



Dear Fellow Co-laborer,

I don't know how long you've lived and worked in Cleveland, but I was raised here, and when the time came, I chose to raise my family here. Serving Cleveland and its residents for decades has been my passion. Like you, I'm committed to this city and serving it through my work at The City Mission has been a tremendous privilege.

While the last few years show economic growth and continued potential for Cleveland, we at The City Mission know – as you well do – that many of our neighbors face desperate circumstances. We're heartbroken by the reality that Project Act reported 2,972 children attended Cleveland Metropolitan School District last year by day and struggled with a life of homelessness by night. This school year, there are already 2,775 student homelessness cases reported. We expect that number to grow to 3,000 by the end of spring 2019. 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 to make the city aware, and then turn that awareness into action.**

On Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 3,000 people will gather at Public Square to "Stand In" for our city's homeless children and youth. They will **SEE** what has been largely unseen. And they 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. That's why we're asking fellow agencies like you to come represent your work. We'll provide a table from which you can display materials and engage those who have been motivated and inspired to give back. We simply ask that you come with three ways that attendees can **SERVE** the city specifically through your agency. These may be volunteer opportunities, collection drives, etc. We only ask that you keep them child/student focused if possible, but we realize not all agencies represent children-specific causes. In that case, feel free to expand the service opportunities to families, mothers, or beyond.

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 corporate worship led by a multi-church band as we unite, pray for our city, and Stand In for our most vulnerable.

Because of your role in the city and your involvement in addressing this crisis, you've been selected to join with us. We hope you'll go to our web site to register: [www.thecitymission.org/stand-in-agencies](http://www.thecitymission.org/stand-in-agencies). Use the password: *see.stand.serve*. to enter. We'll collect your contact information and be in touch with more details as we get closer to the event. If you know of other agencies who may be interested, please give them my name and I'll be happy to talk with them!

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

Sincerely,  
Linda Uveges  
**COO, The City Mission**

**SEE - STAND - SERVE**