

 City Gospel
MISSION

Four years after they
were awarded a Jeremiah
Scholars scholarship, Charlie
and Angie graduate from UC!
PAGE 6



WINGS OF HOPE JUNE 2026

Breaking the cycle of poverty and despair ... one life at a time



Hello friend,

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the more than 250 people who attended our annual Gala in May - including 170 of you who attended for the first time!

The evening reflected your deep commitment to our mission of breaking the cycle of poverty and despair, one life at a time. Your investment in the people we serve and our ministry is changing lives every day.

We recently held our monthly Prayer Day, when we gather as an organization to pray for you - our supporters - the people in need whom you help us serve, our city, and City Gospel Mission as a whole.

Our theme this month was "Better Together," based off 1 Corinthians 12: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

Every single one of you who came to the Gala and who otherwise give of your resources is part of the City Gospel Mission body. We would not exist without you. Lives would not be changed without you. Our city would not be changed without you. And many people would not know Jesus without you.

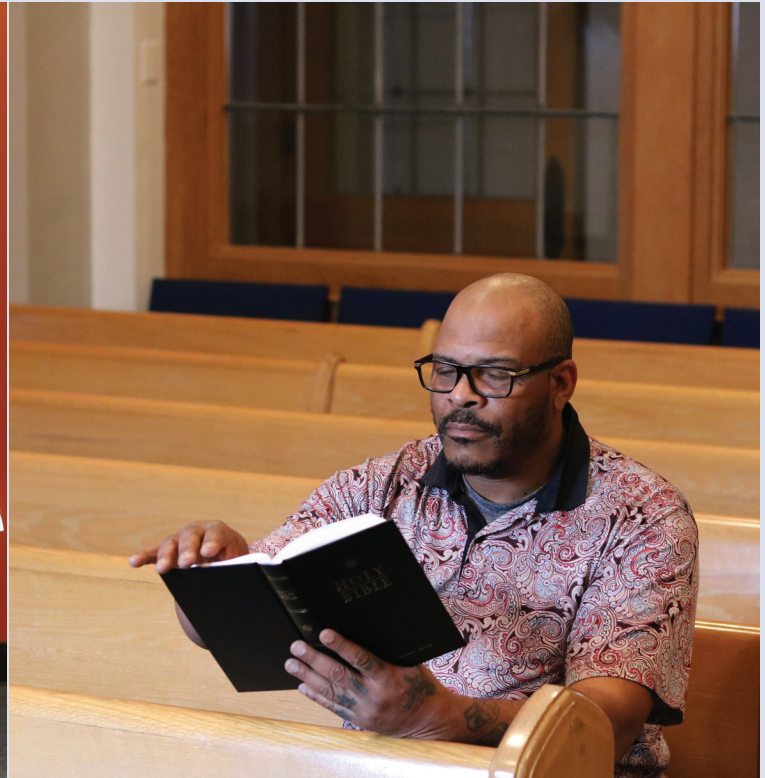
One noteworthy generous supporter, named John, shared his testimony at our Prayer Day, and we were blow away by his sincere heart to help the forgotten and bring the redemptive message of Jesus to them.

That's what you're doing every time you give a gift or spend time volunteering.

May we continue to celebrate all that God is doing through the faithful support of His people and remain expectant for the lives He will continue to transform in the days ahead - including yours.

God bless you,

DR. JONATHAN BROWN, PRESIDENT, CITY GOSPEL MISSION



Antoine 'came in broken ... left with everything'

Before I came to City Gospel Mission in April 2025, I thought I had an amazing life. I'm a classically trained chef. I was making \$2,000 a week. I was building restaurants and cooking for the Cincinnati Reds. I had the new car, the home, and the reputation.

Then, I heard a pop in my back. In an instant, I was out of work. The worker's comp didn't come. My life flipped upside down. I lost the home and the car. I lost my muscle mass. I looked in the mirror and didn't recognize the man looking back.

I had been to City Gospel before, but back then, I was just taking. I'd pick up guys from the shelter to wash dishes in my restaurants, but I never gave back. Now, I was the one walking through those doors, broke and down and out.

My case manager held my hand every step of the way. I didn't just have a place to stay; she gave me a plan. I started walking every day in the morning and afternoon.

I used those walks to talk to God. I weighed 315 pounds and was borderline diabetic with high blood pressure. By the time I left eight months later, I was 271 pounds with a clean bill of health. But more than that, I had mended my relationship with God. I realized I had spent my life taking, and it was time to start serving.

I moved into my own place December 23rd – two days before Christmas. It was a total blessing.

As a volunteer chef at City Gospel Mission, I fed the men who are exactly where I used to be.

I used to be a guy who just used people. Today, I am blessed to be the guy who serves them. I was lost in my own success, but today, I am found in my service.

Thank you, thank you, thank you – the donors are helping people in ways they wouldn't be able to believe. I came in broken, lost everything, and had nothing. And I left with everything.



‘My story is one of pain, but also one of hope’

After childhood trauma, addiction, and mental health struggles, Cassandra is healing

For much of my life, I carried the weight of childhood trauma that I never truly learned how to process. Over time, I began self-medicating to cope with the pain, confusion, and emotional struggles I faced daily. What started as a way to numb my feelings eventually led to a serious deterioration of my mental health and overall well-being.

There came a point where everything spiraled, and I found myself experiencing a manic episode. In that moment, my life felt out of control. Thankfully, my family recognized that I needed help and acted quickly to get me connected to City Gospel Mission’s recovery program.

Entering the program became a turning point in my life. For the first time in a long time, I felt genuinely cared for. I received support in every area of my life - mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and personally. The care I received was monumental and truly changed my life for the better.

One thing that has stayed with me throughout my journey is my doll, “Peaches.” I have had Peaches for nearly 40 years.

To many people, she may just look like a doll, but to me, she represents comfort, safety, and peace. As a child, Peaches held all my tears and fears during some of the hardest moments of my life. Having her close made me feel protected when I was sad or afraid. Even now, she continues to bring me comfort and reminds me that healing is possible.

My story is one of pain, but it is also one of hope, recovery, and transformation. I have learned that mental health struggles do not define who I am, and with the right support and care, healing can happen.

Thank you to everyone who gave Cassandra the space and time to start healing. You are changing lives every day at City Gospel Mission!



Cassandra has had many accomplishments since coming to City Gospel Mission. She finished the Flying Pig 5k as a member of our Step Forward team (photo, bottom), graduated from our recovery program in 2024 (photo, middle), and now is one of the first residents of our Promised Land independent living apartments (photo, top).





JOHN: From broken to restored to a life of meaning and faith



When I came to City Gospel Mission, I was broken. I was broken physically. I was broken emotionally. I was broken spiritually.

About a month before I arrived, I slipped and fell on the ice. It was about 8 in the evening, it was cold, and I was alone. My legs were very weak, and I was unable to stand.

I lay on the ground for about 30 minutes, yelling for help. I might have lain there all night if someone hadn't found me and summoned help. That incident was representative of the physical condition I was in when I first arrived.

At the gym at City Gospel Mission, I rebuilt myself physically. I can now easily stand on my own. Also, just recently, I did 50 consecutive push-ups – considered elite for my age – whereas when I arrived, I could do exactly zero.

My emotional health was also poor. I had lost my spirit and my "spark."

Today, I am proud to have regained what I lost.

“Simply put, City Gospel Mission gave me the time, space, and resources I needed to get back up.”

Recovery program participant John

Furthermore, I was a Christian in name only. While here, that has changed. I now have a relationship with Jesus Christ in a way I never did before.

Stewardship and giving back were once foreign concepts to me, but now I embrace them wholeheartedly. This change led me to my calling in adult education, where I now tutor adults working toward their future.

Simply put, City Gospel Mission gave me the time, space, and resources I needed to get back up. In doing so, I discovered that I want to live a life that matters – a life that impacts others – a life that has meaning. And a life of faith.

To every donor and volunteer who helped restore John's life and the lives of so many others, we gratefully say, "THANK YOU!"

Thanks for helping Charlie and Angie graduate!

We want to congratulate Charlie and Angelica - two of the young adults in our Jeremiah Scholars program - for graduating from the University of Cincinnati in May! Charlie graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice, and Angelica graduated with a degree in Psychology.

Says Charlie: City Gospel changed my life. It continues to impact my family as my younger siblings grow in the programs that I participated in. They are learning what they want to pursue and at the same time focusing on God. Because without God, I wouldn't be standing here where I am today as the first in my family to graduate.

I had a mentor who was a great influence throughout the four years. I interned with the Cincinnati Police Department. I'm now pursuing law school.

I'm just one story of a whole book. We all have our stories, and we all take up a chapter in the life and the connections that we have with each other.

And so, I want to thank City Gospel and the people who support City Gospel. Not even just giving money, but giving your time, being there for somebody who definitely needs it, who is in a room full of darkness and needs one single candle, one single light to inspire them to grow and take the pencil and write their own story. So, thank you.

Jeremiah Scholars currently serves 17 scholarship recipients who attend traditional college and trade schools at six institutions in Ohio and Kentucky. UC has the most Scholars enrolled - 8. We have the privilege - thanks to your generosity - of adding 6-8 new students for the 2026-27 school year.

THANK YOU to each of you who donate to empower our young people. They have great financial barriers to attending college but also great potential to change the trajectory of their lives and also their families' lives as the first in their families to go to college.





'You're shaping futures. You shaped mine.'

My name is De'Shawn. I got involved with Employment Network during my senior year at high school. They would come to our classroom every two weeks.

Staff members Justus and Kalyn taught us about what employers look for, how to carry ourselves, how to communicate, and how to prepare for real world challenges. This wasn't just theory. It was practical, real-life knowledge. I knew right away this was a class I needed to take seriously because it had real-life impact.

I connected with them immediately. They genuinely cared about where I was headed and wanted me to succeed. Justus even gave me his contact information and told me to reach out to him anytime, and I did. The first thing I asked of him was to help me build my résumé. I did some tweaks, and Justus put his final polish on it.

But what really made the difference was the class itself. Throughout the year, we learned about responsibility, honesty, owning our actions, how to present ourselves professionally and so much more.

I didn't know it then, but those lessons were about to open a major door for me.

One day, I went to open a savings account at my local bank. While the account was being set up, I started talking with the woman helping me. I liked the atmosphere of the place, so I asked if they were hiring. She said her branch wasn't, but another location nearby was. She asked me to send her my résumé.

But I didn't have to wait to send it, because I was prepared. I kept my résumé in my car because I knew that I needed to stay prepared and look for opportunities. This one fell in my lap.

The next day, the manager called me for an interview. And because of everything I learned in class, I showed up prepared. I walked out confident I had the job. And I accepted the offer.

Employment Network reminds me to this day that I am family for life. I was happy that they were there to celebrate me on my graduation. I am much happier knowing that my support didn't stop there.

They didn't just guide me in career skills. They provided spiritual guidance as well. After I graduated, Justus invited me to church. My relationship with Jesus grew, and I was baptized last year.

Employment Network helped me find my vision and a new way of thinking about my future. They put me on the right path early, and I praise God for the benefits I'm living today.

Thank you to everyone here who supports City Gospel Mission. You're not just helping young adults; you're shaping futures. You shaped mine.



EVENTS UPDATE

Thank you supporters!

PRINCESS BALLET "TOYMAKER'S DAUGHTER"

Diamond Sponsor: Kings Electric

Silver Sponsor: The Bounty Fund

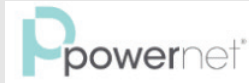
Bronze Sponsor: Don & Jill Daniel

Partner Sponsors: Hugh O'Donnell,
Lexus Pursuit of Potential, Minuteman Press
Fairfield

Patron Sponsors: Dan Tarkington,
Powernet, William & Laura Koontz

GIK: LaRosa's Pizza

Photography Sponsor: David Slaughter Photography



ANNUAL GALA

Title Sponsor: United Dairy Farmers

Platinum Sponsor: Faith Financial
Advisors, Inc.

Bronze Sponsors: McSwain
Carpets & Floors; Faith Bible Church;
Dan Owens; Dennis Drozd

Visionary Sponsor: Heritage
Wealth Advisors

Patron Sponsors: Edward and
Donna Wenstrup, Interact for Health

Photography Sponsor: David
Slaughter Photography



SAVE THE DATES

CGM SUNDAY

August 9

Churches all over Greater Cincinnati

CGM Sunday is a coordinated, multi-church effort that raises awareness about City Gospel Mission, deepens community engagement, raises funds to support the work, and invites congregations to partner with City Gospel Mission in breaking the cycle of poverty and despair. No need to RSVP.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Sept. 21, 10 am

Aston Oaks Golf Course

1 Aston Oaks Dr., North Bend, OH 45052

This four-person scramble features 18 holes of golf and includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and prizes. The event benefits all of City Gospel Mission's programs.



SCAN TO SIGN UP

QUESTIONS ABOUT EVENTS?
Contact Event Planner Jennifer Osborn at
513-345-1045 or josborn@citygospelmission.org

YES! I'll provide food & care for those in need this summer

WILL YOU BECOME A **PARTNER IN HOPE** AND SUPPORT THE HOMELESS, HUNGRY & HURTING YEAR 'ROUND AS A MONTHLY GIVER?



I'm enclosing \$ _____ Make this donation monthly

Please allocate my gift to:

- Where it's needed most
- Homeless Services
- Recovery
- Jobs
- Youth
- I have included City Gospel Mission in my Will or Estate Plan.
- Please send a FREE copy of "The Gift That Keeps on Blooming"
- Bill my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

Credit Card Number _____

CIV _____ Exp. Date _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

To give by credit card online, visit citygospelmission.org or by phone, call 513-345-1027.



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 sure your check is payable to: CITY GOSPEL MISSION**

CITY GOSPEL MISSION
1805 Dalton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214

GM0626NL