

the

missionary

DECEMBER 2025

Thanks to you, he's writing a new family story

Andre was numbing with drugs and sleeping at the National Mall. Until one question changed everything ...

This is the bottom of the bottom, Andre thought when he walked through the Mission's doors for the first time. He'd been drifting from friends' couches to trains to long nights sleeping at the National Mall.

Life looked normal not long before this. Andre owned a landscaping company and was raising his son. But when family conflict flared up and financial strain intensified, life started to break down from the inside out. "I started using drugs to cope and run away," says Andre. "I knew something was wrong."

It wasn't sleeping in a park or his business failing that hurt Andre the most. It was the thought of his son growing up just like Andre did . . . with an absent dad.

Andre's own father wrestled with addiction and homelessness. With an "in and out" dad, he grew up in the foster care system. "I looked at myself and thought, *Do I want this for my son?*" says Andre. "It's a pain I can't



Continued inside ▶

A \$100,000 Christmas Challenge Grant is in effect! Every \$



Christmas
Challenge Grant
will **DOUBLE**
your impact!

Andre's new family story (Continued from pg. 1)

describe,” he says. “But it’s a motivational pain.”

Growing up without a dad was the last thing Andre wanted for his boy.

Andre knows his way to the Mission is no coincidence. He happened to pass his dad on the street one day, not even saying hello . . .

But something tugged at his heart.

Andre got his dad’s number from his brother and discovered his dad was in recovery at the Mission.

“He told me to come down here,” says Andre. That step through the doors was the beginning of healing, restoration and a new purpose.

BREAKING GENERATIONAL CYCLES

Because you give, Andre found more than food, shelter and stability. He found a new way to live through anger management classes, life-skills training, workforce development,

discipleship and more. He calls the Mission “a unique place” that breaks the stigmas of shelters.

“People in this building really care about you,” says Andre. “You’ve got mother figures. You’ve got father figures. You’ve got friends. It’s a family. If you never felt like you belonged anywhere, you can belong here. The Mission gives you hope to overcome.”

Today, Andre is training to become a peer support advocate, giving back to others at the Mission who are struggling like he once was. He’s mending his family relationships, spending priceless time with his son every weekend. It gives him courage to stop the generational cycle in its tracks.

“My father battled it. I’m battling it. I want to end it with my son,” says Andre. “Central Union Mission has given me tools to help me and guide me. And I’m going to pass them down to my son.”

Thank you for the transformational work you’ve made possible in Andre’s life. He says, “You’ve given me my life back forever.”

***“The Mission
gives you hope
to overcome.”***

Give Christmas JOY to people who have none!

Your generosity is an answer to their prayers

Nothing is special about Christmas when you're wandering the cold streets. Opening an empty fridge. Numbing with addiction. That's why, with help from you and our Mission friends, we go all out to restore the joy of Christmas!



Give Christmas gifts to children in poverty!

Through Operation Christmas Miracle, families who come to our doors for support receive presents! We expect to provide gifts for more than 500 children in the community. Sponsor a child (gifts due December 12) and join us to spread joy.

"At Christmas, I felt welcomed. My daughter was very happy with her gift. I was also grateful for the winter coat and Thanksgiving turkey!"

—Lisett

Lift up men hurting from homelessness

We pull out all the stops for men who walk through our shelter doors. At our Show Some Love event on December 12, men get a full afternoon of pampering: haircuts, holiday music, fellowship, gift bags and an elegant dinner.



Across our family ministry, senior ministry and men's shelter, we plan to provide

198,000

meals this holiday season!



Good News for the forgotten



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

At Christmas, we remember God's greatest gift: Immanuel, God with us. *What a wonder!*

It's no accident that the shepherds were the first to hear the good news. They were poor, overlooked and living on the margins of society. Yet God chose them to receive His great joy first.

Your generosity does the same. The Mission exists to bring hope to those the world overlooks.

Christmas reminds us that Jesus came into our darkness to bring light. This is the same message that fuels our work every day of the year. Because of your prayers and generosity, men, women and children who may have felt forgotten will experience the love of Christ.

Together, we'll serve thousands of meals. Provide gifts for children. Invite people to find stability through services and programs. We rejoice to meet these physical needs. But the greatest joy is introducing people to the One who changes everything: Jesus.

That is the true gift you give. Thank you for being part of this ministry of hope!



Giving and living your legacy

Time around the holiday table brings back memories of loved ones who shaped our lives. What better time than this season of joy to honor their legacy and consider how you might pass on your own?

1. GET SOMETHING GROWING.

Planting a living reminder of a family member or friend allows you to share the beauty of their life with others.

2. START NEW TRADITIONS.

What activities would have made your loved one smile? Put them into practice!

3. SERVE OTHERS. Volunteering at the Mission or with another important cause honors what mattered to your loved one as well as making an impact.

4. GIVE IN THEIR MEMORY. A gift in your will to Central Union Mission is a lasting tribute to their legacy of love.

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

Change even more lives this Christmas!

Every \$3.21 you give now will DOUBLE in impact

Across the DC area, men are shivering on park benches. Families are skipping meals. Single moms are wondering how they'll tell their children there will be no presents this year. This is no way to spend Christmas.

But right now, you can change everything. **Thanks to a generous \$100,000 Christmas Challenge Grant, every \$3.21 you give will be doubled in impact** to provide two hot, nourishing meals, along with safe shelter and effective Christ-centered care, for a community member in desperate need.

Your gift doesn't just fill an empty stomach. It restores dignity, independence and hope to someone who feels forgotten.

There's still time to make a difference before year-end, but the challenge funds are in effect only until Wednesday, December 31. Please give today and help transform despair into joy for people facing poverty.

3 WAYS TO BLESS TWICE as many people in need

1 GIVE BY MAIL.

Send your gift along with the reply form and meal ticket of your choice in the enclosed envelope.

2

GIVE ONLINE

at missiondc.org/DecemberNL25.

3

SCAN HERE with your mobile device.



facebook.com/missiondc.org



twitter.com/CentralUnion



instagram.com/CentralUnionMission