

the missionary

MAY 2024

“Your giving saves lives”

**Robert lost everything to years of addiction—
but he found everything in Jesus Christ**

“I came to the Mission at the very bottom of myself,” says Robert.

A lifetime of addiction had robbed him of everything—his home, his health, his family. He was truly at rock bottom, and the only direction he had to go was up.

“It may have been my bottom, but it was also my beginning,” says Robert.

Struggling in the shadows

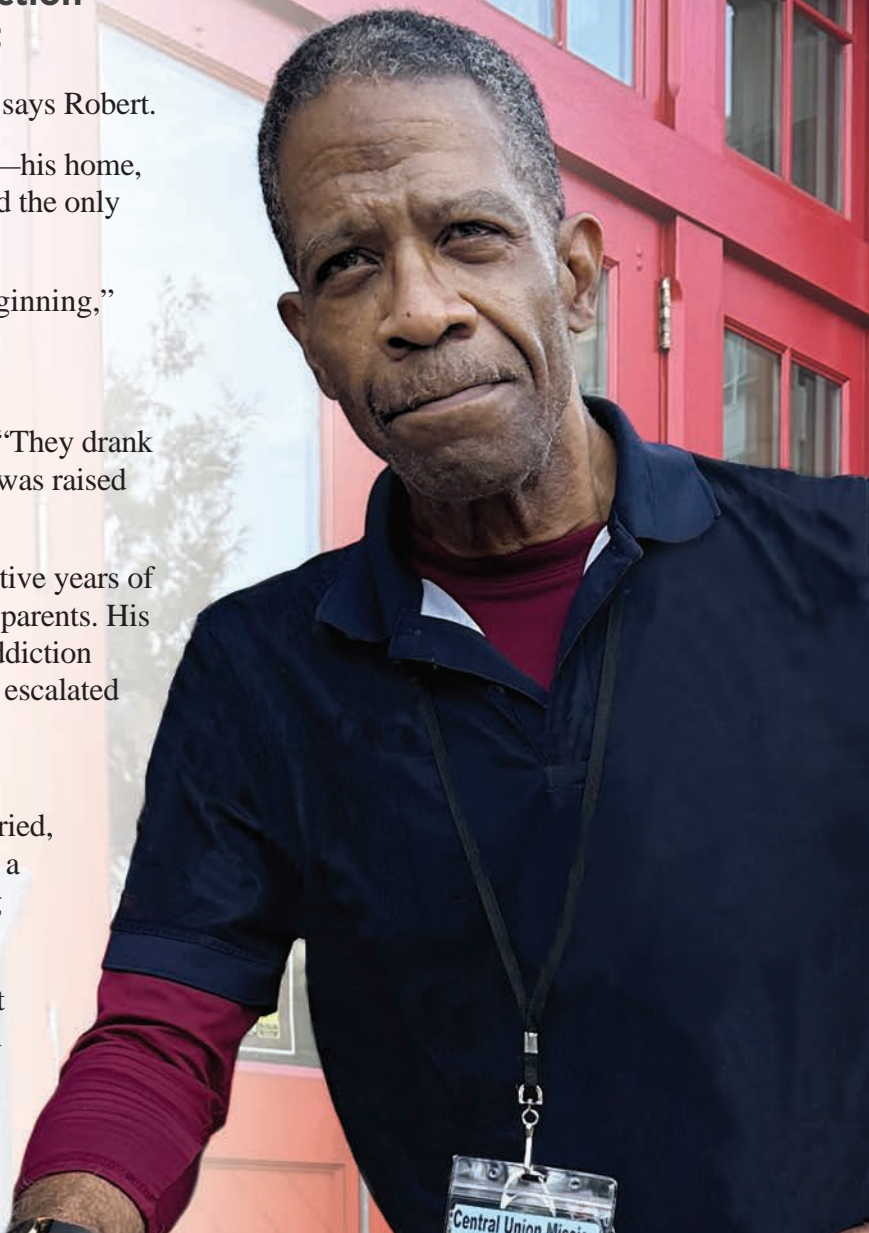
Robert calls himself the product of alcoholic parents. “They drank every day of my life,” he says. “I left home at 13 and was raised on the streets of D.C.”

Lacking a role model to walk with him in these formative years of his life, young Robert followed in the footsteps of his parents. His rocky upbringing sent him spiraling down a path of addiction that started with marijuana and drinking, then quickly escalated to hard drugs by the time he was 15.

Despite the grip addiction held on his life, Robert still functioned enough to live a “normal” life. He got married, had four beautiful children and established a career as a chef. But he could only keep up the facade for so long before it all came crashing down.

“My wife and I split because of the addiction. She just couldn’t take it anymore,” says Robert. “I was evicted from our home. I was at my bottom with nowhere to go. I burned bridges with my family. I always

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Your gift today will restore TWICE as many lives!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Your giving saves lives” (Continued from Page 1)

worked, but the jobs simply supported my addiction.”

Finding the courage to let go

At a loss, Robert began calling around for help, hoping that someone would have room to take him in. He walked through our doors looking for a place to lay his head. Thanks to your generosity, Robert found so much more.

“I was an overnight guest for about a month until I got into the program,” Robert says. “I knew I couldn’t keep trying to run my life because I had made a mess of it. God told me, ‘Let go, Robert. I’ve got this.’”

It took courage and humility for Robert to let go. But he found freedom on the other side of his surrender.

“Without the Mission, I would be dead”

Through the Restoration and Transformation program, Robert found everything he needed to rebuild—with a relationship with Jesus being the most foundational of all.

“This is God’s mercy,” he says with overwhelming gratitude. “After I left home at 13, I had no relationship with God until I came here. I’m so grateful for each day of sobriety. Without my recovery, without the Mission, I would be dead. No ifs, ands, buts or maybes.”

Robert’s transformation isn’t changing just his future—it’s also changing his family’s future. “I have a relationship with all my kids now,” he says. “Not one of them has drug and alcohol problems like I did. It’s amazing.”

Looking ahead, Robert desires to “reach down to help the next person” and walk with other men who are struggling in the rock bottom place that he was once in. For Robert, extending that hand of compassion is giving back what you first gave him. To you, he says, “Your giving saves lives.”

Every dollar you give today will DOUBLE in impact to help more people like Robert find transformation!



Camp Bennett—where memories are made and children’s lives changed

Every child should have the chance to experience summer camp. But for low-income households who are slipping below the poverty line, camp is a luxury they can’t afford.

That’s why every year, Camp Bennett hosts underprivileged youth ages 8 to 13 for a life-changing week of fun and faith. For some boys and girls, this may be their first time attending a summer camp—and their first time hearing about God’s love. *You can give them this unforgettable experience.*

\$75 provides a day at camp for a child. If you feel called to help sponsor a child, go to campbennett.org.



Transformation that doesn’t fade



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Hot meals. Safe shelter. Vocational training. It all helps pave the way to self-sufficiency for men, women and families who are hit hard by poverty.

But intertwined through all the services you provide is a message that is just as desperately needed as physical care—the message of new life found in Jesus.

God’s love makes a lasting change that doesn’t fade at the end of the day. That’s why everything we do at the Mission is centered around the Gospel. Until Jesus returns, we won’t stop serving people suffering from homelessness and hunger. I’m so thankful you’re standing alongside us to carry out that call.

When you help put food on a family’s table or bring a man in from off the streets, you’re not just meeting a physical need—you’re also expressing the deep love of Christ that transforms lives.

Right now, a \$50,000 Challenge Grant will double the impact of any gift you send. I ask you to prayerfully consider how much you can give so more people like Robert find restoration in the care you provide—and the Gospel hope that comes with it. Thank you for your compassion!

Your gift today will make **TWICE** the impact!



Give once, reach TWICE as many people in need!

A bag of groceries, a warm bed to sleep in or a job training class may seem small—but it makes all the difference for someone in our community who is working hard to rise above poverty.

Your generosity today can stretch even further to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people across Metro D.C. who are hurting from homelessness or hunger.

A limited-time \$50,000 Challenge Grant will instantly DOUBLE the impact of every \$3.21 you send now!

You'll reach *twice* as many struggling men, women, veterans or children with vital services that equip them for lasting stability.

Thank you for your generosity—it's a life-changing blessing!

Every \$3.21 will reach not ONE but TWO people!



3 ways you can give creatively

Your creative giving impacts lives and leaves a legacy of generosity! Here are three out-of-the-box ways you can support Central Union Mission no matter your season of life or the size of your budget:

- 1 PRAYER.** Interceding for the ministries you care about is a gift that accomplishes just as much good as any financial gift.
- 2 IN KIND GIFTS.** You may have resources that can help us restore even more lives across the D.C. area. Get in touch with us to learn what in-kind gifts can make the greatest difference.
- 3 OTHER ASSETS.** Much of your wealth is held in non-cash assets like IRAs, real estate, stocks or personal property. Other compassionate friends like you have left a gift to the Mission in their will.

Want to learn more about how you can give creatively? Contact Megan Schmoll at **202-745-7188, ext. 219**, or mschmoll@missiondc.org.

Your gift of hot meals, vital care and Gospel hope will transform lives! 3 WAYS TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

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

2 GIVE ONLINE by visiting missiondc.org/maynl24

3 SCAN HERE with your mobile device.

