

You gave Danny a second chance at life

Because of you, Danny found warmth, purpose and community

For over a decade, Danny drifted through life “just trying to stay out of trouble and other people’s way.”

At 68 years old, this veteran had spent 10 to 15 years homeless, sleeping wherever he could find a place to lay his head. “Survival,” he explains simply. “That’s all I was thinking about.”

His journey to homelessness began with a terrifying moment. Working as a maintenance mechanic, he got into an argument with his supervisor one day. That’s when, Danny says, “he pulled a gun on me. He told me, ‘People like you get shot.’ I left the job the next day.”

What followed was years of instability—working here and there, then losing work again.

Eventually Danny made his way to Washington, DC, with no family, no support and no place to stay. “I came here looking for veterans’ benefits,”

Continued inside ►



Give a \$3.21 Christmas meal and more . . . the



“We’re all in it together,” says Danny. Your generosity paved the way to a deeper faith and a heart to serve others.

**Just
\$3.21**
will provide a meal
and vital care this
Christmas!

Danny’s story . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

he says. “But being in a city where you don’t know anybody? It’s hard.”

After a few months on the streets, a guy in a sleeping bag told him about “a place down the street” with programs. It turned out to be Central Union Mission.

“The people here—that’s what’s special.”

—Danny

Beyond a bed and a hot meal, Danny found something he hadn’t felt in a long time: community. “The people here—that’s what’s special,” he says. “We’re all in it together.”

He’s now a few months into the Restoration and Transformation Program, which has helped him rebuild in body, mind and spirit.

Thanks to you, Danny has also reconnected with his faith.

“It strengthens me. It exalts me. I try to pray seven times a day.” Nightly chapel also made a real impact: “My faith got stronger here,” he says.

Last Thanksgiving, Danny didn’t just receive a meal—he helped serve it. “It was all you can eat,” he remembers. “And I was part of the preparation. That meant a lot to me.” To the generous friends like you who helped make his journey possible, he says, “Your money is very well spent. Thank you very, very much.”

This Christmas, every \$3.21 you give will provide a hot meal and open the door to transformation—just like it did for Danny. Please give today!



Meals, groceries, shelter and more!

You make this a season of hope and restoration!

This holiday season, your generosity is reaching far and wide across the DC area! Here are the ways the Mission is meeting the needs of men, women and children experiencing poverty—thanks to you:



Our annual **Show Some Love** event for men in our residential program, complete with a Christmas dinner and gifts.



Cold weather **emergency shelter** for men struggling on the streets.



Holiday groceries for families at our Comprehensive Family Resource Center (CFRC) and Mission: NOVA.



Operation Christmas Miracle **toy drive** for children experiencing poverty.

Thank you for your support this Christmas!

Celebrating lives this Christmas



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Christmas at Central Union Mission is far more than just meals and decorations. It's about reminding every

person who walks through our doors that they are loved, valued and seen by God.

This season, along with meeting the most immediate needs, we aim to celebrate lives.


“Our guests don’t just receive gifts—they receive the message that they are loved as children of God.”

Through Show Some Love, our holiday outreach, men in our program don’t just receive gifts—they receive the message that they are loved as children of God.

Additionally, families at Mission: NOVA and the Comprehensive Family Resource Center can give their children a wonderful Christmas through our Operation Christmas Miracle toy drive.

Every year, I’m deeply moved by our community coming together to create a sacred space for our guests. Thank you for partnering with us to make it happen!

Giving and living a legacy of generosity



Every meal you provide fills an empty stomach and restores hope!

It all starts with a \$3.21 meal—and a lot of love!

If you were facing Christmas alone—cold, hungry and unsure of tomorrow—what would bring you comfort?

Sometimes, it's the simplest things that mean the most.

A hot meal.

A warm smile.

A place to feel safe, even for just a moment.

This Christmas, your gift of \$3.21 can do more than fill an empty plate—it can spark real hope and lasting change.

Please give today. Your kindness could be the Christmas miracle someone has been praying for.



As Anne gathered items for a seasonal centerpiece, she found mementos from holidays past. She thought: *What if these small treasures could be the table's focal point?*

The holiday season is an ideal time to honor the generosity of those who have gone before and to live out the legacy they've left.

GET SOMETHING GROWING. Plant a living reminder of a loved one to share that beauty with others.

FOSTER NEW TRADITIONS. Think of activities that made you and your loved one smile. Put them into practice in a way that encourages others.

SERVE OTHERS. Volunteer with a cause that was important to your loved one.

GIVE IN THEIR MEMORY. Leave a gift in your will to Central Union Mission as a lasting tribute.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "4 Ways to Pass on a Legacy of Love" 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.

3 EASY STEPS to transform a life locally this Christmas season



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/NovNewsletter25