

# the missionary

SEPTEMBER 2024



## From the city to the suburbs, you're sharing *hope*

### Virginia expansion brings restorative services to underserved communities

I often say that until Jesus returns, Central Union Mission will never stop meeting the needs of people suffering from hunger, homelessness and poverty.

That's why after 140 years of restoring lives across the D.C. area, we're expanding our reach.

I'm thrilled to share with you that Central Union Mission has established a permanent presence in

Northern Virginia to meet the pressing needs of families and individuals!

#### MISSION: NOVA

Located on a historic church property in South Arlington, Mission: NOVA will run similarly to the Comprehensive Family Resource Center. We are being very intentional about keeping our work Gospel-centered, providing services that meet the

Continued inside ►

# Make this Thanksgiving transformational for struggling men, women and children across the D.C. area!

From the city to the suburbs, you're sharing hope . . . (Continued from pg. 1)



Join us in restoring lives across Northern Virginia!

specific needs of the Northern Virginia community and purposefully partnering with other organizations to deliver services, which makes us more efficient and more impactful.

Mission: NOVA provides a platform not just for the Mission to expand its reach, but for other ministries to serve this community in a greater way.

## PLANTING HOPE IN PLACES OF NEED

Maybe you're asking, why Northern Virginia? Simply put, because there's a need. Poverty is hurting Northern Virginia as much as it's hurting the D.C. area. And instead of duplicating restorative services in an area already being served, the Mission

wanted to come alongside communities with real, unmet needs.

The people walking through Mission: NOVA's doors are hardworking parents scraping by on minimum wage, unemployed individuals struggling to get back on their feet and so many others who rely on the kindness of you and the community to find stability.

Whatever their story, these men, women and children need the expanse of care you make possible—food assistance, legal aid, ESL courses, parenting classes, addiction recovery, after-school programs for children, Christian discipleship, job training and placement and much more.

**"This expansion is one of the most important endeavors since our founding."**

God's hand has been so evident through this entire process. I've personally talked with more than 20 different community organizations, and all are excited to welcome the Mission to Northern Virginia.

I mean it when I say this expansion is one of the most important endeavors since our founding. We couldn't accomplish it without you. Thank you for standing with Central Union Mission. I'm eager to see all God will do through your generosity!

—Joe Mettimano, President & CEO



## ORA'S STORY:

### "God uses you to be His hands and feet"

Like so many other single income households across the D.C. area, all it took to knock Ora's family off their feet was one unexpected crisis.

"I was paralyzed from my waist down because of a stroke and had to have surgery on my back," says Ora. She didn't know how she was going to care for her grandchildren while in the hospital, let alone during her recovery.

Ora reached out to her only source of help—Central Union Mission. Because of your generosity, she received everything she needed to make it through her crisis.

"When I was in the hospital, the Mission made sure me and my grandchildren were taken care of," says Ora. "They even brought home a brand new mattress for me to aid in my back recovery."

### YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO LASTING HOPE

For Ora, "life gets vibrant again" when she walks into Central Union Mission.

"Coming here gives me a reason to get out of bed," says Ora. "Some people think that the Mission is just about the food and shelter. But it's so much more than that."

The Comprehensive Family Resource Center is a one-stop place where Ora can receive care that doesn't just meet her immediate physical needs, but also puts her on the path to lasting stability.

**"There are a lot of things the Mission has done for my family."**  
— Ora

"Whether it was job training, food for holidays, fellowship or clothing for the children, the Mission has always supplied my needs," says Ora. "When I say the Mission gives to you abundantly, I mean it."

Thank you for providing a refuge for Ora and so many others. Because of you, people can walk through our doors with a need and then walk out forever changed!



Change a life with every \$3.21!

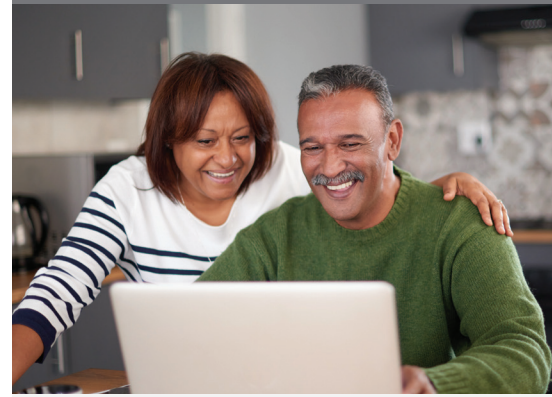
## You can put an end to someone's hunger this Thanksgiving

It takes just \$3.21 to feed one hungry and hurting person this Thanksgiving. Will you give generously so many have a seat at the table?

People of all kinds—families scraping by on a shoestring budget, men fighting addiction, individuals who never expected to spend the holidays homeless and many more—will walk through our doors on Thanksgiving.

**Each guest will be hungry for a meal—and for real hope. Will you meet their needs with your gift today?**

It takes an entire community to meet the pressing needs of all who will come to the Mission for help. Providing lasting solutions to homelessness and poverty is possible only with your support. Thank you for your compassion!



### What's on your "bucket list"?

Maybe generosity is a "someday" item on your bucket list. But you don't have to wait to make a difference.

Here are two ways you can use the resources you have to check off "make a difference" from your bucket list.

**1. GIVE YOUR TIME.** Consider volunteering with a ministry you love, including Central Union Mission. Our Mission: NOVA expansion is opening up new doors to make a hands-on difference!

**2. SHARE YOUR EARNINGS.** You can use your retirement earnings to bless others and save on taxes. When you make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to the Mission, your retirement assets will change lives.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Is Giving on Your Bucket List?" 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 christianwill.org/missiondc.*

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/SeptNL24](http://missiondc.org/SeptNL24)

**3 SCAN HERE** with your mobile device.

