



RAISING UP

The good news at Helping Up Mission



An Evening With A Mission
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"HUM has given me sobriety, stronger faith, a lot of grace, peace, serenity, and a new career."



Every Penny Matters

Robert, age 49, was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Forestville, MD. "My mom and dad got divorced when I was two years old," recalls "Bobby." "My mother remarried quickly, and my new stepfather was an alcoholic. They had no money, so I went to my dad for help when I needed things. I spent every other weekend with my religious dad, and he took us to the Catholic church, which opened the doors for Jesus in my life."

"Elementary school went well, but I started to goof off by middle school. My stepfather would come home drunk from work, bust things up, and yell at my mother. I could see the worry on my mom's face. Luckily, he never took things out on us kids. At an early age, I knew what the disease of addiction looked like. At age 12, I moved into my father's house with my older brother. I did not know anybody at my new school, and in 6th grade, I started making people laugh to "fit in."

"I tried smoking marijuana with my brother at 11 but hated it. By age 15, I enjoyed smoking 'pot' and drinking alcohol. I developed a love for partying and meeting girls. Looking back, all that I ever wanted to do was be liked. Maybe it resulted from my father showing

more affection to my older brother. Whatever the reason, I dropped out of high school, got a job, and continued my desire to party."

"My whole life became one big 'frat party' centered around alcohol and girls, and that is what I did for the next ten years. In my early 30s, I realized I was doing too much cocaine, but I couldn't stop. I maintained my habit by spending three to four hundred dollars every weekend on 'coke.' I got married, and that seemed to slow things down for a bit. We had a daughter, and life was good for a year and a half. That is when I realized my wife was not the girl for me. After two years, we split up, and our relationship was exactly like my mom's and stepfather's!"

"By 35, I was back to my old ways. I met an old girlfriend - 'the love of my life', moved in, and bought a house. From 36 until 40, I enjoyed the best years of my life. I had a well-paying job and a calm and peaceful relationship with my love. At 40, I had become a 'weekend warrior.' I worked hard and played hard. I began using Percocet to get high, which correlated with casinos opening in Maryland. I would spend every day gambling at Maryland Live, and one day I won \$32,600!"

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

Dear HUM Family,

Summer is upon us—for many a time to unwind, slow it down and get out of town to the beach, woods, or even international travel. At Helping Up Mission (HUM), summer is often a season of increased demand for our programs and shelter. I've learned in my nearly five years serving at HUM that the streets are more dangerous in the heat than in the cold.

Particularly for those battling alcohol addiction, nearly 40 percent of those we serve in HUM—the heat can be deadly. It's a time when keeping our doors open, and beds full is critical, often life-saving for those in need. Summer is not a slow time for us at HUM—we step up our efforts with street outreach, shelter access, and recovery intakes to offer help and hope.

As one of the nearly 1,500 clients served at HUM annually, Bobby's story in this month's newsletter highlights the value and need for HUM's comprehensive approach to substance and alcohol use, trauma, and homelessness. Along with nearly 70 percent of our team, Bobby has grown from program graduate to paying it forward serving as a HUM staff member. Bobby's passion for the men we serve is evident by his statement, "The thing I like the best is talking to the 'Seeds' – men in their first 45 days in the program. I listen to their stories and get to witness their hearts."

Would you stand with Bobby and the rest of our HUM team in this season of need? We simply couldn't do this work without your prayers, financial support, and service—thanks for standing with us! And on behalf of the HUM team, I want to wish you and your family a healthy, restful summer.

Serving with you,

Daniel



Our Outreach Bus is wrapped and out in the community!

Recovery Shot Golf Event

On June 9, the Compass Pointe Golf Course fairways in Anne Arundel County were filled with 130+ golfers raising critical funds for Helping Up Mission while playing in the 7th annual Recovery Shot Golf Event. An exciting addition to this year's festivities was the sponsorship of an all HUM team featuring clients and graduate staff members. Thanks to the tremendous support, over \$65,000 was raised for HUM programs and services.



I burned through so much money buying Percocet that my habit became an opioid addiction. Having blown through all my casino winnings, I turned to the cheaper alternative heroin."

"My love had enough. I started stealing from retail stores and even my family to pay for my habit. I eventually got arrested for theft, but that did not deter me from stealing. I was 47 years old, homeless, a petty thief, and in and out of rehab. One day I was in a halfway house after relapsing and overheard some guys talking about Helping Up Mission (HUM), "That's where you get your teeth fixed!" They said it was a one-year program, and I immediately knew that is what I needed to recover."

"When I walked through HUM's doors, I instantly knew it was the place for me. The campus was beautiful. As the days passed,

I realized how special this place was in addressing mental, spiritual, and physical needs. I went to the recovery classes and fell in love with Mike Rallo, Director of Spiritual Life, and Vic King's (former Assistant Director of Spiritual Life) unique way of hammering lessons at you. All the staff wants to help you."

"I did not want to return to my job in construction, so I transferred to the IT department, taking classes with Byte Back Baltimore. I learned computer skills that I never had access to. After a year in IT, I realized that was not my job choice. Laura Scott, a former HUM counselor, told me they were hiring a Spiritual Life Coordinator. I applied, and Mike and Vic hired me to work for HUM. Ninety percent of my job is working with clients all day, every day. I enjoy taking the men on retreats and outings, but the thing I like the

best is talking to the 'Seeds' – men in their first 45 days in the program. I listen to their stories and get to witness their hearts."

"HUM has given me sobriety, stronger faith, a lot of grace, peace, serenity, and a new career. I have created a new life for myself and my kids, who are doing fantastic. After all that I have put them through, we have a great relationship and talk all the time. I plan to 'stick and stay' at HUM, and we will see what the future brings. "

"To the donors, not one cent of your gifts is wasted. Every penny matters and is a true blessing. You oil this machine called HUM that blesses the clients, their families, and the city of Baltimore every day. I hope to see you all someday. Thank you!"

To read more of Robert's story, visit helpingupmission.org/stories/robert

Focus on Recovery – Mike Rallo, Director of Spiritual Life



In 2 Corinthians 1:4, the scripture says, "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

Bobby C., this month's highlight graduate, lives this wonderful passage out daily. Bobby, who graduated from the program in 2021 after years of reckless cocaine and gambling addiction, is now a reckless lover of God, recovery, and the men from Helping Up Mission (HUM) that God has put on Bobby's path.

The mantra "you've gotta give it away to keep it" is critical in the recovery world. And Bobby lives this out not only as a grad but as a member of the spiritual life team at HUM.

"What a privilege it is for me to give back what I have been given in this program," said Cox. "It is the greatest job in the world. I get to see people who are suffering as I suffered, be able to feel what they feel, and help with the help modeled to me. It's amazing."

Gifted with many organizational and relationship skills, Bobby takes joy in walking guys around to play kickball when nothing else is happening or simply playing a movie. In the business of a place like the mission, with the multitude of appointments, classes, and events, Cox can always be seen "chatting" with someone with care. He has allowed himself to be "comforted" by the grace of God at the mission as a client and now comforts whoever, whenever the Lord, puts someone on his path.

"Nothing much else to do," he laughed. "And it's so much fun doing this."

You Can Make This a Summer of Saves!

Help Meet Our 92-Day Summer Goal: \$300,000

Friend, the heat and humidity of summer bring a whole new level of suffering to people on the streets who are facing homelessness and substance abuse.

At the same time, as the needs of these vulnerable neighbors spike, contributions to Helping Up Mission drop significantly.

To care for each and every person here at HUM, we've set a Summer of Saves campaign goal to raise \$300,000 in the next 92 days. And YOUR help is needed to reach it!

That's why we hope to count on your support today.

Your generous gift today will help save and transform the lives of people like Peter, who shared:

"COVID basically forced me to shut down my company of 22 years just as my wife and I got divorced. I relied on alcohol as one of my crutches... before I came here, I was literally at the end of my rope. I need time to rewire my thought process. I'm committed to this place."

Many more people like Peter are turning to us this summer in need of urgent help. And hundreds of men and women are currently enrolled in our life-changing Spiritual Recovery Program.

Friend, please give now at helpingupmission.org/summerhelp. And help make this a season for healing and transforming lives ... a Summer of Saves!

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An Evening with a Mission



On June 8, Helping Up Mission (HUM) hosted a benefit dinner that brought together community leaders, corporate partners, and compassionate individuals who share our purpose to bring help and hope to men and women struggling with homelessness and addiction. During the ceremony, we honored Bob Gehman for nearly three decades of serving as HUM CEO.

In a special tribute, an emotionally powerful 12-minute video was shown of family members, Board Members, and graduate staff members sharing how Bob changed their lives. In the video, Pastor Gary Byers said, "This called for a great deal of fearlessness, boldness, and a lot of prayer and faith. Bob, you answered that call."

To honor Bob, we have created a special Bob Gehman Service Award that will be presented annually for outstanding service to the Mission, and Bob was the first recipient of that prestigious honor.

The guests were welcomed to the vibrantly decorated Center for Women & Children by Director Pamela Wilkerson. The HUM Choir and Band were joined by the women's Voices of Praise Choir to catapult the evening into celebration.

Our newly designed Mobile Outreach Bus was parked out front, tasty treats and mocktails were served in the lobby. The full meal was followed by dessert and a take-home treat of Balti'marons French Macarons.

All proceeds from the benefit will have a tremendous impact, allowing us to provide up to 500 men and 250 women and their children with access to our comprehensive recovery program in a safe, secure residential environment. In addition to providing the basic needs of our clients experiencing homelessness, addiction, and poverty, the Mission offers complete wrap-around services.



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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