

# the missionary

OCTOBER 2025

## “Whatever you need is right here”

Thanks to YOU, Michael is seven years sober . . . and helping others find hope and transformation, too!

The cold November air cut through Michael’s clothes as he stepped out of the prison doors. He was free, but after four and a half years behind bars, he had no home to return to. No family waiting. No warm jacket to shield him from the wind.

Michael had known the streets off and on since the late ’80s. Battling a drug addiction that had consumed him for decades of his life, he had reached his breaking point.

Fortunately, someone had handed him a pamphlet for Central Union Mission just before he left prison.

### “A BLESSING”

Michael arrived early the next day. He says, “I had breakfast and I’ve been here ever since.”

The smell of hot food, the warmth of a bed, clean clothes—these simple things meant the world to him after lacking these things for so long. To Michael, it was all simply “a blessing.”

“When I came here, I came with nothing but the clothes on my back,” he recalls. “They serve three hot meals



*Special*  
Thanksgiving  
Edition

Continued inside ►

# \$10,000 CHALLENGE GRANT WILL DOU



## MICHAEL'S STORY . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

a day. I got a warm bed to sleep in. They gave me clothes, toiletries.”

The meals and shelter met Michael’s physical needs—but it was the spiritual support that truly transformed him. Hungry for more than just food, he joined the Fresh Start program determined to rebuild not only his life, but his *soul*.

“Nothing kept me clean until I found God. I don’t drink, I don’t smoke, I don’t use drugs anymore,” he declares. “I used to do all of it. Now? None of it. I’ve been clean for seven years.”

Then there were the holidays. The Mission made them truly special. For Michael, they brought unexpected joy. He remembers holiday dinners of turkey, candied yams and pies of every kind. Volunteers serving food with a smile. Laughter in the air. And something

Michael hadn’t had in years—Christmas gifts.

“The meals were dynamite,” he says. “And I got gifts—two or three times over the holidays.”

Today, Michael is a transformed man. He’s passionate about telling his story to others who are still in the grip of addiction.

His message to them? “Don’t hesitate. Be willing to listen. Be willing to let someone help you. This is the perfect place to get your life together, to be in a relationship with God and to get help. Whatever you need is right here.”

**Thanks to you, Michael has found new hope and purpose for his life! Today, your impact will be DOUBLED through a \$10,000 Challenge Grant to help more people find the path to change!**

**“The Mission saved my life. I would probably be back in prison by now.”**

— Michael

**Every \$3.21**  
will DOUBLE to provide Thanksgiving meals and more!

### "IN THEIR OWN WORDS"

## You make the "more" possible!

You've probably heard us say it before . . . "A meal is just the beginning." But what does that *really* mean?

**To find out, we asked those who know best—guests at the Mission whose lives have been touched by your generosity. Here's what they shared:**



"People I barely knew loved on me and helped me into the program. I was motivated."

— Anthony



"My life has changed. I was so depressed . . . coming here has really healed me."

— Crystal



"This is where God wants me to be. He's got better and bigger things for me to accomplish."

— James

A holiday meal means more than food—it's a moment of dignity. A sign that someone cares.

As guests sit down to a warm, nourishing meal, they also hear about the support and services available to them—from safe shelter to spiritual care. That simple meal becomes a doorway to healing, stability and a fresh start in Christ.

Because of you, their Thanksgiving doesn't end with loneliness or hunger—it becomes a turning point filled with hope.

Thank you for making the "more" possible!

## Count yourself as a blessing



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

This Thanksgiving, I hope you know how much you've blessed others.

Because of you, people in crisis who might have spent the holiday cold, hungry and alone will instead sit down to a nourishing meal—served with dignity and love. You've made it possible for people battling homelessness, addiction and poverty in the DC area to begin again.

For many of our guests—just like Michael, whose story starts on page 1—that first meal is the beginning of a new story—a story of stability, healing and hope in Christ.

After years on the streets and in prison, he found not only meals and shelter, but spiritual renewal and a pathway to a new life . . . thanks to *you*.

Stories like his remind me that your generosity isn't just about meeting immediate needs—it's *about changing lives*.

***Thank you again for being a part of the healing and restoration that goes on every day at the Mission. I'm deeply grateful for your compassion and partnership.***



# Twice the meals. Twice the blessings!

The warmth of a home, the smell of a holiday meal, the joy of belonging—these are gifts we often take for granted at Thanksgiving.

But for someone facing hunger and homelessness, they're distant hopes. You can be the answer to that prayer—and today, **your gift will DOUBLE, dollar for dollar, thanks to a \$10,000 Challenge Match.**

When you give today, you'll do

more than fill an empty plate. You'll offer comfort, dignity and access to life-changing care—resources that can help break the cycle of poverty and addiction for good.

## And it starts with just one meal.

Please send your gift to be DOUBLED today—so everyone who walks through our doors this holiday season feels seen, cared for and truly loved.



## How you can give bigger

Two men went fishing with plans to cook their catch. One quickly caught a fish. The other waited for hours. Finally, he caught a huge one but threw it back.

"Why did you do that?" his friend asked. "I didn't bring a pan large enough to cook him!" he replied.

Like the second fisherman, many people miss bigger opportunities—such as giving from retirement assets instead of just cash. They allow you to:

### 1. INCREASE YOUR IMPACT.

Donating retirement assets to a charity instead of giving cash means you can give from pre-tax assets and save your cash while your distribution does not count toward taxable income.

**2. LEAVE A LEGACY.** When you include a gift in your estate plan to a charitable organization you're passionate about, it sustains their work and makes a difference in people's lives.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Surprising Instance Where Cash Isn't King" by contacting Megan Schmoll at (202) 745-7118 ext. 219 or [mschmoll@missiondc.org](mailto:mschmoll@missiondc.org)—or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at [missiondc.christianwill.org](http://missiondc.christianwill.org).*



**Every dollar you give will stay right here in our community to make a local impact!**

## 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/OctNewsletter25](http://missiondc.org/OctNewsletter25)**

