

the

missionary

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YOU LIFTED JAMES OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

He was homeless in Union Station, wondering, *Where do I go from here?* . . .

“Homelessness is a pill no one ever wants to swallow,” says James. “But it happened to me. It just takes the right amount of wrong circumstances.”

For James, those circumstances were losing his mom . . . and his home.

James was living with his mother as her full-time caregiver. So when she passed away, he had no job to

fall back on. “We had to sell the home, and I became homeless,” he says.

In perfect timing, a neighbor connected James with the Mission. He went through the Fresh Start program, secured a full-time job and got his own apartment. James was finally regaining his footing . . . until he lost his job. Eviction came knocking. And James found himself

Continued inside ▶

James’ story (Continued from Page 1)

homeless—again.

“I was spending my days in Union Station, wondering, *Where do I go from here?*” Because you give, James knew where he could find stabilizing help in his crisis.

“When I came back to the Mission, I was penniless,” he says. “I didn’t have anything but my clothes and my pity.”

“BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS”
As James walked through the Mission’s doors for a second time, all shame melted away. “No one gets turned away here, regardless of their situation,” says James. “That means a lot to a person who has no one.”

“No one gets turned away here . . .”

Because you give, James had access to every tool and resource he needed. He received a culinary certificate through DC Central Kitchen and, today, works full-time at Mission Muffins as a baker.

“Coming out with a certificate in your hand makes a difference in society,” he says. “I believe in my heart God has bigger and better things for me to accomplish.”

The Spiritual Transformation program—made possible by your generosity—equipped James to build a firm foundation on Christ. Daily, he “taps into the Bible” and gets to grow in Christ-centered community.

“If you were on the outside seeking spiritual counseling, it would cost you a fortune. But here you get it for free,” says James.

To you, James says thank you. He plans to one day give alongside you.

“Without the Mission, I’d be hopping from family member to family member,” says James. “But I’m independent. This place is a great kickstart in the right direction without being on the street, in a tent or under a bridge. Thank you so much for giving.”



Men have a brighter future because of YOU!

Five graduates of our Restoration & Transformation Program thank you

Restoration & Transformation Program—our 16-month residential program—offers men the chance to heal from homelessness, walk in lasting sobriety and become self-sufficient again.

This past July, five men completed the program and are starting their next step in recovery!

“I’m just so thankful that it was through the Mission that I’m able to see clearly now. Without this place, I don’t know what would have happened to me, because I was at my breaking point.”

—ANTHONY



A summer of second chances



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Vacations. Family barbeques. Road trips. You’ve probably enjoyed at least one of these so far this summer—as you should!

I’m also soaking up summer with my family—but also thinking of those across the D.C. area who are struggling with hunger and housing. Summer is a tough time for them. They feel the sting of being left behind.

Summer at the Mission looks very different. It becomes a season of second chances . . . because you give.

Every day, thanks to you and other compassionate friends, men, women and families in our community receive the physical care they need.

But you give more than safe shelter and meals. You give renewed purpose, a place to belong and hope in Christ.

Transformation happens through relationship. When a hungry, homeless or hurting individual is seen, valued and invited into real community, healing begins. That’s the heart of everything we do at the Mission—and the heart behind your generous giving. Thank you!

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

THANK YOU
for giving to restore lives, dignity and hope!



Just \$3.21 can end poverty for a person in need

Who would want to spend summer skipping meals, fearing eviction or sitting on the streetside for 12 hours in the heat and humidity?

It's a no-brainer question. Many people across the D.C. area **want** to answer no—but they don't have a choice. Because they're struggling in poverty and can't see a way out.

Will you help turn their crisis around and give them the tools they need to break the cycle of homelessness and hunger?

This summer, every \$3.21 you give will provide a meal and more. Your gift will address physical, emotional and spiritual needs—leading to lifelong transformation.



We don't want to turn anyone away, so we need support from our prayer warriors and compassionate friends. Please give the best gift you can, knowing it goes a long way to make a lasting impact.



3 meaningful gifts you can give your family

You can unlock meaningful gifts for your loved ones when you create or update your will! Here are three your family will treasure:

1. THE GIFT OF CLARITY

Having a will in place means your family won't have to guess (or worse, disagree about) your wishes after you're gone.

2. THE GIFT OF SIMPLICITY

A will maintains your instructions in one location so your loved ones can easily find what they need and understand next steps.

3. THE GIFT OF LOVE

Psalm 145:4 reads, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts" (NIV). Your will is an opportunity to communicate your faith and values. And when you make a gift in your will to Central Union Mission, you share that legacy of love with your family.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Gifts Your Family Will Always Treasure" 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 gift of meals and vital care will transform lives in the D.C. area!

3 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR LOCAL IMPACT

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

2 GIVE ONLINE by visiting missiondc.org/AugustNewsletter25.

3 SCAN HERE with your mobile device.

