



RAISING UP

The good news at Helping Up Mission



Help is on the Way
see page 4 for more

"I am giving back by talking to people needing God's help."

George Has Found a New Beginning



George, age 52, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, and raised in Atlantic City, New Jersey. "Growing up, my father was never around, so my mother raised me and my five siblings," recalls George. "My childhood was rough. I got my first job at age 13, working at a car wash. We all worked to help support my mom and maintain our house. The six of us kids worked so much that we all dropped out of high school. I dropped out of school when I was 15, even though I was an 'A' student. I did not drink alcohol or use drugs growing up because I was responsible and had to make sure our bills were paid."

everyone kept telling me that I had a problem with alcohol."

"By 2021, things went from bad to worse. I was drinking all day. I always hung out at and attended Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Atlantic City. The nuns at the church were trying to help and guide me. A guy named Jorge, who I used to drink with, was grabbed by Pastor Victor and taken to Helping Up Mission (HUM) in Baltimore. Six months later, Pastor Victor grabbed me and drove me to Baltimore, where I entered HUM's Spiritual Recovery Program."

"When I was 32, I realized how important education was and enrolled in school for Network Security. My life was going well, but by 35, I started drinking heavily. And by 45, I began to hit my 'rock bottom.' I was working in Atlantic City in the construction industry. I would work hard all day and drink all night. Soon, I would have a beer for breakfast and drink throughout the day. I was a functioning alcoholic. I never lost a job because of my drinking, but I started losing memories, stopped eating, and began isolating myself from my family and friends. At the time, I did not accept my addiction even though

"When I came through HUM's doors, I was scared and did not know what I was getting myself into. They took me to Mercy Hospital for detox, and when I returned, I spent the next 30 days in the intake dorm. It was rough. I could not walk because of the 'shakes,' I lost a lot of memory, had a tough time eating, and went through a period of 'night sweats'."

"I am a visual learner. I started to see HUM's potential – this is God's House. I began focusing on myself, praying, and learning about HUM. Knowing where I came from, I never thought I would become an intern,

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NOW IT'S UP TO US

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NOW IT'S UP TO US Daniel's Monthly Update

Dear HUM Family,

As some of our communications have highlighted recently, Helping Up Mission (HUM) is seeing requests for help, and a complexity of need among those we serve that are more intensive than in the past. George's story this month illustrates the investment of time, wraparound recovery supports and compassionate care it takes to get to health and wholeness.

It's a trend we are seeing across our programs and outreach at Helping Up Mission:

- Intakes into our Men's Spiritual Recovery Program are back above pre-pandemic levels with our program beds at full capacity.
- Our overall Women's Center census has increased 230% since March 2022.
- Since Feb. 2023, HUM has served pregnant women seeking recovery—welcoming them into a community of hope and clinical supports through our partnership with the Center for Addiction & Pregnancy at Johns Hopkins Bayview.
- The HUM mobile outreach team serves 250 people in need a month on the street with emergency food, compassionate care and case management—at least 40 of these individuals have come back to HUM for intake into our programs in the last 6 months.

All this to say—HUM is positioned to respond to the increased needs of addiction, homelessness, and trauma but the costs and complexity are also greater than ever. We stand ready to respond and because of your support:

- George is now an intake coordinator at HUM—helping others find recovery.
- Six pregnant or postpartum women are in the Women's Spiritual Recovery program and we have two babies staying with their moms, with four more on the way soon.
- Our "Help Is On the Way" mobile outreach bus is on the streets at least two days a week.

HUM simply couldn't do this work without your prayers, support, and service—thanks for standing with us! We invite you to come visit sometime soon and if you'd like to volunteer, please visit <https://helpingupmission.org/volunteer>

Serving with you,

Daniel



Our Outreach Bus is wrapped and out in the community!

Our Hispanic Community

The growth of our Hispanic community has increased by 300% over the past few years. Providing the resources necessary to offer life-transforming programs, our Spiritual Recovery Programs have grown to include: spiritual bible study, mental health classes, and numerous other Spanish language alternatives. Future enhancements will incorporate a Spanish version website. Thank you for helping us help them.



staffing the 24-hour intake hotline. I am giving back by talking to people needing God's Help. I tell prospective clients to come in, I will be waiting for them, and I will get them into treatment somewhere."

"When I first came to HUM, we had a small Hispanic community of around 10 men. Today, we have over 40 Hispanic men in the Spiritual Recovery Program. We offer Spiritual Bible study, mental health classes, a Hispanic choir, guitar lessons, Hispanic AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) recovery meetings, and 12-step classes. They can take ESL classes and get their high school diploma in our Learning Center. Our Hispanic community is thriving, and we look forward to helping more Hispanics in the community!"

"I am honored to get the chance to be a part of the support team that provides outreach to the community. We get off the bus and see people looking for help while under the influence. They look like I used to look! Along with drinks, snacks, hygiene kits, socks, and hats, we provide the homeless community - with prayers. Whether we visit Dundalk, Fells Point, or Brooklyn Park, we provide relief and human touch. And if we bring one person back with us, it is a miracle! One less person on the streets."

"I want to continue helping people experiencing homelessness and addiction. With the help of God, I want to do this for the rest of my life. I am blessed that Pastor Victor grabbed me from Atlantic City and

showed me a better life is available. Thanks to Helping Up Mission, I own a wristwatch for the first time and am getting my driver's license. I am regaining my strength and my spiritual life back. I am so close to God."

"To the donors, you are a blessing. Knowing there are people like you who will bless a stranger with clothes, food, and everything they need, put me in a position to be hired as HUM's Intake Program Coordinator. I am happy that I found a new life and a new beginning. I thank God, HUM, my friends at HUM, and you for blessing my life."

To read more of George's story, visit helpingupmission.org/stories/george

Focus on Recovery – Peter Griffin

Director of Outreach and Intake



In 2008, I came to Helping Up Mission (HUM) with nothing. My friend, whom I met during our time together at the Salvation Army, had taken the journey to HUM and graduated from their Spiritual Recovery Program. One day, he said that I should come with him. I replied, "I'll think about that!"

I have been a part of HUM for 15 years. It has been a journey. One day, I was offered a job in the Outreach Program, which had been making strides. The offer was like the pastor came in and asked for my help, and I could not say no. When God called upon Abraham in the bible, Abraham was uncomfortable with God's offer, but he said yes. I decided to trust God. Working at HUM is no longer a job - it is a "faith walk" or ministry.

In the Outreach Program, we take what is on the inside of HUM and take it outside – to the streets. During COVID, the campus was shut down with fewer intakes and fewer people coming in. People were afraid. So, we had to reintroduce ourselves to the community, and we could no longer wait. We knew God would lead us, and He did!

We did not go out with a spirit of fear, but a spirit embodiment of Power through God's will. In Brooklyn Park, we often go into a forest filled with tents. It is a whole different community. We realize that some people plant seeds, some people water seeds, but God puts in the increase. Our team trusts in God to change the people we meet. In places like Brooklyn Park, we plant seeds and come back to water the seeds of hope. Some of these seeds take longer to sprout, but with God's help, the people we reach can make the decision that hopefully brings THEM to US!

Help Keep Moms & Kids Together

Your support will bless hurting moms and their young kids with safe shelter, meals, and vital care that can change everything!

In honor of Mother's Day, you have an opportunity to bless a struggling mom in a very special way! **Because friends like you care, our Center for Women & Children is now able to welcome expecting moms.**

These are mothers from across Baltimore who long to break free from homelessness and addiction – but who also need to keep their children with them.

Until now, there's been nowhere for these young families to go for help. But with your gift today, in honor of Mother's Day, you'll help moms, and their little ones stay together.

Your generous gift will also provide life-changing, holistic care like:

- Safe shelter
- Nourishing, healthy meals
- Clothes, toiletries, and feminine hygiene items
- Cribs
- Changing tables
- Diapers
- Baby formula
- Rocking chairs

And as these moms work through our Spiritual Recovery Program toward a fresh start, they can rest easy knowing their babies and toddlers are safe and sound – and here with them!

In honor of Mother's Day, please give so vulnerable women and their young kids can stay together, pray together, and discover new life in Christ together.


Thank you!

Help Moms & Kids Now visit:
helpingupmission.org/moms

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NOW IT'S UP TO US

Help is on the Way: Taking it to the Streets



Two times a week, we load up our converted Crown bus and restored school bus with staff, snacks, coffee, and hygiene kits to hit the streets of Baltimore. Our outreach team is traveling to meet those experiencing homelessness and addiction where they are, building relationships, guiding them through seeking care, and ultimately connecting them to life-saving services.

Peter Griffin, Director of Outreach and Intake met Norman on a recent excursion and asked if Norman would like to come back to HUM (Helping Up Mission). For over two years, Norman was living in the streets of Baltimore panhandling and using whatever money he got to buy alcohol. During one particularly cold winter while sleeping on the streets, Norman suffered frostbite resulting in his toes and one of his fingers being amputated. "I have been in a lot of pain, and I am grateful that Pete found me and brought me back," recalled Norman.

"It's really about helping people on the street get connected to the resources that exist to help them," said Daniel Stoltzfus, our Chief Executive Officer. "You cannot force someone to be ready for help, but we want to be there when they are ready. When people are sick and tired of being sick and tired and they are ready for some help, we want to be there to catch them and to help them take that next step."

Thank you for being our committed partner and helping reach the unreachable. And if you see our bus out on those streets, honk and give us a wave!



Our Mission

Helping Up Mission provides hope to people experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction by meeting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs.

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