

THE CITY MISSION

Standing in the Gap

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

- 5 FROM THE CEO
- 6 HELP
- 8 HEART
- 10 HOME
- 12 VOLUNTEER
- 14 STATISTICS & FINANCES

But now, Lord, what do I look for?
My hope is in you.

PSALM 39:7





FROM THE CEO

BECAUSE OF YOU

Dear Friend,

I'm grateful to God for His tremendous faithfulness throughout 2017. Though the need was great, His kindness to us never wavered, and by His grace, many lives were changed at The City Mission.

As you'll see in the pages of this Annual Report, thousands of people found hope at the Mission last year. People like Evelyn, Chanelle and Jacob, whose stories you'll read, came to us in the midst of crisis, and thanks to partners like you, they received life-changing care.

While we are grateful that our city is thriving in many ways, hundreds of our neighbors are still in need. Cleveland faces an unprecedented housing crisis, and though city leaders are beginning to take notice, permanent solutions are still months away.

We will continue to stand in the gap for those with nowhere else to turn, but we can't do it alone. We are relying on God, who offers new mercies every day. We're relying on you, too—your support makes a big difference, and we pray your partnership will continue!

Please join us in celebrating all that took place here last year. We give the glory to God, and we give thanks for His love that truly never ceases. Great is His faithfulness!

Sincerely,



*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23





CHANGING LIVES BEGINS WITH MEETING BASIC NEEDS

“I’ve lived the majority of my life incarcerated,” Evelyn says, **“and that’s not the way I want to do it anymore. I am better than this. I want better things than this.”**

Evelyn has spent more than two decades in prison because of drug abuse. With no real work experience and no good idea of how to live in the real world, she knew she needed a plan for life after her release.

She wrote to Brent Richards, the Chaplain of Inmate Outreach Services, and asked if Laura’s Home had space for her.

“I said, ‘I want it, I want it, I want it.’ It’s a faith based program that can help me fit back into society but still give me structure and routine.”

Evelyn moved into Laura’s Home shortly after her release, and for her, it’s been a place of peace, refuge and healing.

“Today I am much stronger and much more confident,” she smiles. “The environment at Laura’s Home has made me feel that way.

“I came in here with nothing. They gave me clothes, they gave me everything because I have no income. That’s why every time they ask for a volunteer, I’m the first one there.



“I used to say, ‘God’s not going to love me. Why would He want someone who’s stealing, drinking, hurting other people just to get high?’ But now I know. **That’s who Jesus hung out with. It was people like me.**”

When someone comes to The City Mission for help, we meet their immediate needs. Your gifts provide food, clothing and safe shelter for those in crisis, and that’s just the beginning.

Whether our guests are with us for a few nights or many months, we make sure they understand that God loves them and has a purpose for their lives. It’s a key step on their journey to recovery, and for many guests, it’s the start of something beautiful.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

PSALM 46:1



TRANSFORMING LIVES BEGINS WITH HEALING

“Before I came to Laura’s Home, I didn’t know who I was,” Chanelle begins. **“Now I have restoration, reconciliation and purpose, and it’s because of Jesus and The City Mission.”**

Not long ago, Chanelle had none of the confidence that she displays now. She was trying to escape an abusive marriage, but like many domestic violence victims, she was afraid to take the next step.

When Laura’s Home called to offer her a spot, she decided to take a chance for herself and her children.

“They called me, and I got everything ready so my husband wouldn’t notice I was up to something. I stood there crying because I knew there was no turning back. My flesh wanted to stay, but I said, ‘No, I’m going to trust this and walk through these doors.’

“I was in crisis. In my marriage, in my finances, in myself... I was scared, but as soon as I walked in, they welcomed me, and I knew it was God who sent me to Laura’s Home.”

Chanelle went through the long-term program, and the classes she took helped her find her worth in God’s eyes and learn how to care for



her family on her own. Today, she’s rejoicing in the hope she has for the future.

“The Bible says your latter days will be greater than your former ones,” she says confidently. **“I’m walking in new beginnings daily, and I feel the imprint of the Father’s voice in my life.”**

The long-term program at Laura’s Home is designed to help women find hope and healing in the midst of crisis. Your support helps families like Chanelle and her children escape destructive relationships and build a self-sufficient future. We truly believe that with God’s help, their latter days can be better than their former ones!

*“The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former,” says the Lord of hosts.
“And in this place, I will give peace.”*

HAGGAI 2:9







RESTORING LIVES BEGINS WITH STABILITY

“Home” looks different for everyone, and while for some that means a house and a yard, for others, “home” is simply a place where they find peace.

Jacob has been searching for home for quite a while. Though he has family in the area, he’s had trouble finding a permanent place to stay.

When he mentioned to his grandmother that he’d been struggling with anger and suicidal thoughts, she encouraged him to reach out to the Mission.

“They got me in like that!” he says, snapping his fingers. “It was such a blessing, and from day one, I’ve been working here. It helps me cope with my stress and anger.”

He’s also found that working with his hands helps him quiet his mind and deal with his emotions in a Biblical way.

“The City Mission makes sure everything really ties in with the Bible,” Jacob shares. “With the anger issues that I had, I don’t think I would have lasted long if I didn’t stay here.

“Before I came here, I was reckless. **I would ask God, ‘Why am I still alive? Why are you blessing me?’ I never felt like I deserved it, but now I know that’s just God.**



“Because of the Mission, I’m content. This place keeps doing and doing things for you... it’s just the best option. I know I made the right choice!”

That choice allowed Jacob to find a home that fits his energetic style. After graduating from the Crossroads program in late 2017, Jacob began training at a highly regarded culinary arts institute. Through this new program, Jacob will have access to training, permanent housing, basic medical care and employment after graduation: tools to build the “home” he has been searching for.

No matter what “home” looks like, we want to help our guests find the stability they need to lead self-sufficient lives.

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.

PROVERBS 24:3



VOLUNTEERING

SERVICE BEGINS WITH RELATIONSHIPS

As a sophomore at Baldwin-Wallace University, Sara had a heart for children in need. As she tried to understand God's plan for her life, she felt the Lord leading her to become an intern at the Mission.

"I want to be a youth mental health counselor, but I wasn't sure what direction God wanted me to take. This internship answered all my questions. It changed me as a person, and it changed my relationship with God, but when it ended, I said, 'I'm not done here! I don't want to leave these kids!' So I became a volunteer."

Sara works with kids at the Pathways Program at Laura's Home as often as possible, and she has some encouragement for anyone who's interested in joining her.

"I think there's a misconception that working with these kids is hard. It's a spiritual effort for sure, but **you just have to show up, know some 4th grade math, and be ready to play games. God will use whatever you bring!**

"This opportunity is right here in our backyard. These kids need help, and instead of being focused on ourselves, we need to work on the character God gave us and learn to be compassionate neighbors."



So what does she do when she's here?

"The kids are so excited when they come in [to the after school program]," she laughs. "You give them an afternoon snack or help with their homework or make paper snowflakes... **It's simple, but you form a relationship, and that's the coolest thing. I learn about them and I learn about God all at the same time.**"

If you'd like to volunteer to work with the kids at Pathways or in any other area at The City Mission, we want to meet you!

Contact us at thecitymission.org/volunteer.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion...

COLOSSIANS 3:12A



MISSION STATISTICS

CROSSROADS

- 81,952 hot, filling meals served to hungry men
- 37,858 nights of safe shelter provided for men in crisis
- 1,042 men supported in their recovery from crisis
- 32 men found employment and 181 found housing

LAURA'S HOME

- 99,309 meals served to women and children
- 52,716 nights of safe and secure shelter provided for 191 women and 464 children
- 55 women and families found housing
- 31 women and families found employment
- 194 children participating in the Pathways program

INMATE OUTREACH SERVICES

- 102 visits made to Ohio Prisons and Cuyahoga County Jail
- 88 chapel services, Bible studies and meetings with over 2,500 participants
- 810 encouraging one-on-one visits by staff chaplains
- 34,285 monthly mailings and correspondence sent

VOLUNTEERS

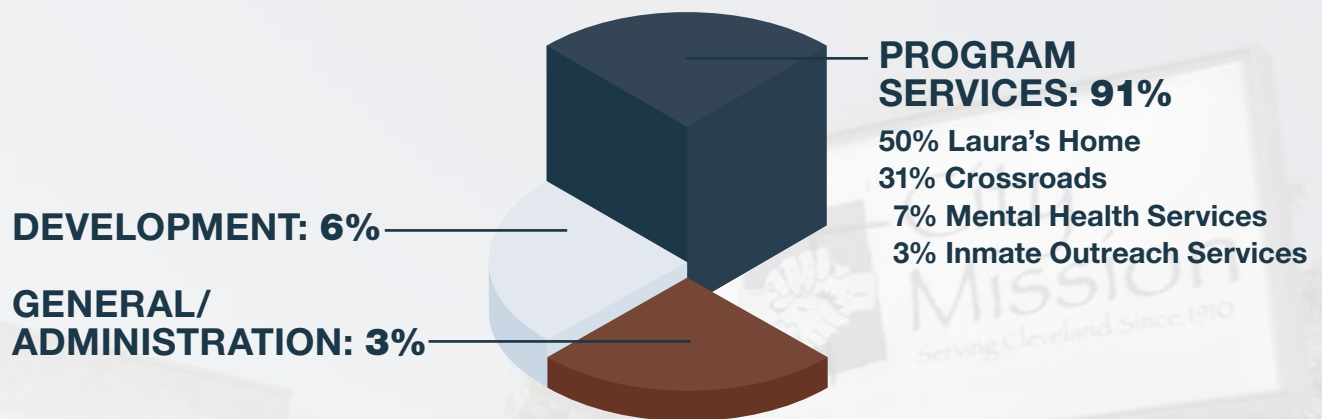
- Volunteers gave 23,496 hours of their time, which is valued at \$501,879 to the men, women and children at The City Mission
- 336 first time volunteers

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

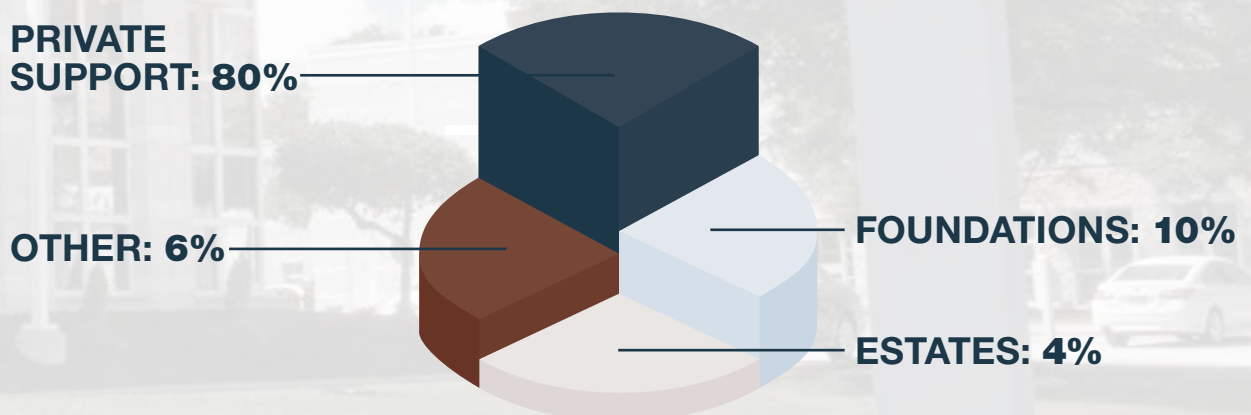
OUR ANNUAL INCOME 2016-2017

\$6,473,246

HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE USED



SOURCES OF REVENUE



A complete audited statement is available upon request.

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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