

A BRIEF HISTORY OF



1941

Reverend Edward Burt McCausland, the founder of City Mission, holds the first chapel service in a small storeroom at 404 West Main Street.



City Mission Founder, Burt McCausland, with his wife, Avis.

1942

The Mission moves to 322 W. Chestnut St. A men's dormitory opens with a 15-bed shelter and provides free meals to homeless and poor men. The staff holds Child Evangelism classes, Sunday school, nightly chapel, prayer meetings, street meetings, a weekly service at the County Jail and does visitation to hospitals, homes, and the jail.

1943

McCausland opens Hayes Avenue Mission, a branch of City Mission. Around 60 children from the area participate in Sunday school, Child Evangelism classes, picnics, and holiday events.

Sharing the Gospel at a City Mission chapel service in 1941.



1943

On September 13, 1943, Burt McClausland and Avis Pattison marry and continue the work of City Mission as co-superintendents.

1963

First Christian Church, 84 West Wheeling Street, becomes home to City Mission. The ministry expands services to the homeless and more than triples its shelter capacity. The men's shelter, chapel, dining room, and other services remain at this site today.



CITY MISSION

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

1977

Burt McCausland retires after 36 years of faithful service as superintendent of City Mission.

1980

Rescue missions across the United States work to address the problem of sheltering the country's fastest-growing population of homeless—the family.

1986

Avis Arbor Women's Shelter, named after Avis McCausland, opens as a safe haven for hurting homeless women and their children. Avis Arbor provides shelter, hot meals, counseling, spiritual guidance, and security to 13 women and children.



City Mission Founder, Burt McCausland.

1993

Francis L. King, then-mayor of Washington, proclaims Washington City Mission Day to celebrate the millionth meal served. At this time, the Mission serves about 6,000 meals each month, and operates seven *Helping Hand* thrift stores. With a 70-bed capacity, the Mission is the largest shelter facility in the tri-county area.

2000

With the assistance and generosity of a local couple, City Mission's board of directors votes to acquire three buildings adjacent to the current location to be used for future shelter and transitional housing.

2003

An expanded Avis Arbor opens, increasing the Mission's capacity by 47%. The Mission remains the largest private shelter in the tri-county area with the capacity to serve 69 men and 32 women and children. The Mission also serves over 125,000 meals annually.

2008

The HEIRS program is created. HEIRS is a comprehensive program focusing on Housing, Employment, Income Development, Recovery, and Spiritual Development. In 2008, City Mission begins using this model to create metrics for measuring the effectiveness of programs and the success of residents. Since then, this model has been adopted by several rescue mission nationwide.

CITY MISSION

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

2009

The Mission receives a grant from the Washington County Hospital Authority to establish a Cognitive Enhancement Therapy Program at the Mission.

2010

Current CEO/President, Dean Gartland takes office

2011

On February 7, City Mission celebrates the 70th Anniversary of serving the poor, homeless, and working poor in Washington County PA.

2015

Much of City Mission is destroyed in a fire, including three men's dormitories, the medical center, the kitchen, the dining hall, and the chapel. City Mission residents sleep on borrowed cots in the Washington High School cafeteria before moving into temporary trailers until the burned-down buildings could be restored. The local community rallies to help, and the Mission creates a \$14 million strategic rebuilding plan called "Renew 2020"



CITY MISSION

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

City Mission residents enjoying the new dormitory.



2016

The new Men's Shelter is completed, and the residents move in, June 2016.

2016

The new kitchen and dining facility begins serving residents and the community in June 2016.

2016

City Mission purchases a 40,000 square foot warehouse to serve as Vocational Training Center for residents and a Donation Center for the City Mission Thrift Stores.

2016

In September, City Mission holds a groundbreaking ceremony for the new homeless shelter for veterans, which will house 22 veterans in need.



2016

The renovated Chapel and Programs office building opens in December.

2017

The new ANSYS Career Training and Education Center opens in June.

CITY MISSION

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

2018

City Mission expands their capacity from 96 to 160 beds.

2018

City Mission holds a flag-raising and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Crabtree-Kovacicek Veterans House, which opens in July and houses 22 homeless veterans for up to 18 months.

2018

City Mission opens their new Medical Center facility and expands the medical services available to City Mission residents.

2018

In September, City Mission holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening of their newly-expanded Women with Children Center, which now provides 11 cozy and uniquely-designed apartments for women with children. Full-time child care is provided at the on-site Child Care Center. The total capacity for the shelter is 32 beds.

2018

City Mission launches a new Drug-free Pain Management Clinic to help residents manage chronic and acute pain without the use of medication.



City Mission's Crabtree Kovacicek Veterans House opened on July 3, 2018.

Living room with a pull-out sofa at the newly-renovated Women with Children Shelter.

Bedroom with bunk beds for a family in City Mission's new Women with Children Shelter.

