

## 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.

JANUARY 2017

# MISSION NETWORK

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

*Serving the homeless and poor with food, clothing, shelter...and so much more!*

## DAMASCUS DESTINATION:

A road to recovery...  
made possible  
by YOU!

*Your support will  
make a difference ...*

*Out Live Your Life ... Page 3*

*Because You Cared ... Page 4*

**D**amascus Destination is a program designed to help men resolve the crises in their lives and gain personal confidence to become more successful in the areas of employment and daily living. Important life skills like health and wellness, anger management, conflict resolution, resolving financial issues, and employment readiness are taught in this program. The men in the

Damascus program as Charles and Samuel share below, grow in a personal understanding of God's Word and a stronger relationship with Christ.

*Men discover a path  
to wholeness through  
training and counseling.*

*continued on page 2 ...*





*I praise God  
for your  
faithfulness!*



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear Friends,*


As I look back over all that was accomplished this past year, I praise God for your faithfulness. We could not have done all that we did without your help, and with the new year before us we will need you more than ever before!

The homeless will continue to come to our doors for help. They will continue to need food, clothing, counseling, and new programs to help them overcome the problems in their lives. Jesus tells us in Matthew and in Mark, *"The poor you will always have with you..."* and you and I dear friends, have been called to care for them.

As you look at the year ahead, will you prayerfully consider how you can help us continue to provide this road to recovery for those who need it the most? 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for the Lord loves a cheerful giver."*

Thank you again for your prayers and your faithfulness. May God bless you and your family in the new year.

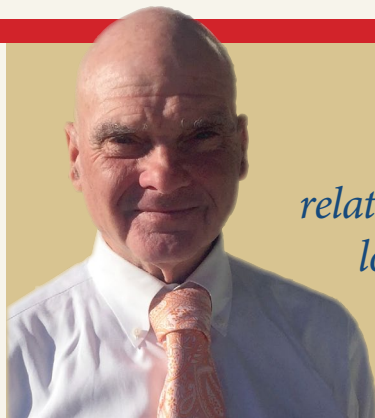
In His Service,

  
Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.  
Executive Director



*Like us on Facebook  
Follow us on Twitter!*

## A ROAD TO RECOVERY... *continued from page 1*



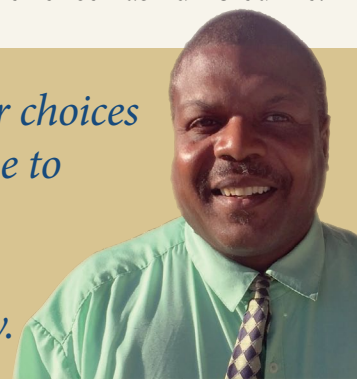
*Charles suffered  
from abuse, failed  
relationships, and deep  
loss ... is learning to  
cope and growing  
closer to God.*

Charles was raised by an abusive father. "My dad didn't like me. He would buy me gifts and tear them up in front of me. I was punished for things my sisters did. He tore me up pretty bad." After high school he went to work, got married three times, and had two children. When his last wife died he met a woman who had cancer. "People always took things from her so I asked her to move in with me so I could take care of her." When she lost her sight he quit his job to stay with her. With no income they lost their apartment. When her health declined, she went into hospice and he turned to The Union Mission. When she died it devastated him but, "God told me to take care of her and told me to come to the Mission." Charles joined the Damascus Program. "They are helping me work through my issues, my failed marriages, and the death of a woman I truly loved. The program is also bringing me closer to God. I am so grateful."

Samuel started drinking in his 20's and became an alcoholic. He got a job and was married for seventeen years. When he hurt his back in an accident he survived on Workers Comp for six months, but didn't recover enough to do his job and was fired. "Everything went downhill after that." He got another job but fell in a snowstorm lifting heavy crates, reinjuring his back and could no longer work. "But, God blessed me when I came to the Mission. I'd never been homeless and was nervous, but the staff was polite and it was so clean. Not what I thought it would be." He joined the Damascus Program. "Brothers Adrian and Jeremiah (Program Managers) are such a light in my life. They encourage

me every day. They are helping me grow spiritually and grow closer to God, helping me to be a better person—a better man." He stopped drinking and says, "If I hadn't come to the Mission—well, it's a scary thought—I'd probably be in a detox program somewhere or sleeping under a bridge. In November, Samuel gave his life to the Lord. "I would be lost without the Godly guidance I am getting here. This whole experience has humbled me."

*Samuel made poor choices  
and lost his job due to  
injury ... is now  
encouraged and  
growing spiritually.*



*Have you ever visited The Union  
Mission? We would love the  
opportunity to give you a tour.  
Contact Linda Jones  
at [lindaj@ummnorva.org](mailto:lindaj@ummnorva.org) or  
(757) 627-8686, ext. 426.*

Today there are 14 men in the Damascus Program. Please pray for them as they learn to overcome the adversity in their lives, build character, and transform into productive citizens in our community.

*Thank you for making programs  
like these possible. Lives are being  
changed for the better.*

## OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE

When we hear the phrase *"giving an offering"* it's typically associated with passing the plate. But what about *"being an offering?"*

In his book, *Out Live Your Life*, Max Lucado makes some powerful statements about how we can be an offering to the world.

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." Sometimes being an offering is synonymous with becoming a missionary half-way around the world. But for others, like the widow represented in Mark 12, giving "two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents" is a powerful story of giving all. It wasn't what she gave that mattered, but the posture of her heart.

Compassion has a dozen advocates. But for the Christian, none is higher than this; when we love those in need, we are loving Jesus. Find a place you can move towards others with the love of Christ. Simply taking action is an offering.

Here's a salute to a long, good life; goodness that outlives the grave. A practical way you can live generously is to have an up-to-date estate plan that provides for your loved ones and the ministries you care about like The Union Mission.

For the full version, request a FREE copy of *"How to Be An Offering"* by contacting Helen Sommer at (757) 627-8686, ext. 504 or [hsommer@ummnorva.org](mailto:hsommer@ummnorva.org) — or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at [www.christianwill.org/umm](http://www.christianwill.org/umm).

*Be an  
Offering!*



[www.christianwill.org/umm](http://www.christianwill.org/umm)

# Because You Cared IN 2016...

- **2,214** individuals were provided with food, clothing, shelter and job and life skills training — *the largest number ever served by The Union Mission.*
- Our Day Centers provided food, laundry, showers, and care for over **750** people who chose not to stay overnight.
- Hope for the Holidays provided holiday meals for **700+** families and toys for **716** children at Christmas
- **308** people secured full or part-time employment
- **411** obtained housing
- **287** veterans were assisted
- **953** hurting people received medical care
- **704** children attended Camp Hope Haven absolutely free

## IN 2017...

The Union Mission celebrates **125 years** of serving the poor and homeless in our community. Thousands of lives have been changed for the better because of your faithful giving. Will you consider becoming a monthly donor? Knowing we can count on a certain amount each month helps us to budget our money more wisely.

**Help our homeless guests all year  
by being a monthly donor.**  
Contact Helen Sommer at [hsommer@ummnorva.org](mailto:hsommer@ummnorva.org)  
or (757) 627-8686, ext. 504.

## Staff Needs

*Experience required.*

### Women & Children's Shelter

Evening positions.

Send resume to Jill Gray at  
[jillgray@ummnorva.org](mailto:jillgray@ummnorva.org)

### Thrift Store:

#### Assistant Manager/Production

Send resume to Wayne Berry at  
[wberry@ummnorva.org](mailto:wberry@ummnorva.org)

*Thank you  
&  
God bless you!*



Yes Rev. Gray, I want to help The Union Mission continue to care for the poor and homeless this year.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

01-2017



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

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.

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