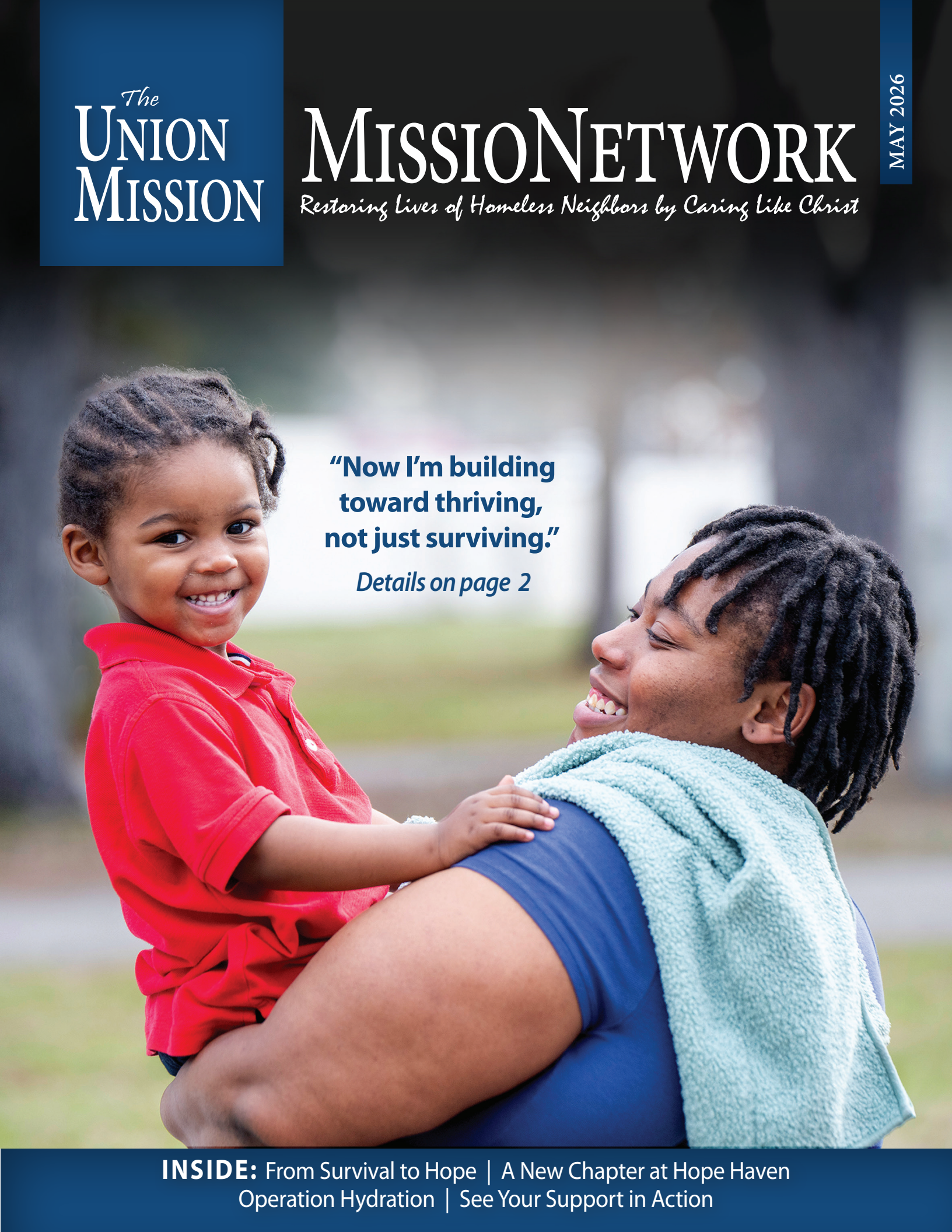


The  
**UNION  
MISSION**

# MISSION NETWORK

*Restoring Lives of Homeless Neighbors by Caring Like Christ*

MAY 2026

A young girl with braided hair, wearing a red polo shirt, is sitting on the lap of a woman with dreadlocks. The woman is wearing a blue tank top and a light blue towel draped over her shoulders. Both are smiling warmly at each other. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

**“Now I’m building  
toward thriving,  
not just surviving.”**

*Details on page 2*

**INSIDE:** From Survival to Hope | A New Chapter at Hope Haven  
Operation Hydration | See Your Support in Action

# From Survival to Hope for Quanycha

Your faithful generosity is changing lives every day in our Union Mission shelters. One of those lives belongs to Quanycha, a devoted mother of four whose journey reflects the power of compassion, encouragement, and God's grace.

When Quanycha first arrived at our Grace Place single women's shelter last spring, she was determined to keep her family safe and together. For a short time, her children stayed with their father while she waited for space to open in the women and children's shelter. Through the kindness of staff and a generous act that helped bridge the gap, Quanycha was soon reunited with her three daughters in the shelter.

"That was a blessing," she shared. "These are some good people. We're going to get this right." Like many parents facing homelessness, Quanycha encountered challenges most of us never see—unreliable transportation, long waits for childcare funding, and missing vital documents. Yet with steady guidance and encouragement, she began tackling each obstacle one step at a time. Within her first month, she secured birth certificates, Social Security cards, and medical records for her children. Then she was able to enroll her eldest daughter in school and get the younger two girls on a wait list for childcare.

"Compared to when I first got here, it's a big change," Quanycha said. "A big difference." Your support provided more than paperwork assistance. Quanycha received diapers, shoes, car seats, transportation to appointments, and consistent care from staff who checked in regularly. Just as importantly, she was encouraged to care for herself.

"I had to learn to take care of myself so I could take care of my kids," she reflected. Christmas became a powerful reminder of hope. For the first time in years, Quanycha and her daughters celebrated without fear or uncertainty—gathered around a large Christmas tree, opening gifts, and sharing a special

meal. "It was such a blessed Christmas," she said. "The best feeling ever."

Today, Quanycha is focused on what's ahead: securing full-time childcare, returning to work in the medical field, and saving for an apartment close to family. She describes this season as laying the foundation—moving beyond survival toward stability.

Because of you, Quanycha's story is one of hope. She has a lot of work still to do. But because you care like Christ, your prayers and generosity are helping Quanycha and other families build brighter futures—one step at a time.

*"Compared to  
when I first got here,  
it's a big change.  
A big difference."*

*L*



# A NEW CHAPTER AT HOPE HAVEN

Welcoming Director

*Matthew  
Hennessey*

Hope Haven has always been a place where the love of Christ is shared generously—where children and families across South Hampton Roads have encountered hope and new life through the Gospel for more than 65 years. Today, we are grateful to share the beginning of a new chapter in that long and faithful story as we welcome Matt Hennessey as the new Director of Hope Haven.

“God has been at work at Hope Haven for generations, drawing children and families to Himself, and I feel deeply honored to be called to serve in a place where the Gospel is lived and shared so faithfully,” Matt observes.

Matt joined Hope Haven in July of last year, bringing with him nearly 35 years of dedicated leadership service in the U.S. Navy and at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Over the course of his career, Matt served in roles of increasing responsibility. In each position, he was entrusted with complex operations, high standards, and the care of those under his leadership. That steady, servant-hearted leadership now finds new purpose in Hope Haven’s ministry.

More importantly, Matt is a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. He came to faith as a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. For the past three decades, he has sought to live a life shaped by God’s Word and grounded in worship, service, and obedience. Through the years, he has led Bible studies, discipled men at The Union Mission, and served faithfully within his local church, workplace, and community. His desire is simple and profound: to be useful to his neighbor and faithful to his Lord.

*“God has been at  
work at Hope Haven  
for generations, drawing  
children and families  
to Himself.”*

Hope Haven is not new to the Hennessey family. Matt and his wife, Sarah, are the grateful parents of four daughters. Two of their daughters—and now a son-in-law—have served a combined eleven summers at Camp Hope Haven. One daughter’s experience as a cabin counselor stands out.

“During a single week, seven young girls professed faith in Christ after hearing Bible stories they had never encountered before. Their hunger for God’s Word and joy at receiving their very first Bibles is a beautiful picture of why this ministry matters so deeply,” Matt remembers. “My prayer is that everything we do at Hope Haven would clearly point to Christ—so that children not only experience joy and safety here, but leave knowing they are seen, loved, and invited into new life through Jesus.”

Matt steps into this role with deep gratitude for the decades of prayer, sacrifice, and faithful support that have sustained Hope Haven. He counts it a privilege to steward such a legacy and looks ahead with confidence in God’s continued faithfulness.

As preparations are underway for the upcoming summer camp season—and as the Lord leads into future seasons of ministry—we invite you to pray with us that many children will come to know Christ and that God will raise a new generation of laborers for His harvest. Thank you for walking alongside Hope Haven and Union Mission as we continue sharing the love of Christ—together.

# Operation Hydration



Every summer, we need bottled water for our shelter guests and Hope Haven campers. Help by donating **cases of water bottles (any size) or unopened water cooler jugs.**

## DONATION SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday | 9am – 5pm

**The Union Mission**

5100 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk

**Hope Haven**

3000 North Landing Road, Virginia Beach

## See Your Support in Action

*“I had no idea the Mission did this!” is a commonly heard phrase after taking a tour of The Union Mission.*

### Schedule a Mission Tour Today

We invite you to join us for a behind-the-scenes, life-changing experience as you meet staff and guests, and see the impact being made by supporters like you!

Call 757-627-8686 or  
Email [giving@ummnorva.org](mailto:giving@ummnorva.org)



## Register a Child You Love Today!



Summer camp registration for children ages 8-12 and teens ages 13-15 is open for Camp Hope Haven. This weeklong overnight camp will begin June 22nd.

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[www.hopehavenva.org/our-services/camp/](http://www.hopehavenva.org/our-services/camp/)

THE UNION MISSION'S

# Fairways to Homes

GOLF FUNDRAISER

PLAN TO JOIN US ON

## OCT. 2. 26

for The Union Mission's 3rd Annual Fairway to Homes Golf Tournament at the Ocean View Golf Course in Norfolk. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

REGISTRATION OPENS ON  
**JULY 1ST**

## Join Us to Change Lives! Maybe Even Your Own!

The Union Mission has job openings at our shelters for case managers, guest services coordinators, and an overnight security guard. Look at our current employment listings or apply online at:

[unionmissionministries.org/  
job-opportunities](http://unionmissionministries.org/job-opportunities)



5100 E. VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.  
NORFOLK, VA 23502  
757-627-8686



Thank you  
for Your  
Generosity!

REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We witnessed the quiet renewal of spring at The Union Mission. Across our campus, trees burst into bloom, flowers rose from dark soil, and birds sang to greet each new dawn.

Their melodies bring to mind Matthew 6:26 and the beloved hymn “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.” That truth is especially meaningful here. Many of our homeless men and women, as well as our unchurched campers at Hope Haven, have never heard, or struggle to believe, the truth that they are deeply valued by a loving God who has a plan and a purpose for their lives.

In our shelters, staff and volunteers are caring like Christ and sharing this message every day. Through Bible-based programs and compassionate counseling, men, women, mothers and children are reminded that they are seen and loved by God.

The Hope Haven team had the joy of welcoming children ages 8–12 for Spring Camp last month. Under the leadership of our new director, Matthew Hennessey, campers experienced firsthand the caring of Christ. As the team now prepares for Summer Camp—hiring staff and finalizing plans—we are excited about all God is already putting in motion.

Please join me in praying that every shelter guest and camper will come to know what it means to live under the watchful eye and unfailing love of the Lord.

In His Service,



Sponsor a Child

FOR A  
LIFE-CHANGING WEEK AT  
**CAMP HOPE HAVEN**

For many children, a week of summer camp is a treat their family cannot afford.

**FOR JUST \$200**, you can sponsor a child for a week at Camp Hope Haven. Introduce a child to the joy and love of Jesus. This summer they'll enjoy nature walks, swimming, sports, crafts, and, Bible lessons on our beautiful campus in rural Virginia Beach.

Give to  
transform  
a life!



SCAN TO GIVE ONLINE

[unionmissionministries.org/camp](http://unionmissionministries.org/camp)

Rev. Gray, I want to share the Lord's love with shelter guests and summer campers!

I've enclosed:  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$200  \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to commit to a **monthly gift** of \$\_\_\_\_\_. My first gift is enclosed.

Method of Payment:  Check  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **The Union Mission**. To make an online donation, go to [donate.unionmissionministries.org](http://donate.unionmissionministries.org).



Please complete this slip and return it to The Union Mission with your generous gift. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.



# A NEW SEASON FOR GIVING

## 3 WAYS NEW TAX LAWS CAN GROW YOUR IMPACT

GENEROSITY IS MUCH DEEPER AND MORE ESSENTIAL THAN TAX POLICY.

We give in response to God's goodness and our desire to see transformation in his world. Yet it's important to be aware of changes that can make the most of your giving. In 2026, key tax law updates will create new opportunities for some donors, while requiring a bit more planning for others.

These new laws may actually help you make an even greater impact through your giving.

### A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR MOST DONORS

Most taxpayers can now claim a charitable deduction, even if they do not itemize their taxes.

UNDER THE NEW LAW:

- Individuals may deduct up to \$1,000 in charitable gifts.
- Married couples filing jointly may deduct up to \$2,000.

This means that your gift to Union Mission Ministries—and other nonprofits you care about—now comes with a tax benefit, helping your generosity go even further.

### A CHANGE FOR DONORS WHO ITEMIZE

If you itemize deductions on your tax return, your charitable deductions now apply only to the portion of giving that exceeds 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI).

For example, if a donor's AGI is \$100,000, the first \$500 of charitable giving would not qualify for a deduction. Only gifts above that level would be deductible.

Many families find that this change encourages them to be more thoughtful about how and when they give. Some may choose to combine multiple years of gifts into one year.

### A POWERFUL GIVING STRATEGY REMAINS IN PLACE FOR MANY DONORS

One giving option that continues to work especially well under the new rules is the **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from an IRA.

If you are age 70½ or older, a QCD allows you to give directly from your IRA to Union Mission Ministries. It is not counted as taxable income and is not affected by the new deduction rules, making it one of the most effective ways to support our work.

## YOUR NEXT STEPS

Email [legacygiving@ummnorva.org](mailto:legacygiving@ummnorva.org) or call 757-627-8686 with any questions.

Contact your tax advisor with questions about your specific situation.

Visit [unionmission.christianwill.org](http://unionmission.christianwill.org) for helpful information on tax-wise ways to give, giving through retirement assets, and the lasting impact of a gift in your estate plan.

### Comments / Change of Address:

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EMAIL

PHONE

No person is denied service based on race, creed, gender, disability, or national origin.

Photos are representative of actual Mission clients.

If you would like to donate much-needed supplies, please see [unionmissionministries.org/ways-to-give/give-goods](http://unionmissionministries.org/ways-to-give/give-goods). Thank you!

In the event contributions exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to feed, shelter, and care for the hungry and homeless throughout the year.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214 or 888-830-4989 for NC residents.

## THE UNION MISSION MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 3203 | NORFOLK, VA 23514 | 757-627-8686  
[giving@ummnorva.org](mailto:giving@ummnorva.org) | [www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org)