

YOU GOT HIM BACK UP ON HIS FEET

Everything was going *right* for Anthony. . .
until it wasn't. But thanks to you, he had a
safe place to land and bounce back stronger!

Anthony has spent his whole life in the DMV.

He built a career here, first as a technical illustrator, then as
a government contractor. He was good at his work. Really
good.

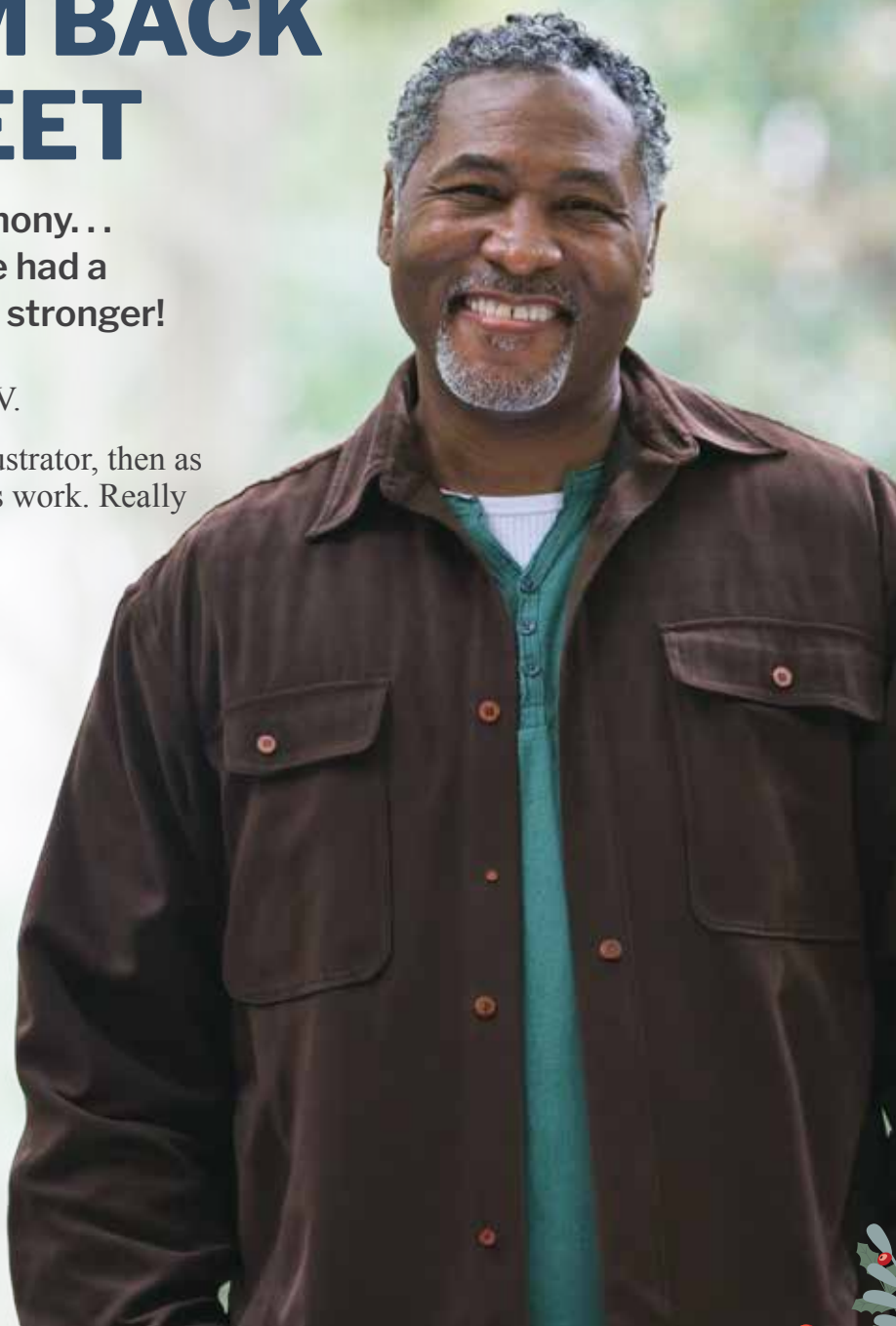
But contract work never guarantees a steady
paycheck.

"There were pockets of unemployment,"
says Anthony. "But slowly, it extended over
time. I had exhausted my resources, and it
snowballed into a position where I didn't
have any income to cover me."

Anthony didn't have family close by who
could help. He'd spent his savings. So he
did the hardest thing. . . he sought shelter.

"When family members fall short and
friends can only do so much. . . when
it's just you and the man above. . . that's
the time when your faith is tested," says
Anthony. He'd heard stories, and he didn't

Continued inside ►





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



Anthony's story of resilience (Continued from pg. 1)

know what to think of sleeping in a shelter.
Would he feel safe?

When a friend told him about Central Union Mission, all of Anthony's fears lifted.

"Thank goodness God brought me here," he says. "This place offered accommodations that were pleasing. There is a sense of leadership and structure. Unlike other places, the Mission has that extra layer of spirituality."

Your generosity gave Anthony more than momentary stability. You gave him the time and resources he needed to get back up on his feet again.

STRONGER IN EVERY WAY

Thanks to your support, Anthony was able to meet with a case manager at the Mission and create a personalized plan to get him back to financial stability. He grew through counseling, community, and a deepening connection to Christ. He calls his time here "a rebirth."

"This experience has drawn me closer to God,"

says Anthony. "It has made me more spiritually centered, helping me to cope with the temporary setback."

Today, Anthony is working toward a three-year goal: living in a home of his own again, starting a family, and pouring into the next generation.

"I know now more than ever what my gifts are.

And for the first time, I'm confident about how I can use them," says Anthony. "With God, all things are possible. I'm looking forward to living a life with a new sense of independence and freedom."

To you, he gives his deepest gratitude and encouragement.

"You might not see the finished product when you send a gift," he says. "But know that your impact is tangible. People's lives have been changed tangibly. They're prevented from falling back into the same situations."

Thank you for helping people in the DMV like Anthony get back on their feet and back to self-sufficiency!

***"Thank
goodness God
brought me
here."***

Give JOY to people facing poverty this Christmas!

Your generosity is an answer to their prayers

At Christmas, men, women and children need are longing for more than gifts under a tree. They want to know that their story doesn't end in eviction, hunger and despair. That's why, with help from you and Mission friends, we go all out to restore joy at Christmas!

Give Christmas gifts to children in poverty!

Through Operation Christmas Miracle, families will get to open gifts they might not otherwise receive. Last year, **more than 900 children** received presents because you and other generous friends gave!



Lift up men hurting from homelessness

At our Show Some Love event, men staying in our shelter get a full afternoon of pampering: haircuts, 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!

Making room



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

You know the line in the story of Jesus' birth: "there was no room for them." Often, I read those words and think about our guests.

I think about a man like Anthony (his story starts on page 1), standing outside a shelter with nowhere else to go. I think about how many doors have closed on men, women and children facing poverty. . . doors to opportunity, to jobs, to stability.

That's the story Christmas begins with. A door that wouldn't open.

But God makes a way out of no way. He turns ashes into beauty. He takes a stable and turns it into a place of peace on earth.

Because of you, people here in the DMV who are out of options will find the only option that matters: Jesus.

The best part is, they'll find Him through a hot meal, shelter, career counseling and everything else you help provide inside our doors.

God bless you this Christmas for making room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Joe".



Pass down more than possessions

In this age of digital giving, the next generation doesn't often see what and how we give. Has your giving become invisible to your loved ones? It's time to talk about how and why you give!

This Christmas, consider these giving ideas:

SHARE YOUR HISTORY

Tell your loved ones how you learned to give from your parents and grandparents.

START A TRADITION

Give your grandkids money at Thanksgiving with a goal to donate it before Christmas. They'll have a story for when you gather!

STEWARD A MINDSET

Your will is a chance to communicate your values and causes you care about, like the Mission. Challenge generations after you to make their impact!

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Lasting Legacy of Visible Generosity" 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.

Change even more lives this Christmas!

Give by Dec. 31 and your impact will be **DOUBLED**

Right now, a \$100,000 Christmas Challenge Grant is in effect.

That means every \$3.21 you give before midnight on Thursday, December 31, will be doubled in impact to provide two hot, nourishing meals, along with safe shelter and Christ-centered care.

Your gift will go twice as far so the man sleeping on a park bench can find warmth and compassion. So the family skipping meals won't have to fear hunger anymore. So the single mom with no means to buy presents can experience the joy of Christmas with her children.

Your gift doesn't stop at physical needs. It restores dignity, independence and stability for someone who wants to break the cycle of poverty in their life.

Please give now to lift the burden of homelessness and hunger!

3 WAYS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Help TWICE as many people find safety, stability and hope!

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/DecemberNL26.

3

SCAN HERE with your mobile device.



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twitter.com/CentralUnion



instagram.com/CentralUnionMission