

YOU gave Mike a home for the holidays and tools to rebuild

He struggled to break the cycle. . .

Mike slid under his bedframe with a blanket. Earlier in the day, his neighbors told him they were going to shoot him. And that was only one of the death threats.

Mike was living in an apartment complex overrun by drugs. "It was the lowest point in my life and the only thing I could afford," he says. One day, he decided to give up his apartment for his own safety.

Mike had already struggled through homelessness off and on for ten years. He calls that chapter in his story a roller coaster. He can trace it all back to drug and alcohol abuse that started as a teenager. "I was trying to escape trauma," says Mike. He left home before finishing high school and has been on his own since.

A LIFE-ALTERING DECISION

Whenever Mike landed a job and started getting back on his feet, he would self-sabotage and return to numbing with drugs. "It's a cycle I couldn't break," he says. "I just couldn't stay clean. . . until I prayed to God and gave my life to him."

Continued inside ►





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Mike’s story. . . (Continued from pg. 1)

After experiencing the mercy of Jesus, Mike couldn’t stand the thought of falling back into his old cycles. He knew if he was going to be victorious and build a new life, he couldn’t stay in that apartment, afraid and alone.

STEP BY STEP

Mike arrived at the Mission during the holidays, homeless. Like many men who walk through our shelter doors, his transformation wasn’t immediate.

“For four months, I was an overnight guest,” says Mike. “I started volunteering making beds.”

Someone on staff noticed and encouraged Mike to join the Restoration and Transformation Program (RTP). A year later, he graduated. . . thanks to you.

You didn’t just give Mike a safe place to sleep when he had nowhere to go. You gave him the tools to live in sobriety, find a career and establish self-sufficiency.

“I kept my faith and started believing for a new job,” says Mike. “The Mission helped me get a full-time job. It’s the best, highest-paying job I’ve ever had.”

Simple necessities like stable housing and a car now feel within reach. So much so that Mike feels free to dream bigger. “I’d like to be able to travel,” he says. “I want to go to Jerusalem and trace the places Jesus went.”

“I am so thankful just to be alive,” says Mike. “I’m thankful for the Mission and for God putting my life back together in a way I didn’t expect.” Thank you!

Celebrating Thanksgiving at the Mission. . . *family style*

Thanksgiving at the Mission is no small affair. We go all out to make sure each guest feels loved, cared for and valued. Here's how your support makes our annual Thanksgiving celebration dignifying, welcoming and unforgettable:



FOOD: Each guest receives a hot plate filled with a heaping serving of turkey, green beans and sweet potato casserole (plus pecan pie, of course!). When a man or woman is nourished and their basic needs are met, it frees them up to focus on rebuilding their lives.



FESTIVITIES: Decorations line the halls and the tables to show each guest that they're worth the effort. Thanksgiving should be fun!



FRIENDS: A key part of our Thanksgiving celebration is experiencing it as a community. The meals are served family style, and the guests have the opportunity to make meaningful connections. . . a key part of restoring their dignity and linking arms with others on the same path.

Expanding the table for all



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

If Thanksgiving was all food but no family, it wouldn't be Thanksgiving.

Because that's the whole point of the table: *connection*.

Hunger is real. But so is isolation. People who walk through the Mission's doors don't just need food. *They need community.*

The nourishing hot meal you provide opens that door. Conversations, prayers and one-on-one connection display the dignity and love of Jesus that every guest is worthy of. At the core, everything we do flows from His great love.

That's what we're praying for this holiday season: conversations that turn into transformation, across *all* of our locations.

For years, many have known us for serving men at the shelter. We still do, every day. But through our resource centers in Northeast DC and Arlington, we're also reaching parents, children and seniors with care that meets their needs *before* they fall into homelessness.

It's on my heart to expand the table across the DMV so all who are weary and heavy laden can find not just rest, but restoration. I hope you'll help carry that call with me.

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

Change a life with every \$3.21!

Lift a person out of poverty this Thanksgiving, starting with a meal

This Thanksgiving, someone who never imagined spending Thanksgiving without a home, without food, will walk through our doors.

Hungry men, women and children will come to the Mission for help. Just as much as they need a nourishing meal, they also need to know someone sees them and cares.

Every \$3.21 you give provides a warm, nourishing meal and a seat at the table. . . a real Thanksgiving for someone who has so little, or maybe even nowhere else to go.

A seat at the table is more than an invitation to eat. It's an invitation to rise above poverty for good. Your compassion makes all of it possible. Will you send a gift today?



TURN GOOD INTENTIONS
INTO GREAT IMPACT

Allen Levi set a goal to write a full-length novel. After finishing his book, he put the manuscript in a drawer and moved on. But friends encouraged Allen to self-publish. . . and his story of generosity reached #1 on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

If you've been saving money in a donor advised fund (DAF), consider this your invitation to pull it out of the "drawer" and make a difference. Here's how:



1. REMEMBER YOUR "WHY." You had a vision when you started your DAF. Refocus on those plans and priorities.



2. GIVE TODAY. Discover what your favorite causes are doing that aligns with your vision, then make a DAF gift to transform lives.



3. CREATE A PLAN. Your DAF can continue after your lifetime. List Central Union Mission as a beneficiary of your DAF account and provide ongoing support.

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**.

Your gift of nourishing meals, vital care and Gospel hope will restore lives locally!

3 WAYS TO TRANSFORM LIVES

1

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

2

GIVE ONLINE by visiting missiondc.org/SeptemberNL26.

3

SCAN HERE with your mobile device.



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