.

Our mission means what it says: to glorify God through sharing the Gospel. Part of the way we do that is by serving the needs of hurting people across the D.C. metro area.

Everything we do here is all for the glory of God. If we accomplish just one thing at the end of the day, we want it to be people coming to faith in Jesus. This vision is the foundation for our community meals, our men's shelter and our family center.

"My hope is that this Easter, God will be magnified through our mission."

I want men in our shelter to feel connected to the Lord and people at our family center to experience the same. And not in a way that evaporates at the end of the day, but in a way that is truly transformative.

Regardless of their circumstances, I want every guest to know they have salvation in Christ and the victory has already been won for them.

Thank you for all you do to help share the Easter message of renewal, rebirth and redemption!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joe'.



UPDATE YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Carry on your legacy

Your will is the ultimate opportunity to share what's most important with your loved ones. Show your family the values closest to your heart and inspire them to carry on your legacy! Here's how you can get started:

Write a legacy love letter.

A cover letter for your estate plan outlines guiding principles and future wishes for your family. Contact us for a free worksheet to write your own.

Include a gift in your will to Central Union Mission.

An in-will gift makes your priorities clear and ensures we'll always be here to restore lives across Metro D.C.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Are You Talking to Your Family About What Matters Most?" by contacting Megan Schmoll at (202) 745-7118 ext. 219 or mschmoll@missiondc.org.

Or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at missiondc.christianwill.org.

Your Easter gift today can be someone's fresh start

Restoration starts with a warm bed. A bag of groceries. A job training class. A nourishing meal surrounded by people who genuinely care.

Restoration starts with your generosity—but it's completed by the finished work of Jesus on the cross. That's the life-changing hope you'll share with your gift today.

Every \$3.21 provides a hot Easter meal, opens the door to life-changing programs at the Mission and introduces someone to God's healing love.

Your compassion can accomplish so much. Please give your best gift today so Easter can be a life-altering experience for people who need vital care and a fresh start in Jesus Christ.



Give now to share meals and restorative care with people in need this Easter!

3 EASY WAYS TO CHANGE A LIFE

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

2 GIVE ONLINE by visiting missiondc.org/marchnl

3 SCAN HERE with your mobile device.

