VOLUME 27 NO. 10 | **OCTOBER 2026**

Helping Up Mission

Hope Restored. Lives Rebuilt.

RAISING UP

THE GOOD NEWS OF HELPING UP MISSION

More Than Money

Andrew, age 59, was born in Ellicott City, Maryland.

"My dad was 52 when I was born. He was a military guy. He was one of two people to survive a torpedo in World War II. He bobbed around in the ocean for two days before they came and got him. He drank every day. When I was five or six years old, he would take me to the VFW, and I would sit there all day listening to veterans talking about war. I never realized until I got here (to HUM) that was trauma."

"My mom was a schoolteacher. She taught until she was 65, then she volunteered at prisons and taught until she was 90. She was a saint."

"In middle school, I drank a full bottle of scotch and had my stomach pumped. I stopped drinking for a while, but my senior year came around, and peer pressure got to me. Then I started using cocaine, and I took it to the next level."

"I started making money and thought I didn't need anything. I had houses, cars, and everything. If you've seen *Wolf of Wall Street*, that was my life."

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"My two middle brothers died from complications of drugs and alcohol. My oldest brother kept telling me, 'Listen, man, I'll help you. 'I kept saying no. I always thought I could handle it myself."

"Rock bottom was right around Christmas last year. I was living in a friend's house, smoking crack. I couldn't afford my phone. I hadn't been working for a long time. Finally, one day I just said, 'That's it. I'm tired of this.' I called my brother, and the next day he brought me to Helping Up Mission."

"If you keep doing what you're doing, I want you to walk me down the aisle."

"I decided I would stay 30 days, get myself clean and go back to work. After 45 days, I realized this was something different, and I decided to complete the program."

"I ride my bike 20 miles every day. People come up to me and ask for money. I tell them, 'I don't have a dollar, but I have something better. I have help for you.' I tell people about what HUM did for me. You can get clean. You can get an education. You can build a future. HUM saved my life."

Andrew is working to rebuild the relationships that addiction damaged. His greatest hope is restoring his relationship with his daughter. "She told me, 'If you keep doing what you're doing, I want you to walk me down the aisle.' That means everything, man. I was just happy she was talking to me again. For her to say that, I was floored."

"Because of the donors, people like me have a place to come when they finally say, 'That's it. I'm tired of this.' They give people a chance to get clean, rebuild their lives and have a future."

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Daniel's Monthly Update

Dear HUM Family,

Recently here at Helping Up Mission (HUM), we took time to remember in chapel on Overdose Awareness Day those who were lost in the battle with addiction. They are not just statistics for us—they are people with a story that impacted our community. But it is also a poignant way to enter September as National Recovery Month which is an opportunity to celebrate those who do recover in our community of hope here at HUM.

This month's testimonial beautifully illustrates the power and impact of a peer recovery community that has found recovery reaching out to others in need. As Andrew shared his journey and how impacts his interactions on the street when he said, "People come up to me and ask for money. I tell them, 'I don't have a dollar, but I have something better. I have help for you.' I tell people about what HUM did for me. You can get clean. You can get an education. You can build a future. HUM saved my life."

Andrew reminds me of the Scripture below and the foundations of "Helping Up" Mission—when we help others we are blessed. I hope you know how much our community is blessed by your help.

Serving with you,

K. Daniel Stoltzfus, CEO
Helping Up Mission

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."

Proverbs 11:25 MSG

Focus on Recovery

MIke Rallo – Director of Spiritual LIfe

We tell men here to get sober and build a new life, that they are worth it. We also tell them the people they care about are great motivators.

“I had been estranged from my daughter for many years,” said Andrew. “All because of my using. Even sober, loving my new life, not knowing my daughter had been gnawing at me.”

His daughter found out he was in a real program. Andrew figured on 45 days “to get cleaned up.” We tell guys this is not Jiffy Lube recovery; they are a person with a story, not a car with an oil leak. She reached out.

“It was one of my best days,” said Andrew, holding back tears. “She said if I keep doing this, she wants me to walk her down the aisle. I will be her father, walking her down the aisle.”

Community, Connection and Gratitude at Patterson Park

Nearly 100 alumni, staff and family members came together at Patterson Park to celebrate, reconnect and give thanks. The gathering also honored HUM Security Supervisor Moses Jennings as he retired after 13 years of dedicated service. Alumnus Jose said the event reminded him of the support system he has through HUM: “It was so much fun catching up with guys I’ve seen around but never really connected with before.”

Mindful Giving

Right now, we have an urgent need for women's personal hygiene products, including tampons and other menstrual care items.

Through Mindful Giving, you can help meet this need directly. Your gift provides essential items that offer comfort, dignity and care to the women we serve.

When a basic need is met, it can make a meaningful difference.

To Donate Urgent Needs
helpingupmission.mindfulgiving.org

A Full-Circle Moment: Witnessing Hope, Faith and Second Chances

This summer, Ruby spent time at Helping Up Mission, then several days observing cases at the Baltimore County Circuit Court. Earlier that week, she'd watched a woman ask a judge if her probation could include an order to attend Helping Up Mission. Days later, Ruby was back at the Mission for chapel — and what happened next stayed with her.

Read Ruby's full reflection here: https://helpingupmission.org/documents/Helping-Up-Article.pdf

I returned to Helping Up Mission, and during the intake portion of chapel, the new residents who had arrived that week were invited to stand.

The second one woman stood up, I recognized her. She was the same woman I had seen in court just two days earlier.

On Wednesday, I had watched her stand before a judge in handcuffs and shackles, asking for an opportunity to change her life. On Friday, I saw her standing inside Helping Up Mission as a free woman who had chosen to seek help, strengthen her faith, and begin again.

On Recovery

Brian Vincer - Assistant Director of Workforce Development

Recovery means pausing to examine my behaviors instead of reacting on autopilot. That pause lets me ask: does this align with my values, or is it an old pattern? The more I choose values over patterns, the freer and closer to God I become.

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Our Mission

To transform the lives of and restore hope to those suffering from addiction and poverty by harnessing the power of faith, science and community.

Donate now
Mail us your gift or give online at helpingupmission.org/donate.

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