



RAISING UP

THE GOOD NEWS OF HELPING UP MISSION

A Valentine's Day Love Story

When Renee (pictured left) was 22, she was involved in a bad car accident and was 20 weeks pregnant. “I remember waking up from the coma, seeing this giant stomach, not understanding what was going on,” she said. From that moment, she devoted herself and her love entirely to her newborn daughter.

For nine years she loved her daughter dearly, but after a messy divorce she lost custody of her daughter, which caused her to turn to alcohol. “It was like I couldn’t breathe. I can’t even see my child and “I just kept thinking, I will do whatever it takes to get her back. I just needed my daughter.”

Her broken heart needed to be ‘healed.’ “I started drinking because I didn’t know how else to cope, to love. Everything felt like it was falling apart, and alcohol was the only thing that made the pain stop, even if it was just for a little while. It got to the point where I was drinking every day, just to survive, just to make the feelings stop. I didn’t want anyone to see me like that, but I didn’t know any other way.”

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**MORE
THAN**
a shelter.

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Soon the drinking resulted in Renee having a heart attack during a binge. “After three days, I called my father Ron, who is a graduate of Helping Up Mission’s (HUM) men’s program, and he connected me with Nikki Jones (Outreach Manager - Center for Women & Children). She checked on me every day until I walked into HUM on February 7, of last year.”

“The next thing I know, Nikki, who guided me on this journey, is giving me a hug. I handed her my car keys with total faith; that this was where I needed to be. After a week, I phased into the program on Valentine’s Day. Talk about a love story!”

“HUM taught me we’re going to love you until you love yourself.”

As she continued in the Women’s Spiritual Recovery Program, Renee developed a new definition of love. “Today, I define love as living with gratitude and embracing the beauty found in everyday life. Your love for God does not have to be kept quietly to yourself. It can be expressed through your actions, your kindness, and your daily choices. You learn to love yourself, and then you help others learn to love themselves. I have such a renewed perspective. HUM taught me, ‘We are going to love you until you love yourself.’”

“To the donors, thanks to you, I have more here than I’ve ever had in my life before, and it is not just material things... It is the stability, the resources that HUM provides, the way that this program is networked so beautifully through mind, body, soul, legal & healthcare. Thank you!”



Hope Restored. Lives Rebuilt.

Daniel’s Monthly Update

Dear HUM Family,

Love and compassion in action. That’s what we try to share every day at Helping Up Mission (HUM). Our team seeks to meet those who come through our doors, those we encounter on the street with simple acts of love because it was modeled for us by our Higher Power. At HUM, we believe that Jesus Christ so loved us that He was willing to suffer with us and offer a path to redemption and transformation.

In this issue, Renee shares her powerful testimonial of how the love impacted her, “HUM taught me, ‘We are going to love you until you love yourself.’” Now Renee is radiant with the love she shares with others in our community.

As you serve with us, support our work and or stand with us in prayer, you make this kind of love in action and compassion possible. Thank you!

Serving with you,

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

K. Daniel Stoltzfus, CEO
Helping Up Mission

“We love each other because He loved us first.”

1 John 4:10

Focus on Recovery

Sr. Director, Pamela R. Wilkerson – Center for Women & Children

Love can be a powerful catalyst for recovery from addiction, emerging from shared experiences, tough love or unwavering support. Love also presents challenges, as addiction can strain relationships until sobriety is chosen, leading to reconnection, or where love itself becomes an addiction, requiring self-love and healing before true recovery can take root. Stories at Helping Up Mission Center for Women & Children reflect sacrifice, honesty, self-love, and the transformative power to choose sobriety, proving that love, in all its forms, is the solution.

Renee's story shows how love can be found through community. Here she found deep connections with staff and peers, where she learned Love and Service are key to recovery, in a judgement-free space.

Through honesty, consistency and genuine care, recovery at HUM allows individuals to rebuild



relationships, discover new purpose and experience true freedom.

What does love have to do with it? Everything. God is love!

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and save those who are crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

Uplifting Lives

In honor of celebrating Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Founders Day, the sorority demonstrated its enduring commitment to service through volunteer efforts at Helping Up Mission's Center for Women & Children and Men's Center. Their compassion and dedication uplifted the lives we serve. Special thanks to Sr. Director Pam Wilkerson for graciously welcoming her sisterhood and exemplifying true public service.





Mindful Giving

Family, every day the men and women at Helping Up Mission experience the power of love through the support they receive. Through Mindful Giving, donors have stepped in to meet urgent needs in real time, providing essentials that bring comfort, dignity and encouragement. **Since launch, more than 118 items have reached those who need them most—small acts that show each person they are seen, valued and loved.**

To Donate Urgent Needs

helpingupmission.org
mindfulgiving.org



Wheels of Change

Since 2022, our Mobile Street Outreach Program has taken our bus to the streets of Greater Baltimore. We connect directly with neighbors in need and provide support where they are, helping with immediate needs through case management and referrals for services, including here at HUM.



Our beloved bus, affectionately called “Old Smokey,” because of the diesel exhaust it emits is set for retirement! On February 4, we met at one of our outreach locations, Wilkens Avenue Mennonite Church, to bless and launch our new bus.

With support from Baltimore City’s Opioid Restitution Fund, we purchased the new outreach vehicle. One of the most amazing features is a dedicated office to provide immediate intake, referrals and case management to the men and women we reach.

With the new bus on the streets, help is on the way!



Love

Leeavery Stavies-Quick,

Residential Services Manager for our Center for Women & Children

Love is more than a feeling—it’s an action. It means selflessly meeting women where they are, with respect, patience and support that builds trust and devotion. It’s about reminding them every day that they are worthy and valued.

 **Helping Up Mission**
Hope Restored. Lives Rebuilt.

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helpingupmission.org

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

Mail us your gift or give online at helpingupmission.org/donate.

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