



MAY 2016

# MISSION NETWORK

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

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNION MISSION MINISTRIES

*Our Mission: To aid the poor and needy; to reform the erring; to help those that are out of the way; to feed the hungry; to shelter the homeless; to preach the gospel; and to rescue the perishing.*

## IN THIS ISSUE ...

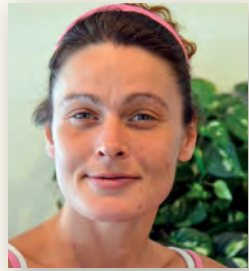
A Word from our Executive Director

Life Sustaining Gifts

Restored Relationships!

Camp Hope Haven ... a place where memories are made that last a lifetime!

*Food, Clothing, Shelter ... and so much more!*



*You are invited...*

*to join us for a*

**DEDICATION**

*of the new*

**WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER**

*May 14, 2016 from 2-4 p.m.*

*Light refreshments and tours will be available*

*RSVP to Laura Farthing at (757) 466-4470, ext. 1  
or [lfarthing@ummnorva.org](mailto:lfarthing@ummnorva.org)*



*Because you cared, the new Women and Children's Shelter will open with all the beds made, and the toiletries, towels, and wash cloths needed.*

*Thank you and God bless you!*



## Life-Sustaining Gifts

The new Women and Children's Shelter will help us provide God's love to more women and children than ever before, but with more people to care for we need your help.

- For \$15/month you can give a week of nutritious meals.
- For \$25/month you can provide meals and a night of safe shelter.
- For \$50/month you can provide life-saving food and a night of safe shelter for a mom and her kids.

For help setting up a monthly, life-sustaining gift call (757) 627-8686, ext. 554.



## A Word from our Executive Director



Dear Friends

This is an exciting time for The Union Mission. Last July we opened a new Men's Shelter and today over 330 men have their own beds to sleep in. This beautiful new facility provides for their needs and helps to raise them out of their homelessness. In just a few days we will open our new Women and Children's Shelter which will more than double our capacity to serve hurting and homeless women and children. What a joyful day it will be!

God tells us in His Word that we are to care for those who have no one else to care for them. James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." I hope to see you on May 14th as we dedicate this new home for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you for your support of this vital work. May God bless you as you have blessed us and those we serve.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Gray, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.  
Executive Director

*May God bless you  
as you have blessed us  
and those we serve.*





# Restored Relationships

Visit [www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org) for more stories of changed lives.

When Dionne was sixteen she had her first child, a son, who moved in with his father when he was fourteen. At twenty-seven she had her second child, a daughter, and got married. The marriage didn't last, and they were divorced five years later. "I was in and out of relationships my whole life."

In 2014 Dionne married again, but her husband was laid off with hundreds of other shipyard workers. They lived on unemployment

until they ran out of money. "The people we rented from were believers and let us stay for two more months and leave without owing them any back rent." With no money for rent, they lived in a hotel and then in their car.

When her daughter got pregnant Dionne sent her to live with her grandmother and they struggled to survive. They took showers at friends' houses and at the Rec Center. "Our relationship got strained spiritually and emotionally with no money and no work. He didn't want to go to a shelter but I did. I was tired of sleeping in the car and I was

heartbroken being separated from my daughter. I was ready for a change, so he stayed in the car and I came to 'The Union Mission.'" Her husband left when he found a job in Florida.

Coming to the Mission ... "I was nervous because I didn't know what to expect. The first thing I heard about was Jesus and I wasn't afraid anymore. I slept so good the first few days, I was able to get some rest." Her Case Manager helped her

church. They were building the inner person, the things I needed to be successful at work. They gave me bus passes to look for a job and until I got my first paycheck. They supported me every step of the way. It was like God provided everything I needed. I learned to lean on Him and not my husband, my relatives, or my friends. He showed me He is the One I should trust. I didn't know how to do that before."

When she found an apartment, the Mission helped Dionne with furniture and household goods. Her church paid the first month's rent and others helped with a security deposit. Dionne was excited when she left because she had a home for her

**Spring ...** a great time to clean out your closets, attic, or garage. Getting a new summer wardrobe? Replacing your dining room set, or those lamps you've had for years? Someone in need can use the things you no longer want. Visit us online at [www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org) or call (757) 627-8686, ext. 604 to schedule a free pick-up.

*All donations are tax deductible.*



look for a job and a place to live. In January she was re-hired at a place she used to work.

"They helped me build up my wardrobe for work and for

daughter and granddaughter. "I'm so glad to have my family back again. My relationship with Christ and my family is restored."



*Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!*

# Camp Hope Haven ... a place where memories are made that last a lifetime!

Julian is not sure where he would be if it hadn't been for Camp Hope Haven. "It played such a huge role in my life. I first came when I was seven. I have so many memories. It is where I gave my life to the Lord." Like many campers, Julian's favorite thing was swimming in the pool. "It was the only time of the year that I got to swim, so it was a big deal for me."

Adopted as a baby, Julian had loving parents, but grew up with a short fuse. Always the biggest kid in class, he was often blamed for starting trouble and lashed out at the other kids. A relationship at camp helped him overcome his anger. "I attended teen camp when I was thirteen and really bonded with my counselor Luke." Luke gave Julian the attention he desperately wanted



and for the first time, Julian felt that someone outside his family really understood him and cared about him. It made a difference in his life.

Julian has worked on the camp staff and volunteers throughout the year. This summer he will serve as a Camp Counselor giving him the chance to care for little boys who are just like he was. "I really enjoy working with the kids. I want to give them the same experience I had." He also had the opportunity to team up with his old counselor Luke, and the relationship they started four years ago continues today. For more information about Camp Hope Haven contact Ben Jacob at [bjacob@ummnorva.org](mailto:bjacob@ummnorva.org) or visit our website at [www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org).

## Staff Needs

**Men's Shelter Support Staff**  
Experience required. Send resume to William Crawley at [wrcrawley@ummnorva.org](mailto:wrcrawley@ummnorva.org)

**Women Shelter / Women & Children's Shelter Staff**  
Experience required. Send resume to Jill Gray at [jillgray@ummnorva.org](mailto:jillgray@ummnorva.org)

**Truck Driver / Production / Clothes Sorter**  
Contact Wayne Berry at [wberry@ummnorva.org](mailto:wberry@ummnorva.org)

### Did you know ...

The Union Mission is a designated charity with the Combined Federal Campaign? Please consider a donation through your government employment. Our charity number is **61126.**

*Thank you and God bless!*

Yes, Rev. Gray,

I want to help you continue to care for those who need my help the most.

**I've enclosed:**  \$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$150  \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



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**Please make your check payable to:  
The Union Mission Ministries**

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

Donate online by credit card at [donate.unionmissionministries.org](http://donate.unionmissionministries.org)