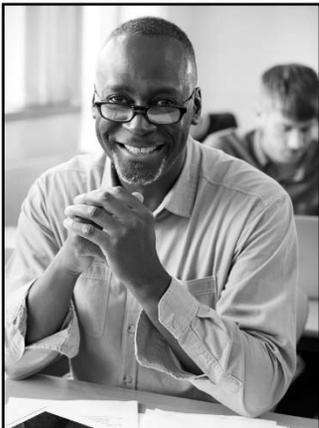




MISSION STUDENTS... “GOOD TO GO!”

Do you remember getting ready for your first day of school? As much as we looked forward to getting *out* of school to begin our summer vacations, we were just as eager to return. After a busy week of shopping for school supplies, immunizations, haircuts, picking up eyeglasses, etc., it was time for the grand finale...perhaps you can hear Mom now...

“Alright everybody! Pens? (check), #2 Pencils? (check) Are they sharpened? (check) Folders? (check), Did you write your name on your folders? (All heads nod yes, except one - Mom already knows... Write your name on ALL of your folders! OK, where was I? Oh yes – paper (check), Hand sanitizer & tissues? (check)...ALRIGHT! WE’RE GO!” That same excitement and anticipation is in the air throughout The Mission!



In any endeavor, whether it is getting an education, pursuing a career goal or simply being part of a family, one element is key: determination to succeed. Every day, precious people whose dreams were derailed by obstacles such as financial setbacks, broken relationships, bad choices and sickness find faith and hope to rise above their circumstances, get back on track and fulfil their life purpose. Like Harry, a gentleman in our Life

Transformation Opportunities program. After over 35 years battling addiction, he is now clean and starting GED prep. Young men in our Frontline Youth Opportunities program like Kevin, Shaun and Miguel push past the stigma attached to having a prison record or aging out of foster care by earning their GED, securing employment and moving on to permanent housing.



The phrase “Good to go!” is often used in the military by frontline units to indicate readiness for a mission.

One would expect that with homeless families’ concerns for their children’s needs to be met, the new season would be met with great apprehension. However at Olive Branch Mission we witness a level of *positive* expectation among our residents that far exceeds these concerns. Children and adults look forward to connecting with classmates, learning new things together, making new friends and pursuing their goals.

That’s why every year, we host our Annual Back 2 School Fair. It is a day full of fun and refreshments for everyone at The Mission and neighbors in the community. Many of our partners donate school supplies, toiletries and help provide school-required uniforms. This year at our fair, we were blessed to distribute fully loaded backpacks to all of The Mission children. We also had more than enough to share with our adult residents enrolled in various literacy and tutoring programs, GED classes and taking college courses.



Each individual the Lord leads to Olive Branch Mission is on a personal mission: to live a productive and prosperous life.

We are here to help them along their way. The Mission has proven to be a place for *anyone* who needs to be renewed, refueled, strengthened and made whole in body, mind and spirit so they can drive forward into what the Lord has for them. These successes are the result of The Lord's grace coupled with your prayers, donations and time you so willingly share. What an encouragement to the individuals and families of Olive Branch Mission who work through the toughest of times and see their dreams become reality.

WHEN
TIMES GET TOUGH

**WE DON'T GIVE UP.
WE GET UP!**

FORMER U.S.
PRESIDENT
BARAK OBAMA

Women here have also graduated – *literally* - from being a high school drop-out to a *Master* degree recipient! Dorothea, one of our Moms, took the necessary steps to earn her GED because she desperately wanted to be able to help her daughter with her homework.

Then there is the Hastings family, former residents in our shelter. The Hastings have been blessed to move on to permanent housing. One son graduated and joined the military; another son is working two jobs and is in managerial training; Ms. Hasting's daughter graduated with her GED and is now in Job Corp pursuing a certification in the nursing field. They regularly donate and give back to The Mission.



**At Olive Branch Mission's
Annual Back to School Fair
we distributed over 250 loaded backpacks
and school-related items!!!**



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GIVE SECURELY ONLINE:
www.obmission.org

OLIVE BRANCH MISSION PROGRAM OPERATIONS
6310 S. CLAREMONT AVENUE - CHICAGO, IL 60636
Ph.: (773) 476-6200 Fax: (773) 476-0222 Email: obmglobal@obmission.org