

**MORE
THAN**
a shelter.

RAISING UP

THE GOOD NEWS OF HELPING UP MISSION



A Second Chance to Play

“Before I came to Helping Up Mission (HUM), I was a professional musician and I enjoyed partying on weekends,” says Allen, 44. “I was born in Washington, D.C., but moved to Baltimore when I was 11. My father, a professional boxer, wanted me to follow his training and discipline, while my mother, a pastor, encouraged me to use my hands to play piano.”

At 17, Allen was in the wrong place at the wrong time and was shot five times. “One bullet hit two inches from my heart; another struck my right arm so badly doctors considered amputation. They told me I’d never box or play piano again—but God had other plans for my life.”

Music remained his first love. He played in church and at a blues club in Ellicott City, connecting with local musicians and older jazz players. In 2005, he won a national music competition. “The music world was wide open to me.”

When his mother went through a divorce, she asked him to return to play music at her church. Allen left his blossoming music career and became a chef. “I was

continued on page 2 →

2

Daniel Stoltzfus’
monthly update

3

• Focus on Recovery
• Books and Babies

4

• HUM Through
the Ages

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

struggling leaving the music scene, but then my cousin—who worked for Baltimore Safe and Sound—offered me a position. That role rooted me in the Baltimore community and gave me purpose.”

Later, defending himself during a robbery led to prison. “Inside, Emmy award-winning actor, Charles ‘Rock’ Dutton adopted me as a little brother and made sure I was taken care of.” Released early after two years, he worked at a local hospital, first as a music therapist and then as head receiving clerk.

“They told me I’d never box or play piano again—but God had other plans for my life.”

My perfect life unraveled after an argument during a double date turned into a confrontation involving a handgun. “Even though I did not pull the gun, the Police arrested me and I fought for my innocence for eight long weeks. When I got out, I had lost everything I’d worked for.”

He began drinking heavily. His mother, familiar with HUM through her prison ministry, urged him to come. “I was stressed, broken and had nothing left.”

During HUM’s 45-day blackout phase, Allen learned his nephew had been murdered in Baltimore. “It was devastating. I was ready to walk away from the program.”

The next day, Director of Spiritual Life Mike Rallo asked him to speak at weekly chapel service. “When I shared my story, I saw the support I had here. That moment kept me going.”

Soon after, others heard him play piano and invited him to join the HUM Choir & Band. “Before I knew it, I was assistant choir director. Having music back has been healing—it builds brotherhood, trust and joy.”



Hope Restored. Lives Rebuilt.

Daniel’s Monthly Update

Dear HUM Family,

As Helping Up Mission (HUM) celebrates our 140th anniversary this year, we recognize that this beacon of hope since 1885 continues to offer transformation to those struggling with addiction and despair. HUM remains focused on the mission of the “rescue of those leading dissolute and abandoned lives” as our founders wrote in their original articles of incorporation.

While the words describing our mission have changed, HUM remains resolute and sadly, the need for our HUM has only grown. The rationale for spiritually focused long-term recovery is more poignant. Allen’s story this month of overcoming addiction and trauma to return to living out his God-given talent is a reminder of the power of transformation in recovery.

Now 140 years after our founding, HUM is positioned to respond to addiction and homelessness more than ever. HUM simply couldn’t do this work without your prayers, support and service—we hope you will continue to stand with us.

Serving with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Daniel Stoltzfus". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

K. Daniel Stoltzfus, CEO
Helping Up Mission

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Focus on Recovery

Mike Rallo - Director of Spiritual Life

A few bad decisions – a life unraveled – drinking non-stop – not much to live for. That was Allen just a year ago.

“But God intervened – and He had other plans.”

Those plans brought Allen to Helping Up Mission, where he discovered that simply “stopping” isn’t enough—you must be for something better.

“It has been such a blessing to find that way again,” Allen shared. “And in the process, find my passions again that God created me to be blessed by and bless others.”

Allen, an athlete, chef and musician, began



playing piano again. Soon he was asked to play more, then share his story and now helps leads the choir and band.

Not only is Allen sober—he is alive, living with purpose every day.

“I can’t wait to wake up tomorrow and see what God has in store.”

Books and Babies

A heartfelt thank you to Baltimore author **Sarah Wyeth** for visiting our **Center for Women & Children!** Sarah shared her beautifully illustrated stories with the mothers and babies in our **CAP Program**, creating a joyful afternoon of connection and imagination. We’re so grateful for her generosity and partnership in supporting the women, children and families at Helping Up Mission.





Urgently Needed

Our Mission urgently needs donations of **men's boxers in all sizes and feminine hygiene items** to support those in our care! Also, items like deodorant, foot powder, shampoo, conditioner and lotion can have a profound impact on someone's dignity and well-being. Together, we can ensure that everyone has access to basic hygiene necessities. Please consider donating today and help us spread hope and care in our community!

To Donate Urgent Needs
helpingupmission.org/ways-to-give/donate-goods



HUM Through the Ages

On March 18, 1885, *The Baltimore Sun* announced that Reverend Abraham Bradenbaugh had left Virginia to begin missionary work in Baltimore.



That spring, his mission would quickly grow into what we now know as Helping Up Mission. For 140 years, our purpose has remained the same: restoring hope and rebuilding lives.

We're thrilled to invite you to celebrate this incredible milestone with us on Sunday, September 28! Join us for **Helping Up Mission Through the Ages**, our 140th Anniversary celebration—an old-fashioned picnic on the future site of HUM's Recovery Park.

The afternoon will feature a sit-down luncheon, a lively performance by the HUM Choir & Band, other fun activities and inspiring guest speakers. Bring your friends and family for a day of joy, reflection and community.

Tickets to this fundraiser can be purchased at helpingupmission.org/140htickets or by scanning the QR code. Don't miss this special celebration!



RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

September is National Recovery Month—a time to honor the courage of those on the journey to healing. This National Recovery Month, we encourage you to support a friend or loved one experiencing substance use disorder and remind them they're not alone.



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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

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