

# RESCUE LINE

84 West Wheeling Street, Washington, PA 15301 | [citymission.org](http://citymission.org) | 724.222.8530 | CHRISTMAS 2019



**Safe at  
Home  
for the  
Holidays**

**CITY MISSION**  
HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

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## You Are the Answer to Our Prayers

Dear Friend,

This past summer, City Mission hit a severe “summer slump” due to our expansion from 96 to 160 beds and the changing of federal tax laws. We sent a letter to the community explaining our dilemma and asking for help.



Dean R. Gartland, M.S.  
President/CEO

Your response was so immediate and generous that I am still praising God for the wonderful people of Southwestern Pennsylvania. For the last 77 years, you have supported us through every hardship, every downturn in finances, every economic difficulty and every roadblock.

Your generous donations this summer provided food, shelter and life-transforming programs to the 64 additional residents we served this year. Your gifts gave our residents a hope for a bright new future and a chance to start new lives.

You bless many. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you and yours from us all.

In Christ,

Dean R. Gartland, M.S.  
President/CEO  
City Mission

**P.S.** In this newsletter, you will read about the great work you do for our community. Thank you for being a faithful friend to those in desperate need.



We are a United Way supported organization.



If you donate through CFC, please consider designating City Mission as your charity of choice. **City Mission CFC Code 45988**

# Making Spirits Bright this Christmas



For those among us who struggle to make ends meet, Christmas can be the hardest day of the year. While others around them are celebrating with food and family, they go hungry and feel even more hopeless than before. They feel their poverty more than ever.

But you make Christmas warm and beautiful for all who come to City Mission. It starts with a friendly welcome and continues in beautiful ways.

### Angel Tree gifts that warm hearts

Our Angel Tree program provides Christmas gifts to residents and low-income community members. Last year, we sent out a last-minute plea for gifts for the men in our program, and the response overwhelmed us. Every resident received a gift last year ... every one ... making spirits bright.



### Santa's Workshop with toys for kids

Santa's Workshop allows our residents, and low-income families in our community, to shop for and select the perfect Christmas toy for each of their children. Then we gift-wrap each gift to make it extra special. Santa made an appearance last year, traveling all the way from the North Pole in his red suit, bringing smiles to share with our City Mission family.



### Days Of Christmas meals served with cheer

Our kind and generous volunteers pour in during the holiday season, bringing their cheerful enthusiasm with them to warm every heart. They get to work serving family-style, Christmas meals to residents and the community throughout the Christmas season. They are a big part of the City Mission family celebrating Christmas together.



You can continue to make a difference this Christmas through your prayers, support and generous giving. Please show God's love to those who call City Mission their home this holiday season.

*Thank you, friend,  
for making Christmas bright.*



# Home for the Holidays

We asked our guests what they enjoyed about being here at City Mission through the Christmas holiday. When you read their comments, we hope you feel their appreciation for your kindness. You gave them a home when they didn't have one. You showed you cared when they felt alone and unwanted.

You demonstrated the love of God and you made Christmas more meaningful.

City Mission is about loving people through hard times. You are very much part of that. Thank you and merry Christmas!



**BETH**

“I was in prison for Christmas, and it was the worst experience of my life. You never appreciate your family until you can't see them. My life is totally different since I came here. It's so much more positive. I see light at the end of the tunnel. This year at City Mission – it'll be awesome!”



**RON**

“The Christmas before I came to the Mission, I was alone just walking around. I was let go from my job on Christmas Eve. I had no vehicle so I had to walk back to my apartment. When I got there, there was nothing in it because I was being evicted, just waiting for them to change the locks on the doors.

I loved being here at the Mission for Christmas last year. It was really powerful to see the community bring in so many gifts for the residents. Some of the residents I know are still wearing some of the gifts they got last year. I also got invited to have Christmas dinner with my family for the first time in a while. After dinner, I came back here to the Mission to spend Christmas night with my second family. It was one of the best Christmases I've had in a long time.

**It was the true meaning of Christmas. It really was. It was about knowing that God's plan is for you to have peace, kindness, love and joy. It was about being rich in spirit.**”

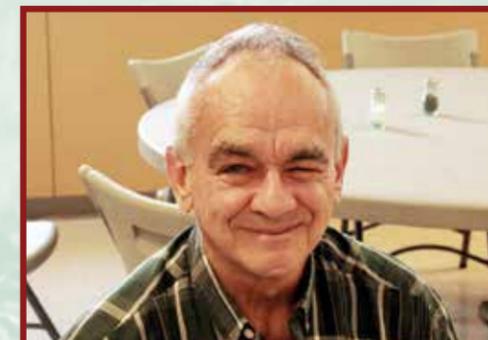


**OLIVIA, KATHERINE AND JADEN**

“We've been at the Mission for 14 months, so we were here last Christmas. There was a mini Christmas tree in every suite, and everything was decorated. It really felt like home. I didn't have to worry about food, money, decorations or buying presents. Everything was put together for us. We could just relax. Our whole room was filled with gifts.

Santa Claus came and surprised all the kids. We decorated our door with all of our photos with Santa, and we put a big bow on it because **the biggest Christmas present was our family being together.**”

Olivia, to the left of her mom, added, “My favorite Christmas memory from last year is opening presents with my family and drinking hot chocolate. My favorite gift from last Christmas is a jewelry box. It's big and pink, which is my favorite color. I like it because it can hold a lot of things, and it has a mirror.”



**FRED**

“I've been in jail a couple of times for Christmas. A couple of times, I was in the woods. I spent a whole winter in an abandoned foundation. All that was there was a slab of concrete. I had a sleeping bag, a Coleman stove and some plastic. Here, it'll beat being in jail or the woods. There's church, and the food's a lot better. You don't have that anywhere else you go.”



**BOB**

“I was living on the riverbank at Christmas. It was so cold. There was no one to talk to, so I talked to the rabbits and went fishing. I had nowhere to go. It's a lot different here. It's a warm place to stay. You have people to talk to. Three meals a day, and I can go to church every day.”



**DAVID**

“I was on the street. I got drunk so I didn't have to think about being homeless at Christmas. I didn't eat. I think it'll be a lot better here, and I think I'll really enjoy it. By then, I'll be six months sober. I have kids. They're 3 and 1. Their mother knows I'm sober. Maybe I'll get to see them. I sure hope so.”

# Thrift Store Bargains for a Holiday-Ready Home

“You can find anything at City Mission Thrift Stores,” said Dr. Sally Mounts, City Mission’s Chief Development Officer and avid thrifter. “I shop there every chance I get, and it’s great for the Holidays, for buying gifts or getting your house ready for Christmas parties.”

Sally first got into thrifting at the City Mission Thrift Store in Washington, when she found a tissue box holder and matching wastebasket that fit the Country French style of her home. She paid \$2 each for them at the thrift store, but had previously priced them elsewhere at \$35 each, giving her a total savings of \$66.

“After that, I was hooked,” Sally said. “I’ve gotten so many things from the City Mission Thrift Stores. Now they are throughout my house.”

Visit City Mission Thrift Stores to find what you need at a GREAT PRICE to spruce your home up for your holiday guests!



Sally found these living room window valances and matching pillow set for \$12 for the entire set of six pieces. She had priced a different set at \$2,000, but she liked her Thrift Store find so much that she kept it, giving her a total savings of \$1,988.



She got these matching green, velvet chairs for her library and the matching ottoman plus the brass table lamp for \$59, which saved her a total of \$826.

# We sincerely thank you for honoring and remembering your loved ones with a gift to help those in need at City Mission.

## HONORARIUMS

### IN HONOR OF: .....GIVEN BY:

David E. & Rita Cecchini..... Community Bank  
 Sheila Coquet..... Joseph Cataneo  
 Daniel Coyle..... Catherine Didion  
 John M. & Nancy L. Mizia  
 Frostie Czornij..... Roman M. Czornij  
 Cathy & Joe Gazdick..... Martha Paul  
 Robert R. & Patricia A. Kelly..... Community Bank  
 Carl Koegler..... George Koegler  
 Sister Margot..... Kirk & Marian Moss  
 Jerry Oxford..... Jim Martin  
 Craig Smith..... Community Bank  
 Kyri Whirlow..... Janice Knapp  
 All In Need..... Margi Swellie  
 Frederick Logan Company, Inc. Community Chapel  
 Our Customer..... Community Bank  
 Our President..... James & Patricia Tyrpin

### IN MEMORY OF:.....GIVEN BY:

Michael Janflone..... Anthony & Karen Janflone  
 Robert W. Jordan..... Larry L. & Ann L. Miles  
 Laverne King..... Lynette King  
 Ellen Lehman PhD  
 Saige Knapp..... PNC Matching Gifts Program  
 Jerry D. Korsmeyer..... Mary Gail Korsmeyer  
 Meade Lacock..... Susan Lacock  
 Nick Loncaric... Richard L. & Bernadette Froats Sr.  
 Charles Mahoney IV..... James & Margaret Held  
 James Malardie..... Marcia Malardie  
 Donna Mastrangelo.. Scott D. & Gina Mastrangelo  
 Gedunk Maze..... Cheryl Ann Maze  
 Donna McBee.. Richard L. & Bernadette Froats Sr.  
 Kathy McBee... Richard L. & Bernadette Froats Sr.  
 Richard Melnyk..... Elsie Taucher Smith  
 Robert Melnyk..... Iris E. Harvey  
 (on behalf of PPGOH family)  
 Charlie Mickles..... Philip W. & Mary Louise Ward  
 Albert “Choup” Peterson..... Richard L. & Bernadette Froats Sr.  
 Paris Presbyterian Church  
 Sally Pirris..... Richard & Anne Violi  
 Mary Primerano..... John S. & Sue E. Bernotas  
 Priscilla Eibl  
 Suzanne Graham  
 Lisa Primerano  
 Francis Pritts..... Judy H. Osborne  
 Joanne Puskarich..... Nancy F. Christner  
 Ann Robb..... Kenneth S. & Lynn F. Robb  
 Gerald Rutledge..... Al Falcione  
 Stephen Rzepka..... Paris Presbyterian Church

### IN MEMORY OF:.....GIVEN BY:

Daniel Spinda..... Carrie & Donald Busch  
 Jerome & Deborah Jalosky  
 Kanawha Scales & Systems  
 George K. & Anna Mathew  
 Richard & Susan Radzik  
 Mary Spinda  
 Raymond Spotti Sr. .... Susan & Daniel Dellapiazza  
 Jeremy Stager..... Ambit Lifestyle, Inc  
 David & Leslie Christ  
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 David & Tina M. DiTullio  
 Anthony & Rebecca Fleck  
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 John & Jenny Hartman  
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 Darlene & Michael Howrylak  
 Peter & Dana Joseph  
 Michael E. & Lorraine R. Kelley  
 Michael Priganc  
 Lawrence & Joanne Rutan  
 Deb Simmons  
 Michael & Marie Stager  
 John & Susan Wright  
 Sandra & Joseph Zambotti  
 Karen Dengler Thompson..... Bernard John & Janet Anita Paterra  
 Ted Tongson..... Kathleen Voigt  
 Melina Violi..... Richard & Anne Violi  
 William G. Virtue..... Paris Presbyterian Church  
 Randy & Debbie Wagers..... William & Jill Craig  
 James Warnick..... Kathryn J. Butcher  
 Josh Young..... Deborah A. Gray

## MEMORIALS

### IN MEMORY OF:.....GIVEN BY:

Phyllis Behrens..... Charles A. & Alice S. Ranegar  
 Carl Bigler..... Paige Haney  
 Merle Butcher..... Kathryn J. Butcher  
 Jennifer Cantley..... Barbara Cantley  
 Hilda Cauchie..... Melanie Gerstel  
 Albert & Ruth Claus Sr..... Catherine Hornak  
 Melvin Cratsley..... Richard D. & Karen S. Meyers  
 Timothy Dempster..... Susan & Daniel Dellapiazza  
 Carol Dennis..... Elsie Taucher Smith  
 George Fidelman..... Margaret Fidelman  
 Richie Froats.... Richard L. & Bernadette Froats Sr.  
 Dick Guthrie..... Joanna Mangiapane  
 Elizabeth Jane Hartz..... Marvin & Judith Bellin  
 Paul & Carol Love  
 Lois Rebich  
 St. Francis Medical Center School  
 of Nursing Alumni Association  
 Monica Held..... James & Margaret Held  
 Cheryl Homistek..... Richard Homistek  
 Mark Hughes..... Leo Hughes  
 Rev. Norman C. Hunt..... Judith Hunt

# WHAT A Sweet Sunday IT WILL BE!

Oh my *ganache!* This year’s Sweet Sunday was the 25th Anniversary celebration of this one-of-a-kind, family-friendly dessert festival. Our vendors were the *crème de la crème*, and the entertainment was *icing on the cake*. Thank you for your increasing support of this fun, family event which funds the life-changing programs at City Mission.

Thanks to your valuable input, next year’s Sweet Sunday will be back at the Hilton Garden Inn in Southpointe. There’s just *muffin* else quite like City Mission’s Sweet Sunday dessert festival! **We’ll see you there on Sunday, February 23.**





# Keys for Christmas

Former residents now have their very own places to call home.



Cowboy spent twenty years of his life in prison before finding hope and a new path at City Mission.

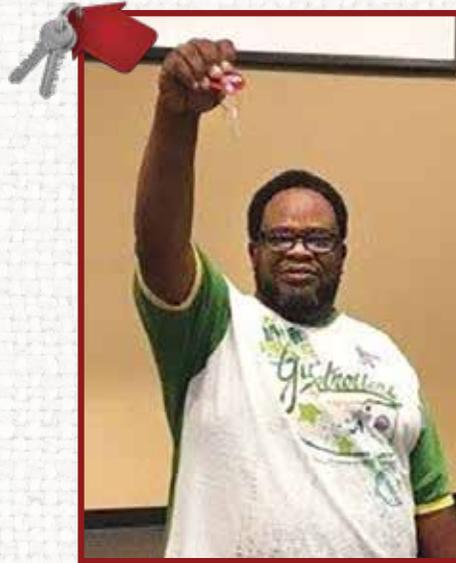
“I was a wreck,” he said. But God saves wrecks and re-makes them better than ever. Cowboy was saved and made new at City Mission by submitting his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**“If God can change a crook like me, He can change anybody.”**

“I’ve been forgiven. I don’t live in the past. I live a new life now. Old things have passed away, and all things are made new.”

Recently, Cowboy got a job at MAC Discount Warehouse and saved up enough money to get his own place. After exactly one year of sobriety, Cowboy graduated from City Mission and moved in to his new place. Here you see him joyfully holding up the key to the door.

You helped him become a free man, united to Jesus and happily living a blessed life.



Derek came to City Mission on a cold, rainy day last September. His health was deteriorating rapidly, and the outlook was bleak.

The minute he stepped through our doors, he felt safe and spent the rest of the day in the warmth of the Samaritan Care Center.

“I saw right away there was help here,” Derek said. “This was where I was supposed to be. This was where I was going to get the care I needed.”

Now, Derek is feeling better than he has in a long time.

**“When I wake up in the morning, I feel blessed,”** he said. Since coming to City Mission, Derek has been able to get life-saving surgeries, learned to manage his diabetes, gained certifications in retail and forklift operation and moved into his own place.



While the Women with Children Shelter was still under construction last year, Heather and her daughter, Arayna, were on the waiting list.

They were living with Heather’s emotionally abusive boyfriend. “I noticed that Arayna would start crying at any loud noises. I thought, ‘I don’t want her to think this is what love is,’” Heather explained.

They had nowhere else to go, so Heather called City Mission and asked to get in ASAP. Fortunately, the new shelter was finished ahead of schedule, and they were able to move in.

Arayna celebrated her birthday at the Mission. “It was bittersweet, because we were at a shelter ... but they got her a cake and pizza and a mermaid outfit, and she loved every second of it.”

Recently, Heather and her daughter got keys to their own apartment. Heather is currently taking GED classes and plans to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.