

## Springtime at City Mission

Springtime at City Mission is a sacred season of hope and new life! Each year, residents, staff, and volunteers work hard to bring new life to our campus—by planting seeds in the dirt and also by planting seeds of love and hope in the hearts of those we serve.

Flower boxes, which were donated by Hartman & Hartman Construction, are placed all throughout campus, and in the spring we plant beautiful flowers and greenery. There's also a vegetable garden behind our pavilion, which always springs to life this time of year.

Spiritually, spring at City Mission is a time of healing and renewal. The spirit of restoration kicks off with our celebration of Easter. On Good Friday, we have a campus-wide Easter egg hunt followed by a unique Cross Walk experience that culminates with our Good Friday service.

This spring, we also have exciting, new spiritually-rooted opportunities coming to pass. We are opening up new volunteer-led Bible studies. We're revitalizing our monthly baptism classes and building a new chaplaincy team for residents.

This spring, celebrate with us the power of the cross and the promise of resurrection!



# CITY MISSION

## Spring Newsletter 2026



*A Chance  
to Grow  
YOU are planting  
seeds of HOPE!*

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### IN THIS EDITION...

*Deonte gets a second chance!*

*City Mission celebrates 85 years of serving the homeless!*

*We'd love to welcome you for a special City Mission*

## Open House!

Thursday, May 7 at 5-7 PM

Guided tours of our campus will begin every 20 minutes.

Please email Shelby at [slonce@citymission.org](mailto:slonce@citymission.org) by May 1 to reserve your spot.

PRESENTED BY:  
NETWORTH  
ADVISORS, LLC

8th Annual  
CITY  MISSION  
GOLF OUTING  
August 17th



## MISSION POSSIBLE 5K & FUN WALK

Saturday, Sept 19  
North Strabane Township Park





## A Message from Diana

Dear Friends,

Spring has a beautiful way of reminding us that growth often begins quietly. Just as seeds need care and patience to bloom, the lives of our residents are nurtured every day through small steps, encouragement, and love. At City Mission, it is a true blessing to steward this work alongside our dedicated staff and generous neighbors like you, walking with men, women, and families as they take courageous steps toward stability, healing, and hope.

In this newsletter, you'll read Deonte's story, a powerful example of lives being transformed through perseverance and the supportive community he embraced at City Mission. You'll see glimpses of spring at the Mission, where new flowers are blooming in our gardens and in the lives of those we serve. I hope you will join us for our upcoming Open House to experience the Mission firsthand.

Thank you for standing with us as we care for our neighbors and help them grow toward a better tomorrow.

Blessings,

Diana Vaughan  
President/CEO

## 85 Years of serving the homeless

In 1941, Reverend Burt McCausland founded City Mission in a small storefront on Main Street. It began as a Christ-centered place where those in need were met with grace, love, and dignity. 85 years later, our mission is still the same. We still lead people to Christ, and we shepherd them with compassion and grace. But we have grown exponentially, amplifying that mission to bring hope to the homeless.

*On February 8, 1941, City Mission held its first chapel service, served its first meal, and offered its first night of shelter*



Rev. Burt and Avis McCausland



Reverend Burt McCausland founded City Mission and led the ministry for 35 years



## A Chance to Grow

### Deonte's Story

Six months ago, Deonte walked into City Mission with almost nothing.

"I had the white T-shirt and gray sweatpants I was wearing," he remembers.

Today, he carries the keys to his own home.

"City Mission changed my entire life," Deonte says. "I did a whole 180."

His journey to new life began before he arrived. While incarcerated, other inmates told him about City Mission and encouraged him to reach out. From jail, Deonte made the call that would change everything.

When Deonte first arrived, he was struck by something simple but powerful.

"Everyone welcomed me with open arms. Nobody judged me," he says. "I never had that before."

For the first time in years, he began to believe his life could change. At City Mission, Deonte committed himself fully to recovery. He attended Narcotics Anonymous meetings frequently—sometimes nearly ten each week—and built strong relationships with a sponsor and a home group.

The Mission also helped him rebuild the practical foundations of life.

"They helped me get my ID, my Social Security card, my birth certificate, and helped me find the job I have now," he says. "I took full advantage of everything the Mission offered."

Learning to live with structure was another important step. Residents follow daily schedules and accountability sheets that help them stay focused on their goals.

"The old Deonte would have struggled with that," he admits. "But I realized structure was exactly what I needed."

Through the support of staff and fellow residents, Deonte also discovered something he had never truly experienced before: a healthy community.

"The community I built here became my family," he says.

Through City Mission's Work Therapy program, he worked in the kitchen, warehouse, janitorial services, and maintenance—building skills and confidence along the way.

"They taught me that you have to put in hard work to make progress," he says. "Stuff I didn't think I could do, I can do now."

Today, Deonte is focused on the future: growing in his job, getting his driver's license, caring for his home, and helping others who are trying to change their lives.

"If this reaches someone who wants to change their life," he says, "I hope they think, if he can do it, why can't I?"

Stories like Deonte's are possible because of the support of friends like you. Your generosity helps provide the shelter, recovery programs, guidance, and community that give men, women, and families the opportunity to rebuild their lives at City Mission.

**“Everybody welcomed me with open arms. Nobody judged me.”**

Because of your support, life-changing stories like Deonte's happen every day. Donate today!

