THE CITY MISSION

A New Day Dawns

2016 Annual Report
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A New Day Dawns
Arise, shine, for your light has come...
ISAIAH 60:1
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Dear Friend,

Last year, thousands of men, women and children reached out to The City Mission for help. They came from the streets, from prison, from abusive, destructive relationships, from any number of circumstances they could no longer endure.

They came because they were hopeless, hurting and lost, but most importantly, they came because they needed Jesus.

In 2 Corinthians 5, the apostle Paul talks about the ministry of reconciliation. “All this is from God,” verse 18 begins, “who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” He continues in verse 20: “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.”

This is a charge we take very seriously at the Mission. God has entrusted us with the ministry of helping our hurting brothers and sisters be reconciled to Him. Sometimes that begins with a meal, a safe place to sleep and an encouraging word that shares the truth of the gospel. Sometimes it involves in-depth counseling as our guests deal with deep-seated hurt, addiction and abuse.

The needs in our city are real and they are great. The work of the Mission has never been more critical, and as you’ll see in this Annual Report, those who come to us are desperate for help.

In 2016, God faithfully provided through partners like you, and we’re so grateful for your support. We celebrate all He has done, and as we look ahead to 2017, we know He will lead the way as we continue to be His ambassadors.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rev Richard Nicker
“I’m a good guy,” Jerome begins, “but I’m a person with problems that need to be addressed. All I could do was ask God because I couldn’t do it myself. And then, God stepped in.”

Last year, Jerome had none of the hope he talks about now. He was incarcerated, addicted to alcohol and cocaine, and willing to maintain bad relationships because they helped fuel his habit. Once he was free, he made up his mind to get his life in order.

“I wrote an obituary,” he says. “It was a goodbye to drugs for the final time. I was on my knees, crying out to God to help me. I had nothing left, and He led me here.”

“Here” is Crossroads, our men’s crisis center. Jerome moved in last fall, and he soon realized that the Mission could give him a second chance.

“All the classes, the staff, everybody is great,” he smiles. “There are success stories in the making here!”

Today, Jerome is busy writing his own success story. He’s reconnected with his family, and he’s turned his life over to the One who brings true healing.

“Forty years of drinking and drugs was enough for me. I have more yesterdays than I do tomorrows, and I don’t want to spend them drinking! God has literally saved my life: I can’t thank Him and love Him enough.”

Crossroads’ goal is to provide the classes, counseling and chapel services that men need to move forward with hope. First, though, we must meet their immediate needs. Your gifts help provide the food, shelter and clothing that guests like Jerome depend on while they’re here. Once those needs are met, the journey to a changed life can begin.

“Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

PSALM 50:15

HELP

CHANGING LIVES BEGINS WITH MEETING NEEDS
Lakeesha and her newborn son moved into Laura’s Home, our women’s crisis center, last winter. They were facing eviction, and Lakeesha was trying to escape the drugs and alcohol that had become prevalent in her home. Unhappy and fearful over her son’s future, she prayed that the Lord would deliver her from her situation.

At first, she wasn’t sure what she had gotten herself into. Her son wasn’t used to being around so many others, and Lakeesha was sad to leave him as she attended classes. But slowly, her heart began to heal, and she met the One she’d been waiting for all along.

“I’m proud to say I have a relationship with God now,” Lakeesha smiles.

“These classes are the best thing that’s ever happened to me. It’s like God was just waiting on me. I’m at peace, and it feels so good to be where I am now.”

Lakeesha is still going through the classes and counseling at Laura’s Home. She’s dealing with the abandonment and trust issues that came from growing up with parents suffering from addiction, and she’s preparing for an independent, joyful future.

“My way of thinking is completely different now because the old me is gone. Laura’s Home is like God’s grace. That’s the best way to describe it: it gives you a second chance to get it right. There!” she pauses to laugh, “That would be a nice commercial!”

We love Lakeesha’s words: Laura’s Home is like God’s grace. Here, women and their children have a chance to heal from the circumstances that led them to us—abuse, addiction, homelessness, poverty... the list goes on, but no matter the reason, a second chance is waiting.

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

ISAIAH 43:19a
Nearly everyone in Regina’s life let her down. Her parents were abusive and addicted to drugs. Her son’s father abandoned her, and she soon learned that he also had another child. The only girl in the midst of five brothers, she grew up struggling to be heard, loved and accepted.

Regina worked hard to care for her sons, crisscrossing the country in search of a better opportunity. But ultimately, she knew it was time to stop running, and she returned home, disappointed in herself.

“I had so much I needed to deal with,” she says. “I went to college. My resume is awesome and I have a great work history, but none of that matters if your inside isn’t right.”

With nowhere else to turn, Regina moved into Laura’s Home with her sons.

“Before I came to Laura’s Home, I was always looking for somebody to love. Looking back, I didn’t really know what love was, but you couldn’t tell me that then. “I was ready to try anything,” she says. “The first night I was here, I was lying in bed at 9:00 p.m. and I just started laughing. I’ve always prided myself on not obeying rules, but there I was, by my own choice following curfew on a Thursday night! That’s when I knew that God had led me here, and I just thanked Him for His perfect timing.”

Regina threw herself into the program here, taking ownership of the pride that masked the deep hurt in her heart, and rejoicing as the Lord began to heal her. She was even able to extend forgiveness to her sons’ father and make amends with her family.

Today, Regina is busy caring for sons, and she’s no longer trying to fill the void in her heart: she’s found the One who has been with her all along. Finally, Regina is home.

*Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go… I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.*

*Genesis 28:15*
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

PROVERBS 11:25

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the work we do at The Mission. Brenda is one of our Laura’s Home volunteers, and we sat down with her to find out what she loves so much about her work.

The City Mission: So tell us a little bit about yourself.

Brenda: Well, I've been volunteering at Laura’s home for almost two years now. I work in the childcare area because I love kids! It’s just fun to hug them and take care of them.

TCM: What drew you to volunteering with women and children?

B: I lost my husband when I was pregnant with my third child so I know how hard it is to take care of kids on your own. I thought, “Maybe I can help someone over there!”

TCM: What does your normal day look like here?

B: I work with the infants and toddlers, so I come in and hold the little ones and play with the older ones. I'm glad to meet people from so many different walks of life.

TCM: And what about the moms?

B: When the mothers drop their children off, they’re comfortable because they know their kids are safe. It’s hard to leave your child, so I try to encourage them by giving them a compliment and telling them they’re doing a good job raising their son or daughter.

TCM: What would you tell others who are thinking about volunteering?

B: The world needs more people who care about other people! It doesn’t matter if you can’t give a lot of time, and it doesn’t matter if you can’t see the final result. Just giving a child a little extra love can make a difference. The people here are so caring, and anytime you volunteer, you’re helping people in need.

If you’d like to join Brenda and volunteer at The City Mission, we want to meet you! Contact us at thecitymission.org/volunteer.
MISSION STATISTICS

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

MATTHEW 25:36

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.

DEUTERONOMY 16:17

HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE USED

CROSSROADS
- 81,997 hot, filling meals served to hungry men
- 41,735 nights of safe shelter provided for men in crisis
- 1,068 men supported in their recovery from crisis

LAURA’S HOME
- 89,026 meals served to women and children
- 49,145 nights of safe and secure shelter provided for 240 women and 382 children
- 116 children participating in the Pathways program

INMATE OUTREACH SERVICES
- 101 visits made to Ohio Prisons and Cuyahoga County Jail
- 88 chapel services, Bible studies and meetings offered
- 535 encouraging one-on-one visits by staff chaplains
- Nearly 4,700 inmates received monthly mailings and correspondence

VOLUNTEERS
- Volunteers gave 17,147 hours of their time, which is valued at $366,249 to the men, women, and children at The City Mission
- 147 first time volunteers

OUR ANNUAL INCOME

2015–2016 $7,337,581

SOURCES OF REVENUE

PRIVATE SUPPORT: 68%
ESTATES: 14%
FOUNDATIONS: 12%
OTHER: 6%

OUR ANNUAL INCOME

2015–2016 $7,337,581

A complete audited statement is available upon request.
MISSION STATEMENT
Providing help and hope to all people through the transforming power of God’s love.

CORE VALUES
DIRECTED BY THE BIBLE • ENERGIZED BY COLLABORATION • INSPIRED BY RESPONSIBILITY
BOUND BY INTEGRITY • DEDICATED TO TRANSFORMATION • STRENGTHENED BY COMMITMENT

OUR BOARD

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