

“You’re giving people second chances”

After loss and addiction, Chris didn’t know if his life had any purpose left. You helped give him a fresh start!

I want something better.

This thought wouldn’t leave Chris alone. The longer he lived in the darkness of depression, addiction and homelessness, the more he realized how unfulfilling this way of life was. After years of disappointment, misguided decisions and grief, he had reached the end of himself.

“I JUST WANTED TO DIE”

Losing his mother—and then his son to a car accident just a year later—was the tipping point that sent Chris looking for relief from his pain in all the wrong places.

“It felt like my world had crumbled,” he says.

When Chris wasn’t staying with a family member, he was on the streets. “I was dealing with a lot of depression and drug addiction. When you’re on the streets, you worry about where you’re going to rest your head at night,” says Chris.

Chris spent each day just trying to make it through. His comfort was drugs.

“I just wanted to die,” he says. “The next thing I

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

CHRIS' STORY . . . (Continued from pg. 1)

did was cry out to God, asking Him to take the taste of drugs out of me and to help me help myself. I threw away all the drugs I had on me.”

With nothing to lose, Chris came to the Mission seeking a second chance. “It’s been nothing but a blessing,” he says.

Because you give, Chris found everything he needed to rebuild—safe shelter, anger management classes, Christ-centered counseling and a steadfast community. “You’re giving people second chances,” he says.

Being sober and off the streets today means Chris can be truly present for his three grandchildren.

“I want to be a better man for myself, but also for my grandchildren because their father’s not here anymore,” he says. “They look up to me. It means

I have to step up to the plate.”

Through daily walking with Christ and taking steps toward self-sufficiency, Chris is well on his way to becoming the man and grandfather he aspires to be. He wants to one day be able to help people like himself who are struggling, whether it’s with alcohol and drugs or homelessness.

Chris’ journey shows that no matter the circumstances that led someone into homelessness, there’s always a way out through God’s mercy and your generosity.

“I would probably be dead right now if it wasn’t for my desire to change and God leading me,” he says. “Thank you for giving your time, money and effort into these programs. I’ve met some people who have marvelous stories because of the programs at Central Union Mission.”

“Thank you for giving your time, money and effort into these programs.”

— Chris

“IN THEIR OWN WORDS”

The *more* behind Thanksgiving meals

You’ve probably heard us say the phrase before . . . “Your gift provides a meal and more.” But what exactly is the “more”?

We went straight to the source for answers—guests at the Mission who have been blessed by your generosity! Here’s what they have to say . . .



“I was sleeping on the streets. I was so numb. Here, there’s unconditional love. If it wasn’t for you, there wouldn’t be a Central Union Mission.”

— Shaun



“We don’t just eat. We fellowship. It’s a really good thing you’re doing here.”

— Jasper and Johanna



“It was hurting me to sleep outside. I hated being a burden to people. I don’t have anything to worry about now. Here, I’m treated with respect.”

— Melvin

A meal you provide today is so much more than a full stomach. A meal is unconditional love. Fellowship. Respect.

As each guest enjoys their nourishing holiday feast, we tell them about the restorative services available at the Mission. A seat at the table opens the door to stability and hope in Jesus Christ. Every guest receives an opportunity to make changes in their life.

Their Thanksgiving doesn’t end with hunger and despair. It ends with a full stomach and hope for the future.

You make the “more” behind Thanksgiving meals possible!



A deeper need than meals



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Many of the men who will sit at our table this Thanksgiving season have been told that they’re failures. They

believe the lie that they’ll never amount to anything.

Some of the families who will come to the Comprehensive Family Resource Center for holiday groceries are also believing a lie—that they’ll never be able to dig themselves out of poverty.

Your generosity says otherwise.

At the Mission, you make it possible to turn lives around—starting with a \$3.21 Thanksgiving meal or a cart full of groceries.

The holiday season is such a crucial time of outreach. Already isolated people feel even more lonely. Hunger becomes unbearable. All kinds of people who are silently struggling will reach out for help and hope.

That’s why the Mission needs our closest friends to come alongside us.

Your support helps meet not just a high demand for meals, but an even deeper need for connection—with community and with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for being a trusted friend! All of us at the Mission are thankful for you.

Be someone's blessing!

The comfort, home-cooked food and sense of belonging you'll experience this Thanksgiving are exactly what someone facing hunger and homelessness longs for.

They hope that somehow, somewhere, they'll be able to find a meal this Thanksgiving.

You can give them more than a meal.

This Thanksgiving, you can give a man, woman or child hurting from hunger a proper meal—and the opportunity to receive transformational care that will lift them out of poverty.

It costs so little to make a difference during this season of gratitude: just \$3.21 per Thanksgiving meal.

Please send your best gift today to help ensure every person who sits at our table this holiday season is fed, receives the best care and experiences the love of Jesus.



Give generously. Save wisely.

Being a generous giver doesn't have to be a "someday" aspiration. Scripture says, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion . . ." (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Here are three ideas to start giving generously now while stewarding your money wisely:

1. GIVE YOUR TIME Discover a special satisfaction in giving your time to a cause you love by volunteering with Central Union Mission.

2. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION The simple effort it takes to add Central Union Mission as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) can make a significant impact.

3. QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD) Use your retirement earnings to bless others and save on taxes! A QCD enables you to make a lasting difference now with a tax-free distribution.

Request a FREE copy of "Is Giving on Your Bucket List?" by contacting Megan Schmoll at 202-827-3078 ext. 219 or mschmoll@missiondc.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/OctNewsletter24