

## Alcoholism has been a curse in our family

Rick was ten years old when his father died. "Alcoholism has been a curse in our family," Rick says. "On my dad's side, no one knew their fathers for the past five or six generations."

Rick's alcoholism eventually worsened into prescription drug abuse. He knew he was killing himself, but he just couldn't stop. At Christmas time in 2009 Rick's sister, Stephanie, decided she couldn't sit by and watch another man in her family die. She talked to her pastor, who told her about City Gospel Mission. But Rick was stubborn and prideful, so he went back to his home in Florida. Stephanie didn't give up. On the phone she told him the program at City Gospel Mission was faith-based. Though he was a non-believer, a peace washed over him. Rick told her to buy him a ticket. He was coming home.



**There's not another program  
that could've worked on me...**

The night before he was to leave, Rick got so drunk and high that he lost his wallet and his plane ticket. But God didn't give up. Rick's roommate drove him all night and brought him to the Mission. "The Holy Spirit just comforted me after I got here," Rick says. "Within a week I got saved, and every day I just started to have more hope."

In the program, Rick worked hard on his sobriety and ran the meal-serving line for the homeless. "I wanted to get outside of myself. It was a big step in the healing process," he says. "I was giving an encouraging word. I realized I may be the only face that they see all day that's not going to look down on them. There's not another program in this world that could've worked on me the way City Gospel Mission's program did."

Rick is working on strengthening his relationship with his seventeen-year-old son, Ricky. He is also preparing to take his GED. He wants to start his own business, Deaton's Wholesale Furniture. "My slogan is going to be, 'Remember, nobody's beatin' Deaton!'" Rick exclaims. And that goes for Rick's recovery, too!

*City Gospel Mission was the last place Rick wanted to be, but the Holy Spirit moved him right through our doors.*

**Thanks for  
giving him  
new life!**



### INSIDE

With gratitude  
in our hearts

2



Give the gift of  
time this  
Thanksgiving

3



So many  
holiday events!

4



## A personal word from the President



Thanksgiving will be here before we know it! This year we are expecting a significant increase in the number of

people who will come through our doors for help and hope. Along with your prayerful support, we're hoping that God will inspire you to give your time to serve and connect with hurting people.

As you can imagine, the holidays are a difficult time to feel the pain of hunger and loss, to be without family, or even a home to celebrate in. Wouldn't it be meaningful to be able to look into the eyes of a hurting soul as you serve them a holiday meal and see their joy for yourself?

**"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."**

**-PHILIPPIANS 1:4-5, NIV**

In this issue of *Transformations* you'll read about Rick and Delmond, two men who entered the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program with life-threatening addictions and left with transformed hearts. They learned the true meaning of the holidays as they

worked alongside volunteers. You'll also find stories and information about upcoming events and ways you can get involved. I hope you will take a moment to read all about them!

Together we can help restore dignity and give second chances to people who were once hopelessly lost. Let's join hands and make a difference!

Happy Holidays,

Roger Howell  
President

## CITY GOSPEL MISSION IS GROWING!

City Gospel Mission is in the process of relocating to a new, state-of-the-art facility in Queensgate. Located one block north of the main post office on the corner of Dalton Avenue and York Street, it will provide us with 50,000 square feet of renovated and newly constructed facilities. This is an exciting milestone in our 87-year history!



*Our new facility in Queensgate is an exciting milestone in our 87-year history!*

God has blessed us with the funds to grow, and as we work to be good stewards of His provisions and your gifts, it is important that we walk through the doors He opens. We have prayerfully considered all of the options, and are unified in our belief that God has led us to our new address in Queensgate.

### Message to Our Donors

Your financial gifts continue to be used specifically to help the hurting and homeless achieve life transformation. City Gospel Mission is planning to launch a separate fundraising campaign specifically for the new facility.

### Message to Our Volunteers

As we expand our programs and services, we will need to double our number of volunteers. We are excited to offer volunteers additional opportunities to specifically fit their talents and service interests!

## Thank you!

All of us at City Gospel Mission want to say THANK YOU! Because of your support, the lives of men, women, and children have been transformed through:

- daily hot meals
- counseling
- daily chapel services
- overnight emergency shelter for men
- medical screening and HIV testing
- long-term recovery and rehabilitation programs

Thank you for rebuilding lives...and rebuilding hope!



## GE MATCHING GIFTS

Since 1954, the GE Foundation has provided a dollar-for-dollar match for every donation given by their employees and retirees.



GE Foundation

If you are a GE employee or retiree, GE will match every gift of \$25 or more to City Gospel Mission. This doubles the number of people helped!

Please contact GE today to confirm your gifts—by phone at 1-800-305-0669 or web at [www.ge.com/foundation/employee\\_programs/matching\\_gifts](http://www.ge.com/foundation/employee_programs/matching_gifts), or call Chala at 513-345-1061.

Thank you to the GE Foundation, their employees and retirees for helping those less fortunate.

## For Delmond and his family, Thanksgiving is now a time to rejoice

Delmond grew up in a good, loving home but that did not stop him from drinking at the age of 13 and smoking marijuana at age 14. By 2010, he was getting so drunk he was blacking out. "My family was telling me things that I was doing, and I didn't believe them because I didn't remember," Delmond says. Finally, his mother-in-law confronted him about getting high, and he lied to her. When he saw the look in her eyes, he knew he had crossed the line. He asked her to help him find a recovery program. At her suggestion, he came to the Mission.

As the holidays approached, Delmond became depressed. He wanted to go home, but he feared he might relapse if he did. His family usually had a social drink during the holiday festivities and he didn't know if

he could handle the temptation. "I was really longing to go home," he says. "I couldn't wait to get out of the doors for Thanksgiving break."

When he got there the whole family was so proud to see him sober, that his fears of relapse subsided.

After dinner, Delmond leaned over to his wife and whispered into her ear, "Take me back 'home.'" At Christmas he visited with his family again, and after dinner had a huge smile on his face. When his wife asked why he was smiling, Delmond responded, "I'm looking forward to going back to the Mission to complete my treatment."

Now that he's graduated from the program, Delmond has a new outlook on life. His whole attitude has changed and he feels that the other men in the program are his brothers for life. In the future he wants to be the spiritual leader in his family, and to be more involved in the lives of his daughters and his wife. "Since I've been here, our relationship has been great," he says. "It's very powerful, and I've got to give all the praise to God for that. To tell you the truth, and I didn't know it at the time, I was on the verge of losing everything." He has resolved to be a better husband, father and Christian. Because of City Gospel Mission and his relationship with God, he will be.



*Since he's found new life at the Mission, Delmond can't stop smiling!*

## Thanksgiving Day is on the way!

We are partnering with Give Back Cincinnati to present Fall Feast, a community-wide Thanksgiving Day celebration that provides us the opportunity to reach out to more men, women, and children in need and inform them of the services available to them at the Mission.

Over 3,000 meals will be served this Thanksgiving at Duke Energy Center. Everyone who attends has the opportunity to receive free coats, hats, gloves, an eye exam, and haircuts. There will be live music and children's games and activities. This will be a great day of fellowship and celebration!

Doors open at 10 a.m. and dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We need volunteers to help us serve. Please visit [www.fallfeast.org](http://www.fallfeast.org) to sign up or to give!

*A hearty Thanksgiving meal will be served to everyone who comes to our Fall Feast celebration.*



*The Kingdom of Heaven Rejoices with Your Gifts*

# We can't do it without you!

Each year City Gospel Mission partners with more than 100 area churches and over 200 volunteers to present The Christmas Boutique and The Christmas Store.

The Christmas Boutique shares the love of Christ with nearly 150 elderly ladies who are in need. We will provide a warm, festive atmosphere, a delicious brunch, worship and carol-singing, on Tuesday, December 13, from 10 a.m. to noon at Philippus United Church of Christ, 106 W. McMicken.

**Reaching out to our senior ladies in the Over-the-Rhine area**

We're looking for churches and senior centers in Over-The-Rhine to reach out to any ladies they know, 60 or older, who will not be receiving Christmas gifts from their families this year. We will arrange for transportation if needed. Another Boutique will be sponsored by University Christian Church for ladies from the Mt. Auburn area. Please visit [www.CityGospelMission.org](http://www.CityGospelMission.org) for more information.



**The Christmas Store provides fun gifts at affordable prices**

The Christmas Store provides Christmas blessings to over 400 families and 1,200 children each December. From December 14 through 17, parents unable to afford Christmas gifts can shop for presents for their children (infants through 18 years) with dignity, and at prices they can afford. The holiday setting, personal shoppers, and free gift-wrapping give parents the opportunity to enjoy the experience as well as the satisfaction of providing for their families.

To get ready for these two special Christmas events, we need your help. We are short on gifts for children. We are also praying for volunteers to come forward to lend a helping hand.

Please visit [www.CityGospelMission.org](http://www.CityGospelMission.org) for more information and for gift suggestions. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Angela at 513-345-1021.

*Families can find affordable gifts at our Christmas Store.*

## Thank You 2011 Golf Outing Sponsors!

Thank you to the players, volunteers, and especially our sponsors for making this year's 20th annual City Gospel Mission Golf Outing at the Bel-Wood Golf Course on September 17th a success. Thank you for helping bring real life-change to hurting and homeless men and women, and at-risk youth.

**2011 Golf Outing Sponsors**

- Cincinnati Equitable Life Insurance Company
- Boot Country Work Country
- Johnson Investment
- Rainbow Car Wash
- Barbara Seibel
- Messer Construction
- Hi5 Church Group
- Santos Auto Service
- RLT Design
- Saxon Financial
- Christian Blue Pages
- Foster and Associates
- Pownet Global
- Jostin Construction



**COMPLETE MEALS, JUST \$1.79!**

**Yes! I'll help provide hot meals and life-changing hope for Cincinnati's hungry and homeless this holiday season!**

- Here's my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Bill my credit card:  VISA  MC  AMEX  DISC

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To give a gift by credit card, visit us online at [www.CityGospelMission.org](http://www.CityGospelMission.org) or call (513) 345-1027.

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**THANK YOU!**

Please return this completed form with your donation. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt for your records. Please make your check payable to: CITY GOSPEL MISSION

**CITY GOSPEL MISSION**

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