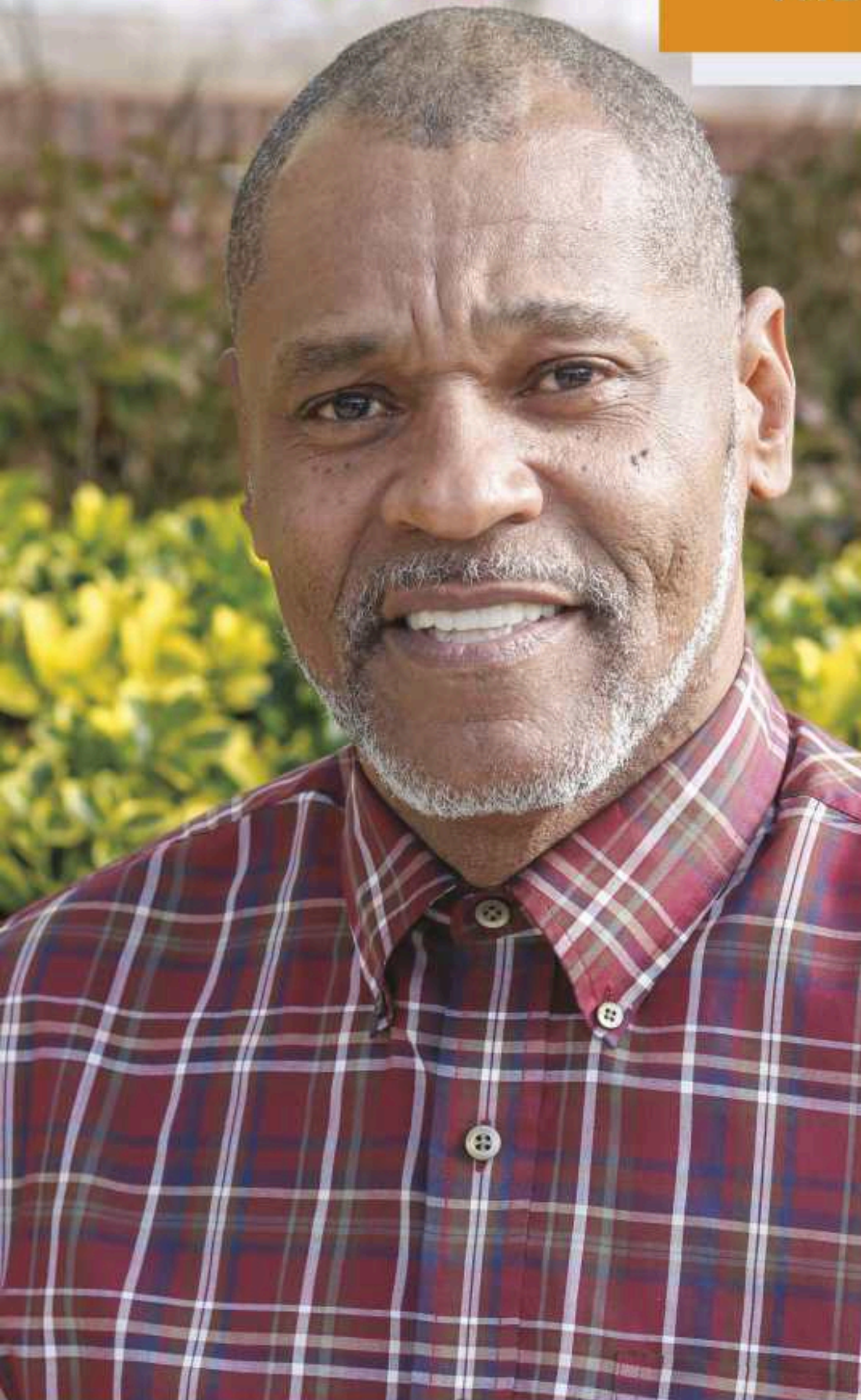


**MORE
THAN**
a shelter.

RAISING UP

THE GOOD NEWS OF HELPING UP MISSION



From the Streets to Salvation

“Before I came to Helping Up Mission (HUM), I had nothing besides a half gallon of beer, crack cocaine, and a pipe,” recalls James, 59 (pictured left). “I grew up in Park Heights, Baltimore. One day, I came home from school and told my mom that I was not going back. I wanted to be with my friends, so I chose the streets over my education. Today, all of my ‘homeboys’ are dead or doing life in prison. I started smoking weed when I was 16 and having the occasional beer. By the time I was 22, I was selling drugs, and curiosity kicked in. I experimented with crack, and a week later, I was hooked.”

“In 2014, my mother had had enough and wanted me to quit doing drugs. Things were going well. One of my brothers has 24 years of sobriety, and he got me into meetings. After eight and a half years of my own sobriety, my brother gave me \$250, and that was all it took for my addiction to resurface. I quickly lost everything. One day, my caseworker at Beans & Bread

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asked me how I was doing, and I told her the truth. I was ashamed. She told me that she knew of a place that was spiritual called HUM.”

“The night before I came to HUM, I had nothing besides a half gallon of beer, crack cocaine, and a pipe. I called out to God to take this away and flushed it all down the toilet. I prayed, ‘God, wherever you put me, let me know somebody who is there!’”

“Since coming to HUM, I have learned patience... I know who I am.”

“That first night at HUM, I was down in Overnight Guest Services talking to some other clients about when I was going to leave this place. Peter Griffin, Director of Outreach and Intake, walked by and said, ‘Jay?’ I knew Pete from the streets! He asked me if I was alright and if I needed anything. I remembered what I had prayed to God for (and enrolled in the Spiritual Recovery Program)!”

“One day, in Mike Rallo’s class—he’s the Director of Spiritual Life—I saw a sign on the wall that asked, ‘Who am I?’ and I realized I didn’t know who I was. He told me that I would eventually find out. I recalled Proverbs 3:5: ‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.’”

“Since coming to HUM, I have learned patience. I’ve learned to sit still because God has got me. I know who I am, and there is nothing I can’t accomplish without HUM.”



Hope Restored. Lives Rebuilt.

Daniel’s Monthly Update

Dear HUM Family,

As we enter the hope-filled advent season, it is a joy to share an update with you on your investment in the lives of those we serve at Helping Up Mission (HUM). Our work together is aimed at life transformation. Often it starts with simple steps like the story James shares this month—crying out to God for help and being referred to HUM by a caring case manager.

James’s story shows the value of the spiritual aspect of recovery and the compassionate care it takes to get to life transformation. As James shared, “The night before I came to HUM, I had nothing...I called out to God...’wherever you put me, let me know somebody who is there!’” That prayer was answered...James ran into an old friend his first night when he arrived, who is now a HUM graduate and staff member.

As we enter this holiday season of giving—your support is vital to us at Helping Up Mission and all those we serve. It helps make these stories of transformation possible. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with hope.

By His Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Daniel Stoltzfus'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

K. Daniel Stoltzfus, CEO
Helping Up Mission

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

– Romans 15:13

Focus on Recovery

Peter Griffin – Director of Outreach and Intake

Fourteen years ago, James—this month’s feature story—and I were both struggling with sobriety at the Salvation Army. However, I wasn’t ready to get sober at the time. I left the program, and later, I found out that James did too. I ran into him again while he was out on the streets of West Baltimore.

Fast forward 14 years, I was walking through Overnight Guest Services when I couldn’t believe my eyes. “Jay, what are you doing here?” I asked. He looked at me and said, “I’m done. I’m not going back!”

It is spiritually uplifting to break free from life on the streets, but even more inspiring to see someone like James recommit his life with such



determination. My hope is that others will find the same desire to embrace change.

Psalm 133 says it best: “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

Ravens Coat Giveaway

The Baltimore Ravens held their 21st annual coat giveaway at Helping Up Mission. Justin Tucker, Kyle Van Noy, Malik Hamm, and Ravens Community members distributed warm winter coats, hats, gloves, and essential toiletries.

This cherished tradition provides the men in our Spiritual Recovery Program with much-needed warmth during the cold winter months and fosters a profound sense of community.





Toiletry Drive

This holiday season, we urgently need full-size toiletries to support those we serve. **Hosting a toiletry drive** at your local church, school, or organization is a simple and impactful way to help. We are accepting new, unopened items such as shampoo, body wash, and deodorant. For more information on hosting a toiletry drive or to view our current needs, please email Brian Murphy at bmurphy@helpingup.org.

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



Life Skills: Job Fair

Helping Up Mission (HUM) hosted its inaugural Hiring Fair on November 7, uniting men’s and women’s recovery programs to support clients in the crucial final stage of their year-long recovery journey: Life Prep. This stage emphasizes educational and vocational growth and the fair provided opportunities for real-world interviews and connections to employment that sustain recovery.

“I think this is a great experience for them,” said graduate Antwon Brown, who represented Kuranda Dog Beds at the event. “I wish they had it when I was coming through. Sometimes you want a job so badly that you make the wrong



decision and it’s bad for your recovery.”

Participants trained in resume writing and mock interviews engaged with employers like Home Depot, MedStar Health and the Maryland Food Bank. The Hiring Fair builds workforce readiness and strengthens community ties.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

We currently face a volunteer shortage at the **Center for Women & Children** and need your help! Your time and dedication can make a difference in the lives of our community members—join us and be the change today!



helpingupmission.vomo.org/org/helping-up-mission

 **Helping Up Mission**
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Baltimore, MD 21202

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helpingupmission.org

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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