

## You gave Milton a home and a new life

He was living out of his van in the winter when he found the Mission. . .

Milton had no backup options. So he curled himself up in the back seat. No home, no family. Just his van parked wherever felt safe enough.

“Day by day, I thought, *I can just deal with this*,” says Milton. But it wasn’t long before he reached the point of desperation. . . the point of asking for help.

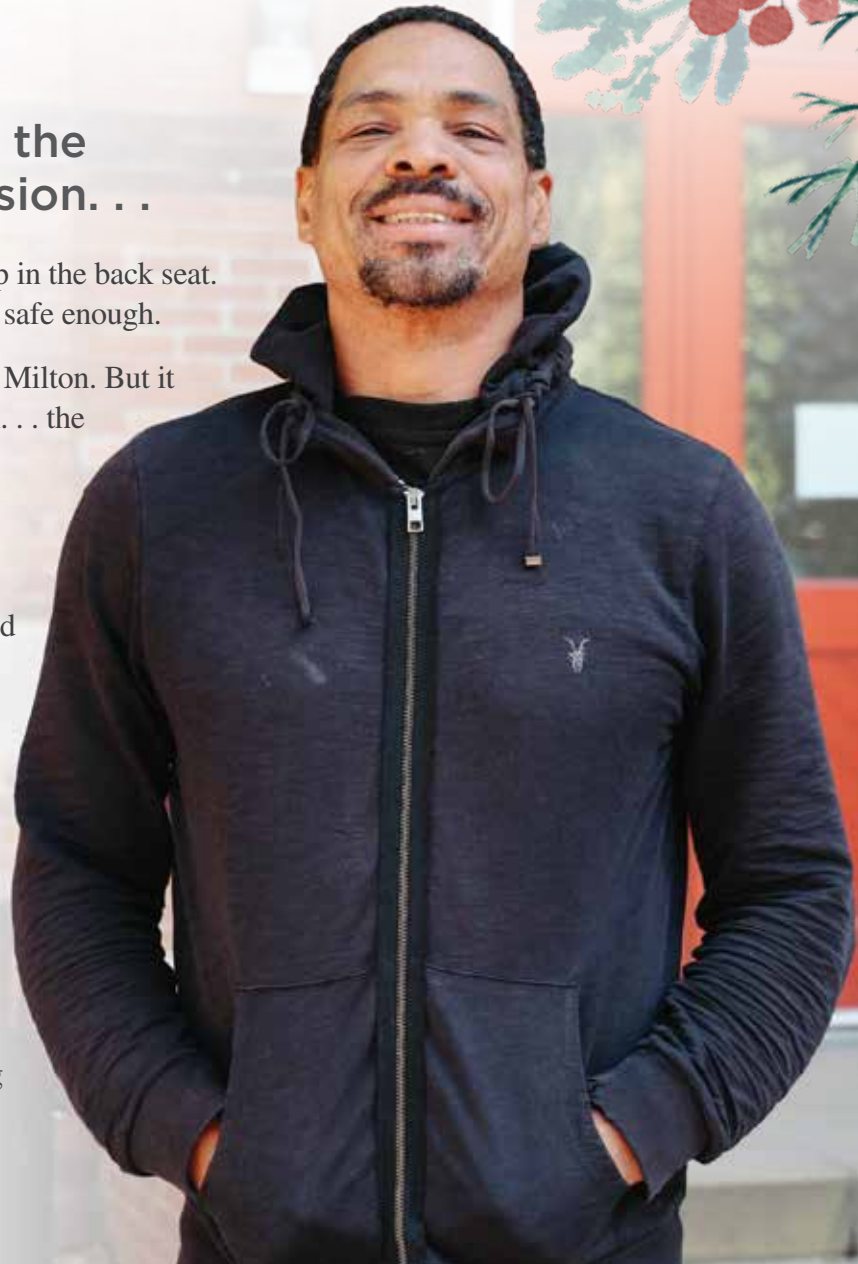
### A SWIRL OF GRIEF

Milton’s life hadn’t always been this way. He was the faithful caretaker for his mother, living in her home and staying by her side. When doctors found stage four lung cancer, “life went from zero to a hundred.” She hadn’t smoked a cigarette in her life.

“From that moment, everything changed,” says Milton.

Milton watched the woman who raised him fade. . . the woman who taught him “to love and, above all things, respect one another.” She died on Milton’s birthday. “I was left with memories and a cocktail of confusion,” says Milton. “I started drinking and smoking. I wanted to pass out. I stopped eating. I

Continued inside ►



# Every \$3.21 provides a Christmas dinner. . . and opens

"It builds you up from the inside out," says Milton about your generosity. Thank you for transforming his life in every way!

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

## Milton's story. . . (Continued from pg. 1)

lost everything."

All Milton had left was his van, which became his home.

Milton remembers squeezing himself into the back seat one evening. Winter was at his window. "It was so cold that I couldn't sleep," he says. The freezing nights wouldn't let up. While waiting at a bus stop, Milton heard about a warm place he could get some sleep.

**"I'm so glad that I  
found this place."**

**MILTON**

But he found so much more than shelter.

When Milton turned the street corner and saw the Mission's big red building, he was at the end of his rope. "I was a shell of who I used to be," he says.

Because you give, Milton was met with a hot meal, a

bed and a way forward. That night, for the first time in a long time, he slept without the cold pressing in. That simple act of compassion led to his restoration.

## YOU GAVE MILTON HIS LIFE BACK

"I am so glad that I found this place," says Milton.

Today, Milton is part of the Restoration & Transformation Program. His days are full with Bible study, substance abuse counseling and fellowship. Soon, he'll start building a resume and preparing for job interviews. His hope is to work in a nursing home and eventually coach sports. Wherever he lands, he'll never stop telling his story.

"As brutal as my past was, I can talk about it. So when I talk about the good things, I really mean it," says Milton. Above all, he wants to "leave here a better person than I was."

Thanks to you, that's more than possible.



### *Meals, groceries, shelter and more!*

# You're reaching men and families across the DMV

A holiday meal is where transformation starts. Thanks to you, it never ends there. **Here's how you're bringing transformation to our community:**



#### **MEN'S SHELTER**

Men facing homelessness will sit down for a holiday meal. That moment will remind every guest he matters and open the door to programs that heal the root causes of poverty.



#### **FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**

Thanks to you, families will receive Christmas groceries (including turkeys and hams!) and over 900 children in need will receive toys and gifts. Your generosity connects families with year-round resources!



#### **MISSION: NOVA**

You're bringing holiday miracles to families who need it! Every box of food opens the door to job readiness training, education and Christ-centered care that leads to lasting stability.

## All belong at the table



JOE METTIMANO  
President & CEO

Everyone deserves a place at the table.

Not just a plate of food, but a seat, a welcome and a reason to

believe someone still cares. When I hear Milton's story, I remember this: He said, "I could just take a breath. Because at the minimum, I could just sit down and not have to deal with the cold."

Your generosity meets a need today and gives hope for tomorrow. Every meal and every box of groceries becomes a doorway: to a conversation, a relationship and hope that lasts.

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*A holiday meal lifts the burden, yes.  
**But your compassion goes beyond that.***

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Many people assume homelessness and hunger are seasonal. They're year-round realities for our guests. The need doesn't disappear when the holidays end.

That's why I'm so grateful for you. You keep at it.

I hope your impact in this Christmas newsletter inspires you to keep giving, praying and volunteering. Not for the holidays, but for our community. Thank you for being part of this work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Joe Mettimano.



Every meal you provide brings hope, restoration and stability!

## Every \$3.21 you give provides a Christmas meal and care

A Christmas meal can't fix hunger. A safe night of sleep can't fix homelessness.

But they can be the first steps toward self-sufficiency and lasting life change.

**Every \$3.21 you give now provides more than a hot Christmas dinner or box of groceries.**

It provides a pathway out of poverty. . . through recovery programs for men, job-skills workshops, a living wage in the DC job market, family services, counseling and more.

Christmas is a season of generosity, and many people will turn to Central for help in the weeks ahead. Please give your best gift to ensure no one leaves empty handed.

## Is your generosity visible?



A businessman, known only as Secret Santa, gave \$100 bills to strangers during the holidays. Inspired, a teacher had his class do the same. They raised thousands to give away!

Don't let your generosity become invisible to the next generation. Show them how to give with these 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 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/NovNewsletter26](https://missiondc.org/NovNewsletter26)