



For more information, contact Joni Sullivan Baker, City Gospel Mission Public Relations, at 513/319-3231 or jonisbaker@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City Gospel Mission concludes annual holiday campaign,
Raises more than \$650,000 to feed and care for urban poor**

“We are so thankful that the community has done it again”

OVER-THE-RHINE-- Jan. 30, 2007— City Gospel Mission announced today that more than 10,000 supporters, most of them Cincinnati area residents, responded to its holiday season campaign to help feed and care for the homeless. These donations helped the Mission meet its goal of raising more than \$650,000 by year end 2006. The Mission provides meals, lodging and a hand up to thousands of men and women annually.

Friends of the Mission donated more than \$505,000 through the holiday appeals, in addition to another \$150,000 received from other donors, bringing the total for the holiday period to more than \$650,000.

“We are so thankful that the community has done it again, “ said Ed Perrine, chief executive officer of City Gospel Mission, “and we thank God for the generosity of the people of the Tri-State.

“Each year, we contact our partners and friends as well as other individuals we feel would like to know about the work of the Mission, and we invite their participation. **Once again partners and friends have generously given and made possible our ongoing work. By the end of 2006,” he continued, “we had provided more than 120,000 meals and 24,000 nights of lodging, as well more than 6,000 bags of groceries for families.**

“We simply couldn’t do it without the help of all those in Cincinnati. This is a tremendously caring community,” he concluded, “illustrated by the fact that we welcomed more than 3500 new friends who supported us through the holiday appeals for the first time this year. We are so thankful for all our partners.”

The funds raised during the holiday appeal represent a significant portion of the \$1.9 million the Mission needs annually to provide its year-round programs.

In addition to providing the basics—food, shelter and clothing for men, plus food and clothing for women and children--City Gospel Mission also provides services for the men and women it assists. Exodus, for men, and Having the Courage to Change, for women, help individuals break addictions and learn skills that allow them to begin a new life, or regain one they lost. These programs help men and women learn job skills and bridge the gaps between life on the street and life with a home, a job, and stability.

The Mission also provides holiday cheer at Thanksgiving and Christmas for families and individuals, including providing Thanksgiving baskets for families, taking Thanksgiving dinner to shut-ins, and providing a celebration with a complete Thanksgiving dinner at the Mission. At Christmas, activities include hosting low-income families at the annual Christmas Store so families may shop for their children, in addition to providing the Christmas Boutique and party for older women from Over-the-Rhine and celebrating Christmas at the Mission on Christmas Day.

Since its founding more than 82 years ago, City Gospel Mission has been committed to breaking the cycle of urban despair one life at a time. Each year the Mission provides physical, emotional and spiritual assistance to men, women and children through its helping services such as daily meals, overnight shelter for men, and emergency food baskets, as well as recovery and rehabilitation services for men and women. The Mission provides a caring, supportive environment where homeless and hurting people are treated with respect and encouraged to accept responsibility for rebuilding their lives.

Over the years, the Mission has tracked more than 47,000 friends who have financially supported the Mission and made possible its ongoing ministry of feeding and caring for the homeless.

For more information, visit www.citygospelmission.com.

#