

HIS HANDS

REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES

HEALED, WHOLE, HOME

Earl's journey to new life.



New logo, same mission



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CITY MISSION
REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES



Rev. Richard Trickel
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friend,

I've been looking forward to this month's newsletter because I'm excited to finally share our updated look with you. The City Mission is entering a new season of ministry, but even though our logo has changed, our commitment to the hurting in Cleveland remains the same.

After decades of building on a strong past, it's time to invest in a strong future. The Mission is constantly adapting to meet the present needs of our community, and as we look ahead, we want to present the Mission as we truly are—relevant and faithful to clients and supporters alike.

Our new logo represents our commitment to faith, our connection to our city, and transformation for families, individuals, and communities.

The City Mission provides a path to a better future for people who need radical, holistic care to break generational cycles of poverty, addiction, and homelessness. In this month's *His Hands*, you're going to hear from Earl, a man who couldn't find his own way out of a crippling alcohol addiction, but by the grace of God, has found a path to redemption.

Thank you for being a vital part of our past AND our future. I hope you will continue to walk alongside us as we pursue our calling: providing help and hope through the transforming power of God's love.

Sincerely,

P.S. Please check out our redesigned website!

Visit **www.thecitymission.org** for encouraging stories of new life, ways to get involved, and much more.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope...

1 PETER 1:3a

Healed, whole, home

Earl's journey to new life.

Earl grew up in the projects of Chicago. His father was confined to a wheelchair, his mother struggled with alcohol addiction and depression, and Earl and his six siblings were passed around between family members who raised them as well as they could. Eventually, his aunt suggested they move to Cleveland.

Earl did his best to deal with his uncertain circumstances by keeping to himself, but when he was just 10 years old, he found another way to cope.

"I saw some alcohol just sitting there," Earl says, "so I took a shot of it. I liked the way it made me feel, so I made sure to keep it around, a little here, a little there. It was a way for me to escape."

By the time Earl dropped out of high school, he was drinking heavily. For the next thirty years, he was caught in the grip of an

addiction that controlled every aspect of his life.

He says, "I just lived paycheck to paycheck. I drank in the morning, I drank after work... I didn't care about anything else. Eventually, I lost my job, my apartment, my self-respect; I lost everything.

"I prayed, 'God, I need your help. I'm tired of this cycle;

I'll do whatever it takes to get my life back on track.' That's when I got introduced to The City Mission."

A TIME FOR HEALING

Earl entered the program at the Mission and began to allow the Lord to work on his heart. He began to work in the maintenance department and went through counseling, and though the process got difficult, Earl stuck with it.



"I knew the program was working, but I got frustrated after a few months," Earl says. "Bob, in the maintenance department, reminded me to sit still and let God do His work.

"He said, 'I've had a lot of guys who have been in this position. Don't leave before the miracle happens,' so I sat still, and it got better. I started smiling again, and I started to feel good about myself."

As Earl progressed through the program, he began to look for an outside job and more permanent housing. He used the Resource



Moves into the Mission and enters the program at Crossroads

Begins to work in the maintenance department and learns valuable workplace skills

EARL

Goes through counseling and Touch of Reality classes with the staff

Joins the Faith and learns how to learn how to according to Bib



For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

—HEBREWS 3:4

Center to help him search and set up interviews, and before long, he had some promising connections.

THE ROAD TO "HOME"

Though the staff at the Mission helped guide his search, Earl learned to do his own footwork. He applied for housing assistance through a program for the chronically homeless and interviewed with several organizations that help match people up with Section 8 housing.

Today, Earl is living in a neighborhood near several other Crossroads graduates, and he's working in a Honda manufacturing plant. He's put the past behind him, and though he's no longer a resident at the Mission, he is grateful for all he learned here.

"[Recovery] is going to take time—a lot of time—but today I'm sober, and I'm headed in the right direction," Earl smiles. "By

the grace of God, I'm a different person now.

"This is an outstanding program. They make sure the guys have clothes on their backs, food to eat, people to talk to about the issues we have... **the Mission is the place to be if you need help. I will never forget this place as long as I live.**"

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Uses the Resource Center to **search for housing**

Interviews for and **finds a job** with Honda

nd Finances group to **manage money**
litical principles

Connects with the Chronically Homeless Program and **interviews for permanent housing**

Graduates from the program at Crossroads and **moves into a home of his own**

Paving a road to restoration

When men come to Crossroads, they often lack the skills and connections necessary to find meaningful employment once they leave. Our Resource Center offers life-changing help for those in need of a new beginning. This month, we sat down with Justin Ross, the Resource Center Supervisor, to find out what he's doing to serve our clients.

His Hands: Hello! Can you start by giving us an overview of what happens at the Resource Center?

Justin Ross: The center is basically a one-stop shop for our clients to connect to outside resources. We offer computer, phone, and Internet access, and we help men search for jobs, create resumes, repair their credit, search for housing, and coordinate their benefits. We also bring in outside service agencies and providers to host workshops and classes for our clients, such as Towards Employment, Vocational Guidance Services, and Edwin's Restaurant.

HH: Why do you think the Resource Center is so vital?

JR: Many of our clients have major roadblocks in their path



to success. These include technology barriers, such as lack of ability to navigate the Internet, and legal barriers, like felonies, wage garnishment, and child support. Many are also struggling with drug and alcohol addiction, mental health issues, or physical disabilities.

These things all make it difficult to find a job and housing, but perhaps the biggest challenge they face is a lack of hope. Many of our clients simply don't believe that they truly can change. My job is to minister hope to these men by treating them with dignity and respect.

HH: What do you do to help individuals?

JR: We spend a lot of one-on-one time with each man. We sit with them and help them use the computer for email and Internet searches.

We also hold Jobs for Life classes, which help the men search for jobs, prep for interviews, prepare a resume, and work on character development. At our last JFL class, more than 50% of the clients had jobs before the class even ended!

HH: How can people get involved and help the men at the Resource Center?

JR: Think about all the things we use the Internet for: banking, job and housing searches, medical

Running with a Mission



Congratulations to all who participated in our 7th annual Running with a Mission!

Our 2018 event was the biggest one yet, with more than 1,700 participants—including 170 families—and 134 amazing volunteers.

We raised more than \$150,000, exceeding our goal and bringing our overall total for this event to more than \$777,000 raised for Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center since the race started in 2012.



Thank you to our amazing sponsors, volunteers, and racers—
WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2019!

SERVICE IN FOCUS — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

appointments, insurance, utilities, communicating with family, etc. We need people who can come in and help our clients navigate all of this.

It's easy to stereotype men who are homeless and make them into a caricature. But the Resource Center is filled with real human beings, and they want what is best for themselves and their families. I hope our volunteers will help us do something about that, even if it's just a few hours once a week or once a month.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Resource Center, or in any other capacity at the Mission, we want to meet you! Please contact us at getinvolved@thecitymission.org, and find out how you can make a difference right here in Cleveland.

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*Providing help and hope
to all people through
the transforming power
of God's love*

