

the missionary

JANUARY 2025



Your generosity provides everything a person needs to break the cycle of poverty.

The need is rising . . . but so is our faith

by Joe Mettimano, President & CEO

This past year was a year of “more” in many ways.

More families in crisis seeking resources. More meals served to hungry and hurting people. More community members walking through our doors saying, “I need help.” We also experienced more stories of transformation. More open doors to growth. More grace to do the work set before us.

This ministry of caring for people experiencing poverty always seems to give us “more” to tackle. But God always provides us with “more” to carry out His call to transform lives in the D.C. area. This year, we’ve seen His provision—and the power of your partnership—so evidently.

We opened the doors of Mission: NOVA for the first

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time—an expansion we couldn't have accomplished without our generous and loving Mission family.

At the heart of the care you make possible is this question: *What's it going to take?*

What's it going to take to help a family end generational poverty? What's it going to take to help a man break the cycle of addiction? What's it going to take to place someone in a living-wage job? What's it going to take to get someone out of their condition and put them in a position of permanent stability?

Your faithful prayers and giving provide everything it takes—Christ-centered recovery programs, job-skills training, parenting classes, ESL courses, finance classes and much more.

As we press on in this new year, I want you to know how thankful I am that you're a part of the Mission family. This unifying call to feed and care for our community members in need is a call I'm so proud to carry out alongside you.

The need is growing—but so is our faith!



"I don't know where I would be . . ."

Carolyn didn't know how she was going to feed her children. *You helped restore her livelihood—and hope.*

"The first time I came here, I thought, *God, I don't want to be here. I don't want to be in this situation,*" says Carolyn, a single mother.

Carolyn found herself in a position no mother imagines—struggling to feed her children. She was completely alone with no one to help her get back on her feet.

But Carolyn says that as she walked through the doors of the Comprehensive Family Resource Center (CFRC), she and her children were "met with kindness" and everything they needed to regain stability.

"A lot of places don't offer what they offer here at the CFRC," says Carolyn. "You get more help here than anywhere else. It's a relief. I thank God for the Mission. Without them, I'd run out of food."

Because you give, Carolyn doesn't have to worry about choosing between paying rent or providing necessities for her children.

"There have been times when I and my kids had nothing. People and places turned their back on us. But not here—never here,"

says Carolyn. "I can find clothes, food, hygiene items and shoes for my kids. The people here are so helpful. They'll go out of their way to find exactly what you're in need of."

Carolyn's family is one of many who ran out of options in 2024. But thanks to your faithful prayers and support, they're starting 2025 very differently—with hope and stability.

"I always tell parents, 'The Mission will help you when you need it,'" says Carolyn. "I honestly don't know where I would be without this place. I feel appreciated and seen. Supporters don't have to give the way they do, but they do it out of the bottom of their hearts to make sure families have the things they need. *Thank you.*"

"I always tell parents, 'The Mission will help you when you need it'"



You'll restore hope in 2025 and in years to come

At our family resource centers, men, women and children find immediate relief *and* long-term support. Every service you help make possible is designed to restore dignity and position a person for lasting stability!



"I've never felt more welcome"

"I don't need to go around trying to find all of the things I need—it's all here at the Mission. I know I can rely on them to help me give my children a good Christmas. I've never felt more welcome than how I feel when I come to the Comprehensive Family Resource Center." —**Jennifer**



"We could actually enjoy the holidays"

"I have so much thankfulness for this place, especially toward people who give. If it weren't for this place, people would starve. You shouldn't be starving. The Mission clothed my kids when they were younger and made it so we could actually enjoy the holidays." —**Jeanette**



"This place makes me feel loved"

"I was homeless and sleeping in trash bags, tarps, cardboard boxes and all kinds of stuff. The Mission helped me find housing. It's not fun to go hungry, trust me. This place makes me feel loved." —**Vincent**

Give meals. Break the cycle.

Men, women and children in our community struggling in hunger and homelessness are hoping this year will be different than the last. But without your renewed support, they have little hope to overcome poverty.

Will you help them rise above?

Every \$3.21 meal will open the door to a fresh start for someone in our community who lacks the resources to regain lasting stability.

Transformational care—recovery programs, continued education, social services, parenting classes, Christ-centered community and more—is possible because you give!

If your heart feels moved to make an even greater difference, you can become a *Miracle Mover* and restore lives through all of 2025 by giving monthly. (Or if you already give monthly, any extra gift you send today will bless even more individuals and families in crisis.)

Consider the answer to prayer you could be for a struggling community member today. Thank you for your partnership and compassion! Every dollar will stay here in our community to make a local impact.

\$3.21
gives a hot
meal!



140
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TRANSFORMING LIVES, BUILDING FUTURES

Your impact at a glance

When you stand with Central Union Mission, lives are made new for God's glory. Every meal, housing placement and job-skills class you helped make possible was a stepping stone for someone to rebuild after homelessness!

166,756

meals served

55,511

nights of safe shelter

329,470

bags of groceries distributed

310

participants in our Workforce Development & Education program

21

permanent housing placements

2024 Annual Report

You can find our full Annual Report online by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or by visiting missiondc.org/annualreport.



Give now to provide meals and restorative resources to people in need!

MAKE YOUR LOCAL IMPACT IN THE NEW YEAR

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

2 GIVE ONLINE by visiting missiondc.org/JanNewsletter25.

3 SCAN HERE with your mobile device.

