



THE
CITY MISSION
REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES



Church Partner,

I must begin by saying that we are so thankful to count you as a partner in serving our city. What a privilege it is to join together and show Cleveland Christ's love and His offer of grace and redemption.

While the last few years show economic growth and continued potential for Cleveland, we at The City Mission know that many of our neighbors face dire circumstances. We're heartbroken by the reality that in the 2017-18 school year 2,972 children attending Cleveland Metropolitan School District by day struggle with a life of homelessness by night. To date this year, Project ACT reports 2,775 homeless students and they expect the number to rise to 3,000 by the end of the year. Because these families try to avoid the stigma of homelessness by staying out of sight, the city does not see their crisis.

The time has come for us to *stand in* together, become aware of this crisis, and then turn that awareness into action.

On Saturday, June 29th, we're calling at least 3,000 people from the Greater Cleveland faith community to gather at Public Square to "Stand In" for our city's homeless children and youth. We will **SEE** what has been largely unseen. And we will **STAND** to represent children who desperately need our city's help.

But our goal is not just to raise awareness; we also want to turn awareness into action. We're inviting fellow agencies to come represent their work so that your church body has immediate information available on ways to **SERVE** their hurting community. From volunteer opportunities to collection drives to classroom sponsorship, your congregants can discover one of many ways they're uniquely designed to be the hands and feet of Jesus to vulnerable Cleveland children.

This event will be fun and exciting for all in attendance! Aside from the actual Stand In representation, Superior Avenue will be closed and populated with food trucks, activities will be available for all ages, and so much more. Woven throughout the event will be a time of worship led by a multi-church band as we unite, pray for our city, and Stand In for those who are hidden.

We hope your church is able to join us! Enclosed in this packet, you'll find plenty of resources to tell your congregation about this event. Please also visit our web site to register your church, small group, or as an individual: www.thecitymission.org/stand-in. Online you'll find digital versions of these resources as well. We'll collect your contact information and be in touch with more details as we get closer to the event. If you'd like someone to come speak at your church about the event, please contact Jaime Buxton at jbuxton@thecitymission.org.

In the meantime, please reach out to me with any questions. I look forward to serving our city with you!

Sincerely,

Rich Trickel
CEO, The City Mission

SEE - STAND - SERVE

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