

YOU KEPT HER FROM FALLING INTO POVERTY

**Angelica couldn't see a way forward.
YOU gave her a path to stability.**

One moment, Angelica was on her feet.

The next, she was on the ground.

Her back was fractured, and she was staring up at a life that had just gotten a whole lot harder.

Angelica's injury put her out of work for four months. And all this was right after she'd relocated to the DC area to build a better life for herself and her two children.

She thought, *How will I make this work?*

The single mom was working two part-time jobs, stretching everything she could to provide for her family. Angelica was making sacrifices left and right. Just when it felt like it was about to pay off, one accident knocked her off her feet.

"I knew nowhere to go for help," Angelica says. "I didn't know about services like this."

But a friend did. She brought Angelica to Central Union Mission's Mission: NOVA center in Arlington. And thanks to you, what Angelica found here wasn't just a place to pick up groceries.

YOU GAVE HER A WAY UP AND OUT

"When I come here, I feel comfortable," Angelica says. "I feel welcome."

That matters more than you might think. When



Continued inside ►

Every \$3.21 will provide a meal and services that

Angelica's story (Continued from Page 1)

your world has been turned upside down, walking into a room where people are glad you're there can change your whole day. Your support makes that possible.

Fresh groceries and clean clothes opened the door for Angelica to find something more: employment guidance. She got to sit down with one of the Mission's counselors and make a plan of action to get herself back into self-sufficiency.

When Angelica mentioned her background of working in a veterinarian clinic, the counselor didn't hesitate to encourage her: "If your dream is to be a veterinarian, you

can do it no matter what. It's going to be hard work, but you can do it." Those words lit a fire under Angelica. "The tips and motivation inspired me to progress," she says. "It really helped me wake up."

Your generosity starts with physical care. But then it provides support every step of the way so someone like Angelica can turn *surviving* into *transformational living*.

You gave Angelica a place to land and a path forward so she didn't fall into homelessness or hunger. Thank you for lifting her and so many others out of poverty!

**"I didn't
know about
services like
this."**

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

Mission: NOVA
A Ministry of
Central Union Mission



lift the burden of poverty!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A hidden opportunity



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Something has been on my mind this summer. And I'm sure it's been in your conversations.

Businesses and industries across the DMV are struggling to find workers. The labor shortage is a real problem.

But at the Mission, it's an incredible opportunity.

The career counseling, job-skills training and workforce development programs you make possible are equipping people for meaningful jobs that fill the gap in the DC marketplace. We're talking about *real* jobs. Liveable wages. A foundation to build a life on.

The confidence that comes from hands-on experience and skills training is priceless. And you make it all possible.

We're seeing men carry themselves differently than they ever have. Single parents like Angelica (her story starts on page 1) trade survival mode for self-sufficiency. And it wouldn't be possible without you.

Your faithfulness as a prayer warrior and partner is what keeps these resources always available. You're not just funding an ESL class or a certificate. You're helping someone believe their life can look different.

I'm grateful. What you make possible matters more than I can say.



BRIDGING THE TRADES GAP, TRANSFORMING LIVES

You are restoring dignity and purpose through valuable skills training and job preparation!

Across the DMV, a crisis is growing quietly: the skilled trades gap.

Hundreds of jobs in construction, electrical work, HVAC and other trades remain unfilled. At the same time, men and women in our community are searching for real opportunities to rebuild their lives.

They are the answer to the skilled worker gap. All they need is training.

Your gift is providing a path forward for individuals who want to step out of survival mode and into a meaningful career!

PREPARE: You equip people with job training, soft-skills development, work therapy and more.

PARTNER: You open the door to collaborations with employers, trade organizations and training programs, connecting the right people with the right opportunities.

PLACE: You directly connect skilled workers with living-wage employment!

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

Nobody wants to sit outside for 12 hours in a humid DMV summer. Nobody wants to skip meals. Or wonder if tonight is their last night with a roof over their head.

But right now, people in our community are living in that fearful reality. Not because they want to. Because they haven't found a way out yet.

That's where you come in.

Your gift of just \$3.21 puts a full meal on the table *and* opens the door to something lasting: immediate help and long-term support that break the cycle of poverty for good.

This summer, will you be the reason someone's story turns from survival to self-sufficiency? Your gift today will go straight to work meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs for people in the DC area who need it most.



When life changes, so should your will

August is National Make-A-Will month! There's no better time for you to update yours (or if you haven't yet created a will, you can start today!).

As you evaluate your will and changes in your life that might affect it, prayerfully consider these three questions:

1. GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Does it reflect the beliefs and values I want to pass on to the next generation?

2. VALUE ALIGNMENT

Does it align with my family's values, my faith and my charitable goals?

3. CLEAR VISION

Does it reflect my heart for my church and the organizations I believe in?

Including a gift to Central Union Mission in your will is a meaningful way to pass on your values and change lives.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Has Your Will Kept Up with Your Life?" 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 now of meals and vital care will transform lives!

3 WAYS TO CHANGE A LIFE IN THE DC AREA

1

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

2

GIVE ONLINE by visiting missiondc.org/AugustNewsletter26

3

SCAN HERE with your mobile device.

