

YOU gave Melissa a way out of poverty!

She thought her family would go hungry. . .

She wanted to build a good life for her family. To feed her children well. To watch them grow strong.

But Melissa's simple dream felt completely out of reach.

Her husband works full-time. Still, the bills are overwhelming. And with three children ages 11, 9 and 4, there are always more needs than there are dollars. Even if Melissa went back to work, affording childcare was out of the question.

After a friend told her about Central Union Mission, Melissa walked through our doors.

"I came because I needed help feeding my family," she says. "I found so much more than that."

YOU GAVE HER HOPE

On months when the bills are tight, Melissa comes to the Mission for groceries. She takes her pick of fresh food, the kind that lets her cook nourishing meals for her family.

"I want to give my kids good food," she says. "If I give them good food, they will grow

Continued inside ▶



Special
**Thanksgiving
Edition**

EVERY \$3.21 YOU GIVE WILL PROVIDE A THA



Every
\$3.21
will provide
a Thanksgiving
meal and more!

Melissa's STORY. . . (Continued from pg. 1)

strong to be good people.”

But more than physical nourishment, you gave Melissa spiritual nourishment.

At first, she came for the groceries. It was a welcome relief and assurance that Melissa and her husband had enough left over to keep a roof over their children's heads. As Melissa began to connect with people at the Comprehensive Family Resource Center, she found a community that would pray with her, encourage her and welcome her even at her lowest. *And it's thanks to you.*

Now, Melissa walks through our doors for more than groceries. She walks through our doors for community. She sits with other women twice a month for Bible study. “When I come to the Bible study, the Word

helps me reflect on my life,” Melissa says. “I find peace here.”

Even during the holidays, Melissa and her family are lacking nothing, thanks to you.

“Sometimes I cannot buy toys for my kids for Christmas,” she says. “But when I come here, I receive toys, clothing and food. I am so grateful.”

This is the impact of your giving. It fills a grocery bag. But it also opens a door to community and lasting stability. “I'm really thankful for everything I've received at this place,” Melissa says.

Thank you for helping Melissa and other families in the DMV stay in their homes and put food on the table!

**“I'm really thankful
for everything I've
received at this
place.”
— Melissa**

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS"

What's the "more" behind meals?

We don't say "A meal is more than a meal" for no reason.

To show you that your generosity goes far beyond filling empty stomachs, we asked those who know best: *guests at the Mission*. Here's what they shared:

"Before this program, I didn't know what it meant to feel safe or loved. Now I know I am a child of God, and I'm never going back."

— Charles

"I don't know where my family would be without this place. You didn't just feed me. You reminded me I still matter."

— Jennifer

"I am so grateful for every meal and what this place has done for me. They treated me like royalty! I'll always remember it."

— Alexander

THE MEAL YOU PROVIDE IS A TURNING POINT

Receiving a holiday meal or a bag of groceries is a moment of dignity that can put someone on the path to stability, self-sufficiency and lasting life change.

As guests walk through our doors, they hear about the steady support and services available to them. Because of you, their Thanksgiving doesn't end with loneliness or hunger. . . it becomes a turning point filled with hope.

Thank you for making the "more" behind meals possible!

Caring for "the one"



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

This Thanksgiving, when you sit around your table, I hope you think about "the one."

The one who had so little but now has everything they need because you chose to give. The family who thought there'd be no food on their table. The man who was suffering on the streets.

A meal is where transformation starts. But you probably know by now that the work you make possible is never just a meal.

When a person walks through our doors, they find people who welcome them by name. They're treated like a guest, not a mouth to feed. Here, they can rebuild with job training. Parenting classes. Case management. Education opportunities. And, most precious of all, Jesus.

You create a place where a mother like Melissa can find peace in the middle of a hard season. Where her children eat well. Where she hears the Word and feels like she belongs.

Stories like hers (you can find it on page 1) are why I'm so deeply grateful for your partnership. You're not just meeting a need. You're changing someone's story.



Every \$3.21 provides a hot meal, hope and more

Thanksgiving is no holiday when your pantry is empty. Or when your socks are soaked and frozen inside your shoes and you have no home to warm yourself in.

When you give, everything can change for someone facing poverty here in the DMV.

Every \$3.21 you send today will provide a hot Thanksgiving season meal, plus compassionate

care that addresses the root causes of homelessness and hunger.

We'll set the table. Your gift does the rest.

Please send your gift today so everyone who walks through our doors this holiday season knows their community cares, and that their story doesn't end with poverty.



The power of *starting*

One small gift, one small goal, one small act of obedience can change the lives of countless people. If you've been saving money in a donor advised fund (DAF), consider this your invitation to start a ripple effect. Here are 3 questions to ask yourself:

- 1. REMEMBER YOUR "WHY."** What was your vision when you started your DAF?
- 2. PICK A PARTNER.** What are your favorite ministries doing? How do they align with your "why"?
- 3. CREATE A PLAN.** What legacy do you want to last after your lifetime? Listing Central Union Mission as a beneficiary of your DAF is a way you can change lives for years to come.

For the full version of this article, request our FREE resource "From Good Intentions to Great Impact in 3 Simple Steps" 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.



Every dollar you give will stay right here in our community to make a local impact!

THANKSGIVING IS ALMOST HERE!

3 EASY STEPS to transform a life this Thanksgiving

- 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/OctNewsletter26**

