

YOU CHANGED THOMAS'S LIFE

Once depressed, drug-addicted and homeless, Thomas is living a new life . . . thanks to you.

Anger was eating Thomas alive.

He'd lost multiple family members to murder at the hands of drug dealers. Then his mom died. And again, Thomas lost another loved one—his uncle. *How could this happen?*

Thomas was living with his uncle when he passed. Finances became tight. He was running out of options. Homelessness felt scarily close.

And on top of it all, Thomas was living with undiagnosed bipolar disorder, anxiety and depression. Life was spinning out of control, and he couldn't put a finger on why. So he was numbing his hopelessness with drugs.

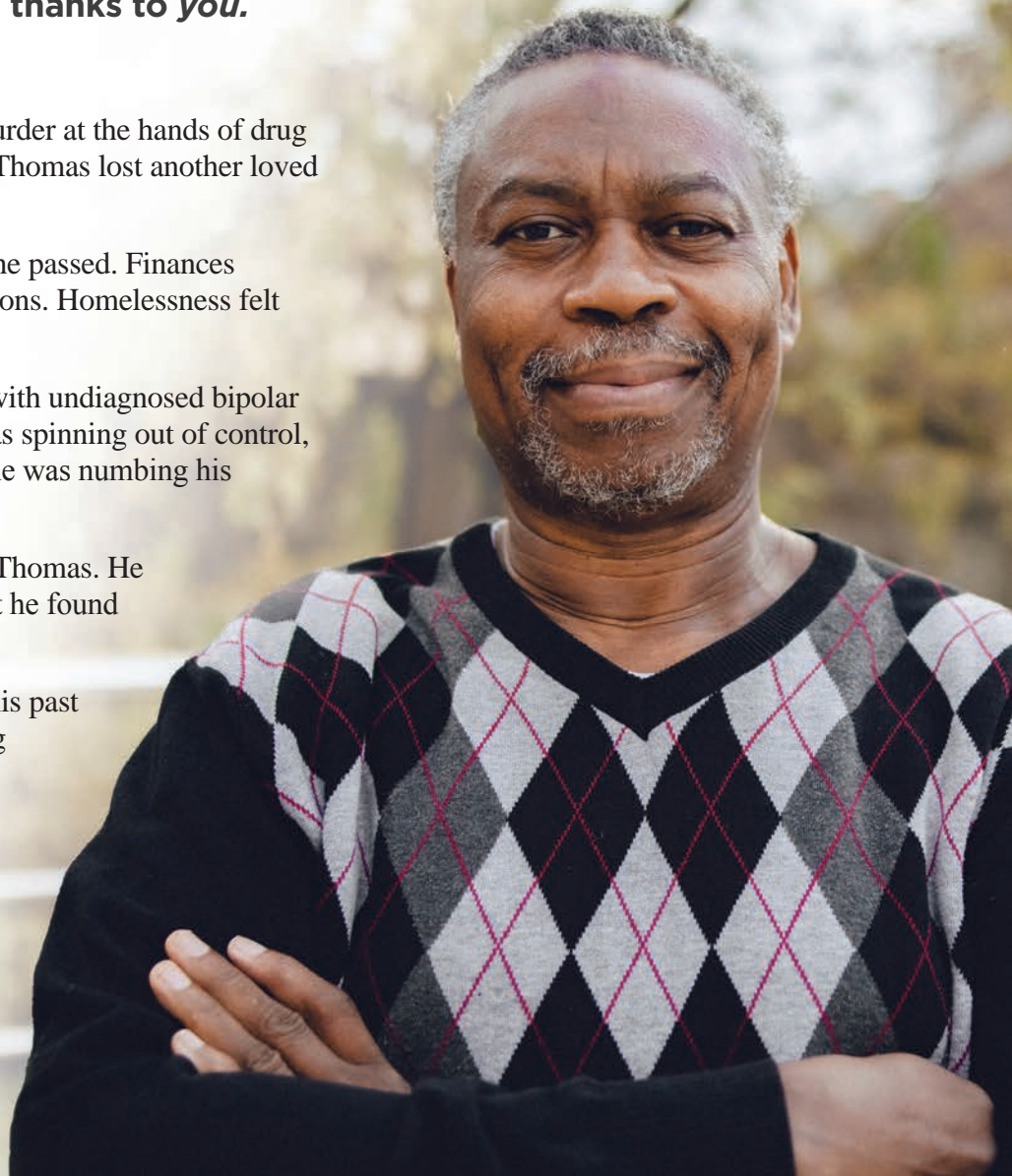
"Then I remembered the Mission," says Thomas. He knew he'd find shelter and help here. But he found much more . . .

. . . He found forgiveness, healing from his past and the tools he needed to achieve lasting stability.

Transformed by God's love . . . and your generosity

"I haven't had a bad day since walking through these doors," says Thomas. "Life at the Mission has been a blessing, to say the least."

Continued inside ▶



Your gift today will restore TWICE as many lives!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

YOU CHANGED THOMAS'S LIFE (Continued from Page 1)

Through Christ-centered men's recovery care, a compassionate community and spiritual nourishment, Thomas began to experience transformation from the inside out. "I absorbed the word of God and let it permeate me," he says. "I stopped feeling the need to use drugs and developed a new appetite for the things of God."

Your generosity opened the door for Thomas to receive counseling for bipolar disorder, anxiety and depression—and he's experiencing a renewal in his heart and mind.

"The way to become consistent is to look at The Consistent One—Jesus—and become like Him," says Thomas. "If I stay on Him, I know I'm in good hands. Everything I need is being provided. And now, thanks to you and God's grace, I'm about to step into a new career."

You helped Thomas become self-sufficient!

Thomas recently graduated from the Fresh Start Program and has a full-time job at DC Central Kitchen, where he'll learn valuable work skills to help him continue forward in self-sufficiency. His focus is fixed on school, finances, saving for the future and being a light.

"People today look up to me as a father figure and a loyal friend. That shocks me," says Thomas. "I learned to see people with empathy and compassion, and now realize I was once just as destitute."

Thomas can see how far he's come and the man he's becoming. He gives all the glory to God, and all the thanks to you. "I'm just so thankful," he says.



Give a child facing poverty an unforgettable summer!

Every child should have the nostalgic summer camp experience—sleeping in a cabin, swimming in the sun and giggling with friends. But too many D.C. area families can't afford to send their children to summer camp. Food, rent and utilities alone are a struggle to provide.

That's why every year, Camp Bennett hosts youth ages 8 to 13 facing poverty for a week of fun and faith. For some boys and girls, this may be their first time experiencing the adventures of camping in the beauty of nature. It could also be their first time experiencing God's love.

You can help a child make unforgettable summer camp memories and live for Jesus. Just \$75 provides a day at camp for a child. If you feel called to sponsor a child, go to campbennett.org.

Your gift now will make **TWICE** the local impact!



The healing power of community



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Before coming to the Mission, Thomas was isolated. Like many of the people who walk through our doors, he needed to learn to be in community again . . .

Poverty is lonely.

It steals dignity. It leaves a person feeling alone—like nobody sees them and they can't ask for help. But loneliness is no match for the love and hope you keep alive at the Mission.

Here, people like Thomas experience the healing power of Christ-centered community. People of all ages with all kinds of stories can find a place to belong and regain their stability.

Transformation can't happen alone. It happens alongside community.

"I needed to learn to trust again and see people for who they are," says Thomas. "Thanks to God, and thanks to you, I'm really getting there."

Whether developing life skills, confidence or the ability to trust again, people find healing from homelessness and hunger through fellowship with others.

Right now, a \$50,000 Challenge Grant will double your impact. I hope you take advantage of this special opportunity to change even more lives in the D.C. area.

Thank you for making the Mission a place where lives are restored in the presence of community!

Every \$3.21 *doubles* in impact to change *more* lives

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

That means more hungry families receive food . . . more men facing homelessness find tools for stability . . . more single moms are equipped to parent with confidence . . . and more hearts discover the love of Jesus.

Every \$3.21 community meal opens the door to restorative services. Will you give the best gift you can knowing every dollar will *double* in impact to bless someone in crisis?

On the other side of your generosity, someone is looking for a way out of poverty . . . they're waiting for your compassion to meet them in their moment of desperation.

Every dollar you give will stay in the D.C. area and go twice as far to change lives!

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



4 things to include in your Legacy Love Letter

How will you share your life lessons with your loved ones? One approach is to create a Legacy Love Letter. Here are three prompts to get you started on documenting wisdom, values and stories:

- 1 **What do you believe?** What principles guide you when it comes to marriage, children, serving others and stewarding finances?
- 2 **What have you learned?** Include stories about life-defining moments.
- 3 **What do your loved ones need to know?** Share with your most beloved people the difference they've made in your life. Make apologies and amends where they're needed.
- 4 **What really matters?** Share Scripture that has carried you through seasons of life.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "A Lesson Learned Should Be a Lesson Shared" by contacting Megan Schmoll at 202-745-7118, 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

- 1 **GIVE BY MAIL** by sending your gift and reply form in the enclosed envelope.
- 2 **GIVE ONLINE** by visiting missiondc.org/MayNewsletter25
- 3 **SCAN HERE** with your mobile device.

