

HERE WE STAND

**2019
ANNUAL REPORT**



**THE
CITY MISSION**
REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES

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...stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be strong.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13





FROM THE CEO

HERE WE STAND

Dear Friend,

Over the last year, you stood with hurting men, women, and children in the Cleveland area and helped transform their trials into triumphs. You supported George, Gissel, and Rhonda as they made their way out of crisis and back into our community. They—and all of us at The City Mission—thank you.

But we have much more to do.

Many of our neighbors still struggle with poverty, intimate partner violence, and addiction. Months after our groundbreaking Stand In event, thousands of children in our school system still experience homelessness.

However, there is always hope.

When even one family who had been living in their car moves into an apartment... when one man graduates from our Crossroads program... when one woman escapes abuse and finds healing at Laura's Home... there is hope for everyone.

As we begin another year of ministry, I'm proud to say, "Here I stand." And I invite you to join all of us at The City Mission as **we all stand for our brothers and sisters** who are working to stand on their own.

In Christ,

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

PROVERBS 31:8-9



STANDING IN LIBERATION

Growing up in the projects of Cleveland, George didn't have a lot of money, but his family was "rich in love." As he grew older, though, that wasn't enough for George. He saw hustlers and drug dealers making money and living glamorous lifestyles... and he wanted that too.

Raised with Christian values, George knew he was on the wrong road, but he couldn't turn off of it on his own. When he was released from his third prison term, he had nothing left and nowhere to go. He connected with his pastor, who referred him to The City Mission.

"The City Mission has been a blessing!" says George. In our Crossroads program, he found the guidance and support he needed to transition from prison back into the community. "It was intense," he says of the curriculum. "I learned a lot. Even after I've graduated, I still apply it to my life today."

George didn't get to walk across the stage with the other program graduates, but he had a good excuse: he was working. "The ultimate goal is to work and get back on our feet."

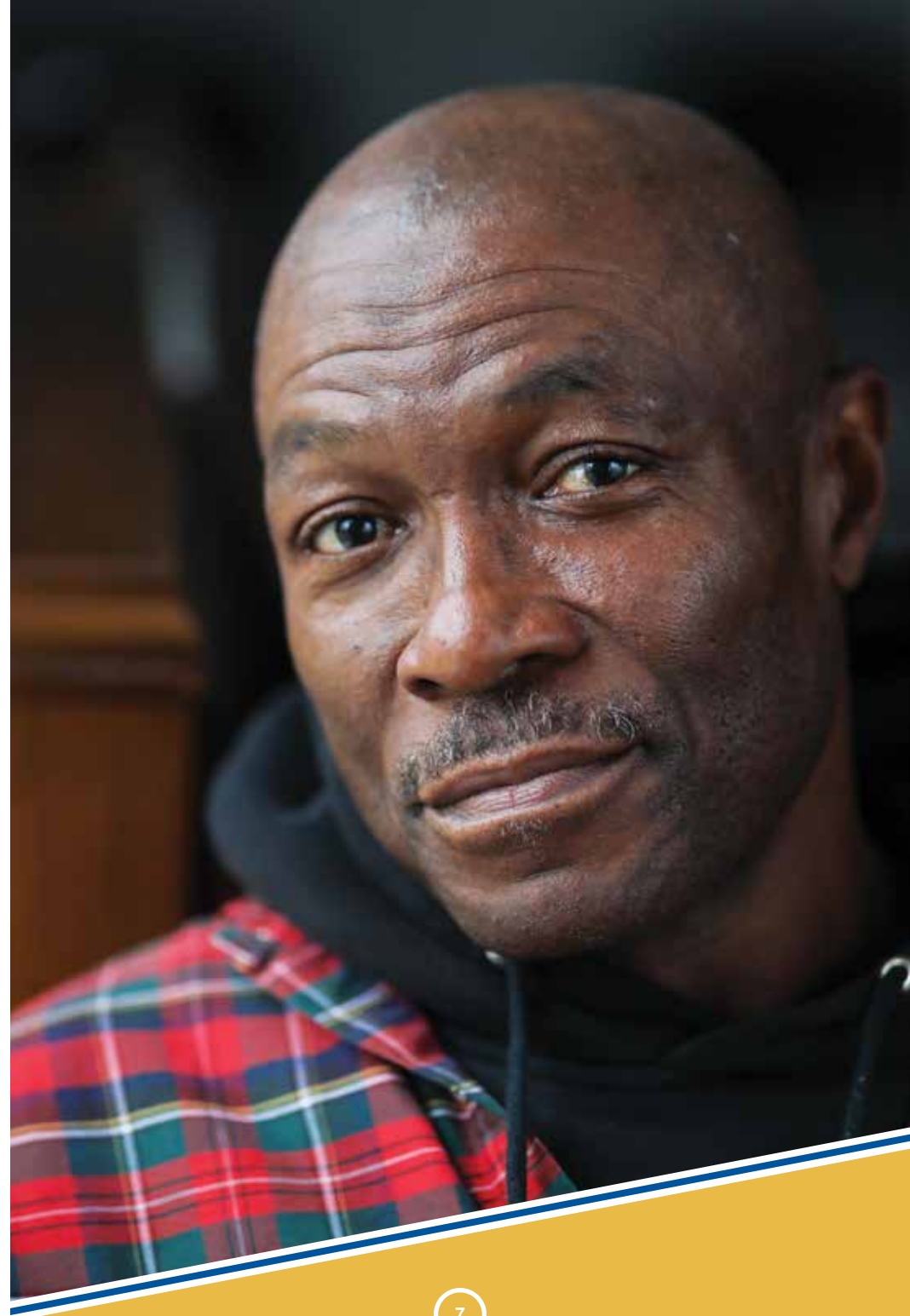
As a carpenter, George tells us, he gets to emulate his hero: Jesus Christ. "I love the Lord with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength," says George. He serves as the local president of a young men's mentoring group at his church. "I try to give back and do the little bit I can. It makes me feel good to be helpful."

George lives in our Banfield apartments, transitional housing for Crossroads graduates, but he looks forward to having a place of his own and helping to raise his three daughters. "They see I'm doing the right thing," he says proudly.

"This is only the beginning... of spreading God's liberation!"

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord...

PHILIPPIANS 4:1





STANDING WITH PURPOSE

Gissel left her home state and settled in Cleveland, hoping to find purpose for her life. Soon she had a job, a relationship, and four beautiful children, but meaning in life still escaped her. When she left her job to raise her kids, Gissel felt isolated and depressed.

“I became addicted to painkillers,” Gissel says. “My kids saw me miserable, and it wasn’t fair to them.” She went to rehab, but when she came home, the depression—and addiction—returned. “I was a full-blown addict. I needed to leave again and get some help.”

For two weeks, Gissel called Laura’s Home every day. Then she surrendered herself to God. “I prayed, ‘God, we’re in Your hands, wherever You lead us.’ The next day, Laura’s Home called for me to come in with my kids.”

Since coming to Laura’s Home, Gissel says, “God has been with me.

He’s giving me a chance to get it right. It wasn’t working my way. The programs have helped my relationships with my kids and their father. It’s a blessing to experience that, to work on what was breaking me.”

Gissel says the programs at Laura’s Home have also taught her how to deal with difficult situations and made her a better mother.

“My kids have been strong through it all. They’re doing great in school, and they’ve made tons of new friends,” Gissel tells us. “The staff are incredible with them, very caring. Every little need is met.”

Looking ahead, Gissel says, “I want us to have our own place. I might get back into nursing.” Most of all, she plans to keep God first in her life. “If I do that, everything will follow.”

“This is only the beginning... of God’s purpose in my life!”

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm... Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58





STANDING IN TRUST

For most of her adult life, Rhonda depended on drugs and alcohol to get her through each day. She had been in and out of drug treatment programs, always relapsing, and falling further behind each time. At her lowest point, she slept in a tent by the Cuyahoga River. Rhonda knew it was time to get her life back.

When Rhonda came to Laura's Home, she was lifted up by case workers and fellow clients who helped her grow in her relationship with Christ. "Now I have somebody who walks with me every day, who I can rely on. I know I can trust Him."

Through classes like Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Rhonda let her defenses down and became more understanding. "Everybody's at a different point in their relationship with Jesus," she learned.

As Rhonda progressed through the program, she became an informal mentor to the other women, who saw her as uplifting and compassionate.

"The purpose of following Christ is to walk in love," she says.

Rhonda's case worker asked her to move into and care for a vacant New Horizons home that was waiting for a family. It was a turning point in Rhonda's journey. "Miss Tammy said they were only considering women who could be trusted to live unchaperoned," Rhonda recalls. "It really touched me because I didn't see myself that way."

Rhonda showed everyone their trust was well placed. Currently working as a server in a restaurant downtown, she is studying to reinstate her registry as an ultrasound technician. She got her driver's license back and bought a car. But Rhonda gained even more. "I have a solid relationship with Jesus Christ. Without Him, I wouldn't have been able to do any of that!"

"This is just the beginning... of my love walk with Christ."

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then... I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit...

PHILIPPIANS 1:27





VOLUNTEERING

STANDING IN SERVICE

Many volunteers at The City Mission spend their time serving the women and families at Laura's Home. We're very grateful, as there's always plenty to do there! However, as Jeffrey George learned when he came to volunteer with his small group from City Church, there are other needs that are sometimes overlooked.

After serving at Laura's Home, Jeffrey spoke with Jaime Buxton, our Volunteer Services Supervisor. "Jaime told me the men at the Mission don't get loved on like the women and children do." That inspired Jeffrey to organize monthly Game Nights for men in the Crossroads program.

"We bring games and gather in the dining hall at Crossroads, and the men come in and sit at different tables," Jeffrey explains. "We play cards, Scrabble, chess, whatever we have. It's just a simple night of fun, conversation, and building friendships."

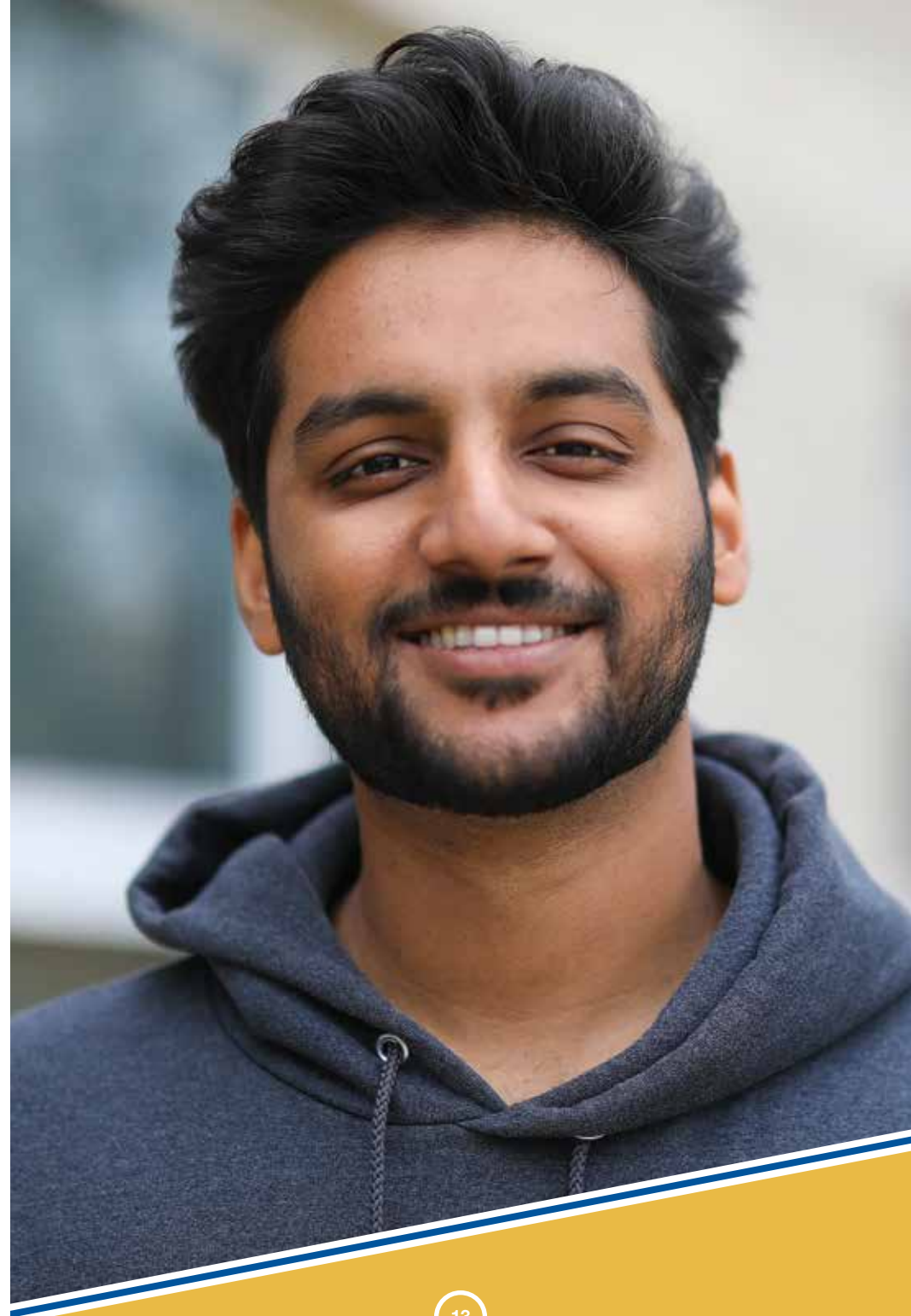
After a few months, Jeffrey decided to invite the men from Crossroads to his church. "James, one of the men in the program, came with us a couple weeks," Jeffrey recalls. "But we weren't the first people from City Church who impacted him. A member of our church had seen him on the street and helped him find his way to The City Mission. It came full circle."

If you're thinking of giving some of your time to The City Mission, Jeffrey encourages you to try Crossroads. "We all go through moments of crisis," he says, "but we're blessed in those moments to have community to love on us. So many of the men who come through these doors don't have that. That's why I wanted to spend more time with them. These are men who are down on their luck. They have a lot of brokenness, and they need community and good friendships."

Find out how you can be a friend at www.thecitymission.org/volunteer.

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

ECCLESIASTES 4:10a





Stand In

FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

On June 29, we gathered on Public Square to Stand In for Cleveland students experiencing homelessness. In the 2017–2018 school year, Project ACT reported that nearly 3,000 Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) students did not have a stable place to call home. Family homelessness is at crisis levels in Cleveland, but as we talked with faith groups and individuals throughout the greater Cleveland area, we heard the same response: “We had no idea.”

We were convinced that, if only they were made aware of the crisis, the Greater Cleveland community and its faith-centered organizations would rally to action. So we hosted the Stand In, and Cleveland came through!

3,062 individuals, representing 170 churches registered to stand with us, representing every counted CMSD student experiencing homelessness. Well over 1.5 million social media impressions and significant local

news and radio coverage further spread the word. Fourteen social service agencies joined with us and hosted tables, informing attendees about how they can get involved and respond to this crisis.

Four pastors from the Greater Cleveland area challenged us to faithfully care for those in crisis. CMSD’s Chief of Staff, the Director of Community Relations Board for the City of Cleveland, a children’s choir, and student performers also participated on stage. Additionally, a band of local church and area performers generously devoted their day to providing live music.

As successful as the Stand In was, that moment was only the beginning. Countless Cleveland children still lack a stable place to call home. Something must change. At The City Mission, we continue to forge partnerships with schools and other community partners, raising awareness of the crisis and working together towards a solution.

*Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.*

PSALM 82:3



YOUR

IMPACT

1,909 INDIVIDUALS SERVED



1,177
Men

365
Women



367
Children

93,921
TOTAL NIGHTS OF SHELTER

49,554
Women & Children

44,367
Men

154,175
TOTAL MEALS

81,316
Women & Children

72,859
Men

57 PEOPLE WHO FOUND EMPLOYMENT/ INCOME

29
Men

28
Women

134 PEOPLE WHO FOUND HOUSING

67
Men

67
Women



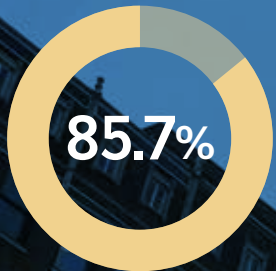
FINANCIAL REPORT



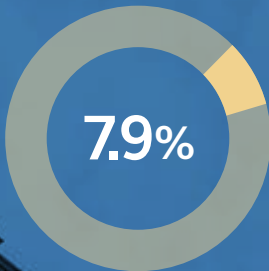
OUR ANNUAL INCOME 2018-19

\$8,950,729

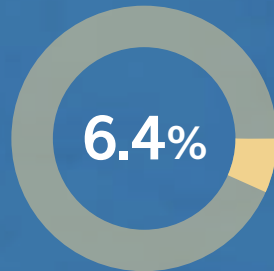
4,603 VOLUNTEERS



PRIVATE SUPPORT



FOUNDATIONS



OTHER



27,693

VOLUNTEER HOURS VALUED AT

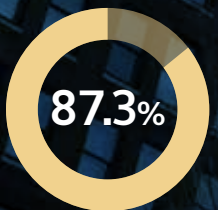
\$591,520



209

FIRST TIME VOLUNTEERS

HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE USED



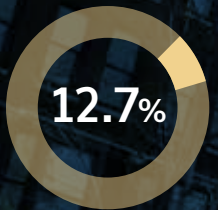
PROGRAMS



43.5% Laura's Home

40.8% Crossroads

2.9% IOS



FUNDRAISING & ADMINISTRATION

A complete audited statement is available upon request.



FINANCIAL IMPACT ON OUR CITY

\$4,400,000

The cost of serving someone for one year in The City Mission program is **ALMOST HALF** the estimated cost of government housing. The resulting savings to the Greater Cleveland Community in 2019 was \$4.4 million.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE VALUES

- Directed by the Bible
- Energized by Collaboration
- Inspired by Responsibility
- Bound by Integrity
- Dedicated to Transformation
- Strengthened by Commitment

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