

# The Light

A Publication of  
CITY UNION MISSION



## Touched by a Loving Heart

"I have this amazing sense of peace at City Union Mission that I never knew I could have," says Rebecca Troutt, a homeless mother whose family sought refuge here just before they landed on the streets.

"I lost my job, and I didn't have savings to fall back on," she recounts. "I fell so far behind, I couldn't catch up. I lost everything — my car, my house, everything. I only had enough money left for a hotel."

On her own since she was 15, Rebecca supported her family by working two jobs, a grueling schedule that took its toll on this 29-year-old and her two children. "I was stressed out and snapping at the girls all the time," she says. "The stress of life and working all the time — it made me start smoking pot. Then, more of my money went to marijuana than to my bills."

Although she was terrified to come to the Mission, she says, "I honestly think it's the best thing that's ever happened to me." Through our New Life Program, she's overcoming her addiction and learning parenting, budgeting and how to turn her troubles over to the Lord.

"The Mission is helping me more than I could have been helped anywhere else," she says. "My oldest told me, 'Mom, we're a family now.'"



# Because You Gave

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER  
2003

Beds provided .....19,457  
Meals served .....45,853  
Decisions for Christ .....90  
People receiving medical care at the Mission ..... 880

## Financial Update

Campaign goal  
\$2.7 million

Amount raised as of 12/23/03  
\$1,693,863



*Christina Hope 2003*

*Demand for emergency shelter continues to escalate, so please help us meet this critical financial goal by sending a gift today.*

*City Union Mission*

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# From the Desk of Dan Doty

Welcome to a brand new trial format of *The Light*. Actually, we listened to the suggestions of a panel of supporters in a focus group we conducted. We wanted to hear their comments so we could be more effective in our communication and better stewards of the resources God provides. Please let us know your opinion on our new look.

*The Light* has always been a tool to communicate the broad ministry of City Union Mission, but in a few issues this year, we will concentrate on the things you seem to enjoy most — stories of lives changed through God's work in this ministry and information on how you can be a part of our outreach to the poor and homeless.

A century ago, Fanny Crosby, a blind hymn writer, invested her life in ministry to the homeless and down-and-out in New York City. You've probably sung *Rescue the Perishing*, one of her hymns inspired by her work in rescue missions. In the early years of City Union Mission, one line of that hymn served as our theme for ministry. That line, "touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness," talks about restoring hope to individuals who have lost all hope.

Can people who have lost hope somehow restore hope on their own? No, they can't. Every person feeling hopeless needs a loving touch or a kind word to know someone cares. Thank you so much for using your loving touch and kind words through us to reach hurting people.



**Rescue the perishing,  
Care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity  
from sin and the grave;  
Weep o'er the erring one,  
lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus,  
the mighty to save.**

*Dan Doty*

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, Executive Director



*These recent Christian Life Program and New Life Program graduates are off the streets, restored to God and ready to live independently again.*



## Ready, Set, Go!

"Through my drug addiction and wayward lifestyle, things got all messed up," says Kevin Thompson, a recent New Life Program graduate who came to the Mission last February with his two daughters. "They foreclosed on our home, and we had seven days to move. City Union Mission was the only agency in town that accepted a male with children. Coming here was a way to find my self-worth in God. That's when my eyes were opened up to what I needed to do as a father to help my children."

# The VYC Brightens the Lives of Children

Life hasn't been very easy for 11-year-old Pricilla Nelson. But you would never know it when you talk to this polite 6th grader who loves to shoot three-pointers for her basketball team and go to the Vanderberg Youth Center (VYC).

Pricilla (shown at right with her aunt) has been involved in the VYC since she moved to Kansas City a few years ago with her aunt, Pearline Nelson. Things were tight for the family in those days because Pearline was unable to work. So they turned to City Union Mission for help.

"I used to go up there and get clothes and canned goods. That first Christmas, we were 'adopted,' and it was really nice. We didn't even have a Christmas tree," says Pearline, who now works as a school cook.

When you listen to Pricilla talk about her adventures with the VYC, you know she treasures her time here. "We go for sleepovers, and we went to Pizza Street and the mall. And we make crafts," she rattles off.

Down in the human heart,  
crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace  
can restore.  
Touched by a loving heart,  
wakened by kindness,  
Chords that were broken  
will vibrate once more.

At the VYC's Christmas party, the children received presents donated to the Mission through the *Share-a-Gift* program. Last year, Pricilla got a Chief's sweatshirt and a clock. "The Mission makes Christmas really special," she says.



But her favorite part of the program is learning how to follow God. "We talk about treating other people with respect and not to use our fists for words," she explains.

That's one of the things Pearline likes about the VYC. "It's good, so she doesn't have stuff on the street in her mind," Pearline says.



At our annual Christmas party, inner-city and homeless youth made crafts and received gifts.



## A Family Delights in Blessing the Poor

Julie Cook will probably never forget the sight of her children, glowing with the excitement of giving, as they piled into the back seat of their car between bags of new Easter dresses bound for City Union Mission.

The family was shopping for Easter outfits when they came across dresses marked for clearance. Julie thought about how special the little girls at the Mission would feel to wear beautiful new dresses for Easter. That's when she knew what God was asking her to do. She bought nearly every dress on the rack and gave them to the Mission.

This wasn't Del and Julie Cook's first random act of kindness. Owners of **Especially Jewelry** in Independence, Missouri, this couple has been quietly giving to the poor and needy at the Mission for years.

For instance, there was the time they found a great sale on shoes and bought dozens for the homeless guests at the Mission. "How could I not, at that price, put a pair of boots on a homeless man?" Julie says.

In addition to these great acts of love, the Cooks have faithfully supported the Mission with financial gifts. They are

members of our **BED & BREAD CLUB**, a group of donors who give at least \$15 a month to provide food and shelter for the homeless.

"We are very specific about who we give to because we want to invest in groups that are getting results," says Del. "The Mission is a very worthy place because there's no waste there, and you can see the results — the changed lives."

Julie agrees. "The Mission is making a difference right here in our own community," she says.



# Make an Eternal Difference

## VOLUNTEER AT CITY UNION MISSION

**Y**ou can have a part in assisting members in our community as they find hope and healing at City Union Mission.

### HIGH IMPACT VOLUNTEERS

After successfully completing our application and interview process, High Impact Volunteers become an extension of the Mission's staff, committing to serve in key roles. There are many positions available. The following are the most urgent at this time:

- **Nursery Care Providers** (weekday mornings)
- **Clothing Room Attendant** (weekdays)
- **Youth Coordinator Assistant** (weekday evenings)
- **Clinical Nurse** (weekdays)
- **Meal Provider** (groups)
- **Clerical Assistant** (weekdays)
- **Volunteer Department Assistant** (weekdays)
- **Sorter — Food Warehouse** (weekdays)
- **Camp Assistant** (projects through March)
- **Learning Center Academic Assistant** (weekdays)
- **Driver** (weekdays)
- **Maintenance Assistant** (weekdays)

### INFORMAL VOLUNTEERS

The Mission has numerous opportunities for individuals and groups to volunteer on a more infrequent basis.

- **Office Support**
- **Nursery Care Providers**
- **Renovation/Maintenance Projects**

For more information on these or other opportunities, please call our Volunteer Department at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1487, or e-mail [sharon@cumission.org](mailto:sharon@cumission.org).

## AAA-CHOOO!

### HELP THE HOMELESS STAY WELL AND WARM

**L**ife is miserable when you're cold and sick and living on the streets. But you can help the homeless this winter by participating in one of our year-round drives. Team up with your coworkers, classmates or church group and make a difference today!



#### MEDICINE CHEST DRIVE

Help stock our free clinic with much-needed items like non-alcoholic cold medications, antacids, pain relievers, foot powder, foot cream and other commonly used medicines.



#### HAVE A HEART FOR THE HOMELESS

Support our ministry to those in need by filling a coin card with quarters or dollar bills. This is a great Valentine's Day project for your church or school.



#### GREAT COVER-UP

Surround the poor in warmth by collecting new and gently used sheets, blankets, pillows and coats.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL  
(816) 474-9380, EXT. 1467.**



## Compassion in Action

**F**or the past three years, Travis Whitacre (above), a senior manager for **KPMG**, has been a “jack of all trades” during the Mission’s annual *Hy-Vee Stuff A Truck* outreach. He’s participated in planning the event, soliciting contributions, stuffing bags with groceries and packing mounds of food into trucks. And he’s loved every minute of it.

“So many volunteer activities that corporations get involved with are only fundraising, and you don’t get to see the end results of your labor,” he says. “With City Union Mission, you get to see the results. You see the food that is stockpiled, and that’s what’s so rewarding about it.”

For three years in a row, KPMG has helped the Mission with this city-wide food drive as part of the company’s National Family Volunteer Day. (For this year’s *Hy-Vee Stuff A Truck* results, see the story on page 4.)

“It’s been unbelievable to watch the growth of *Stuff A Truck*,” Travis says. “It’s fun to see how the Mission really fulfills its goals.”

## Urgent Needs

- Bath towels
- Twin sheet sets
- Twin blankets
- Cash donations to our **CELEBRATE HOPE** campaign to cover expenses such as winter utility bills.



## Special Thanks to Sam’s Club Foundation

**S**am’s Club Foundation has given City Union Mission \$1,000 to apply to our “**Where Most Needed**” budget category, which helps us cover critical needs, from paying the light bill to purchasing beds for the homeless.

Celebrate  
Hope  
2003

## Our Holiday Outreach Brings Joy and Help



## Mark Your Calendar

IMPORTANT EVENTS YOU  
WON'T WANT TO MISS

**G**enerous souls all over Kansas City donated their time and money to help ensure Christmas and Thanksgiving were brighter for our neediest neighbors. A couple who brought in donations even came to the Mission dressed as pilgrims!

### CELEBRATION OF LOVE

During our 2003 *Celebration of Love* festival, over 500 visitors came to the Mission, loaded down with food for the poor, to discover more about our extensive ministry. One group caravanned here in their PT Cruisers. And two close friends celebrated a birthday by volunteering at the event.

Thanks to the community's generosity, we collected 777 turkeys, 18 hams and 7,279 pounds of additional food items, used to fill about 400 food boxes for the needy during the holidays.

### STUFF A TRUCK

During this year's *Hy-Vee Stuff A Truck* drive we received tons of groceries valued at \$106,889.60 (almost \$10,000 more than was donated in 2002), including bagged groceries purchased by *Hy-Vee* customers, groceries donated by vendors and event supplies. About 675 volunteers helped us do everything from hand out flyers to sort groceries so the Mission's pantry would be full of food for the poor and homeless through the winter. Special thanks to *Pepsi* for also partnering with us in this event.



Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;  
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;  
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.

### HOLIDAY GIFTS

Christmas is a joyous time at the Mission — a time we get to bless those who have almost nothing with a gift of their very own. This year, we gave gift packages to about 400 men, women and children in our shelters, blessed around 100 families with gifts through our *Adopt-a-Family* program and gave presents to 75 youths in our Vanderberg Youth Center. We also delivered approximately 700 gifts to low-income seniors and 700 presents to inmates at the Jackson County Jail.

### HAVE A HEART FOR THE HOMELESS THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

In honor of Valentine's Day, join in this year-round drive that raises money for the homeless. See inside for more information.

### COMPASSION IN ACTION SEMINAR

**SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2004**  
9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

**CITY UNION MISSION FAMILY CENTER**  
1310 WABASH

In this one-day seminar, churches will discover how to meet the needs of the poor who come to them for help.

### BIKERS WITH A MISSION SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2004

Join us for the 15th annual fundraiser where bikers make a 100-mile run to help the homeless.

**For more information on these and other opportunities to get involved at City Union Mission, please call (816) 474-9380, ext. 1467.**

## Give the Needy Shelter and Food

### Join the BED & BREAD CLUB Today

**A**vital group of supporters makes sure the thousands who come here every year receive food, shelter and the opportunity to start life anew. They are the members of the **BED & BREAD CLUB** — friends who pledge \$15 or more a month to the ministry of City Union Mission. Thanks to the financial resources and prayers of this key group, we are able to open our doors wide to the hurting every day of the year.

It's easy to join the **BED & BREAD CLUB**. For more information, simply check the box on the response form enclosed with this newsletter. Or call (816) 474-9380, ext. 1475.

### GET THE LIGHT ELECTRONICALLY

To maximize your gifts to the Mission, why not try this less-expensive means of delivery? To receive *The Light* electronically, just send your e-mail address to [calvin@cumission.org](mailto:calvin@cumission.org).

If you haven't gotten e-mail from us in the past two months, we may not have your correct address. Please resubmit your e-mail address to [calvin@cumission.org](mailto:calvin@cumission.org) today.

