

MISSIONNETWORK

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.

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A Word from our Executive Director

Help Meet the Growing Need

A Safe Haven for Women & Children

Give a Child the Opportunity of a Lifetime!

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

You can Save a Life!

Summer is here and it's hot. Turn on the air conditioning or go for a swim in the ocean—lots of ways to get cool if you have a home and money. For those on the streets, summer can be brutal: heat exhaustion, dehydration, and no place to escape the scorching sun. Summer can be deadly for the homeless, but you can help.

Give Now, Give Today!

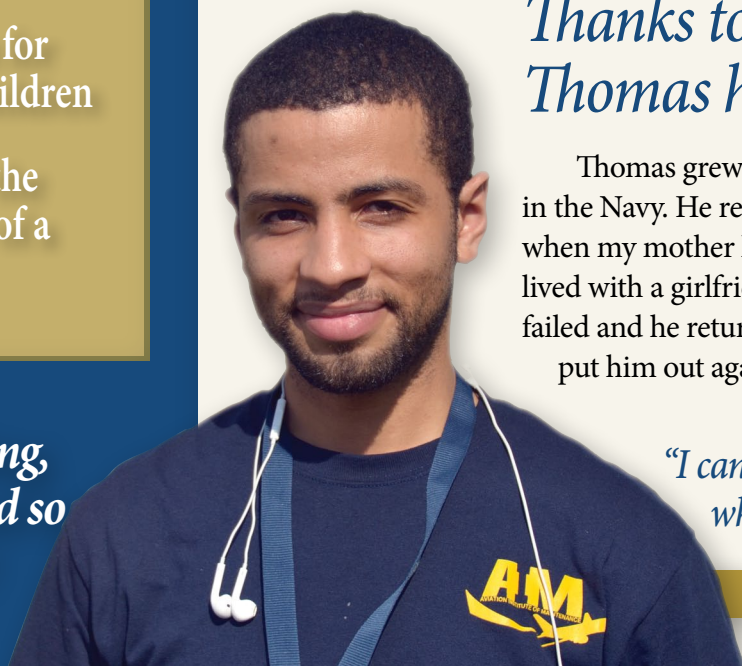
Visit www.unionmissionministries.org and maybe YOU will save a life.

Thanks to you ... Thomas has a second chance!

Thomas grew up in New York and served two years in the Navy. He returned home but, "My troubles began when my mother kicked me out for smoking weed." He lived with a girlfriend for a while but the relationship failed and he returned home a second time. His mother put him out again.

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"I can't hold the joy in. I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for the Mission."



Help meet the growing need!

Our Men's Shelter is full to capacity and in the coming months we will be welcoming more women and children than ever before. Caring for each of their needs requires more food, more bus passes for job interviews, more water for laundry and showers, and more loving staff to provide safety and guidance.

Consider becoming a monthly donor, or if you are already a monthly donor, increasing your gift. Your donation of:

- \$10 will provide meals for 5 homeless people.
- \$25 will provide a warm bed, meals and care for a veteran.
- \$50 will provide safety, a room, meals, and care for a family.

Contact Roseanne Dickerson at roseanne@ummnorva.org or (757) 627-8686 ext. 554 to learn more.

Visit our website at www.unionmissionministries.org to learn how you can be a part of transforming and restoring broken lives.



Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



A Word from our Executive Director



Dear Friends

It's been a busy summer! With the opening of the new Women and Children's Shelter in June, we are busy developing new programs to help this most vulnerable population while the Men's Shelter is already full to capacity with hundreds of men trying to escape the heat. Our camp staff has also been busy providing fun-filled activities for hundreds of children and teens each week. Most of all we've been busy sharing the love of Christ with each new person, young and old.

1 Corinthians 12:31 says, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." It's been a good "busy" and lives are being transformed every day through hard work and the power of the Gospel. Please keep us in your

prayers and consider how you might help us continue this work He has called us to do. Thank you for your friendship and your support. God bless you and your family.

In His Service,

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.
Executive Director



"This time I was on the street hungry and looking for an open window where I could get in and get some food." He was arrested for burglary and sent to jail but he found God there. "One day I overheard two inmates talking about God and it gave me that thirst—that drive to read the Word." When he got out of jail he found a bicycle and started riding, making his way to Florida. "I thought I would stop in Virginia to hook up with some friends to help me get some money." It took him six days to get here. "God blessed me the entire way. I was so tired on that highway but He started pedaling for me."

Looking for shelter, he met a guy who told him "God had planned this" and pointed him to The Union Mission. "That bike ride was the first step in my journey of getting closer to God when I had no choice but to leave it in His hands. Part of the way I didn't know where to go, and He guided me. Part of the way I wanted to give up and He gave me the strength. When I wasn't sure where to put my focus He said, 'Leave it in My hands.' I didn't have to worry about food or something to drink; He provided.

I didn't want to stay at the Mission at first, but it was good to have a bed and a shower. I thought; 'How can I get a job when I'm homeless, practically a bum? Who is here to back me up?' Then the David Development Program opened up and *my light turned on.* God has

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Because you cared, more women and children have a safe haven!



"Walking into the new Women's Shelter, I could sense the love and dedication that went into providing a comfortable, safe environment with its inviting rooms, friendly staff, and engaging volunteers. What a blessing to have The Union Mission as a part of the Norfolk community!"

—Mark Simon

... today, single women with nowhere else to turn are finding hope for a better future and single mothers no longer fear for their children's safety.

Over 250 people came to the Women's Shelter Dedication on May 14th. The women moved into their new building in June and today, single women with nowhere else to turn are finding hope for a better future and single mothers no longer fear for their children's safety. They have a beautiful place to call home until they can get back on their feet. Thank you for your prayers and your support. Didn't make the Dedication? Contact Linda Jones at lindj@ummnorva.org or (757) 627-8686 to schedule a tour.

"I was so impressed with what I saw. Any homeless individual who would come into this shelter would feel like she had died and gone to heaven since it is so welcoming, comfortable, and God-focused."

—Lillian Teich



"The women just cried when they saw how beautiful the shelter was. They couldn't believe people would do so much for them without even knowing them. They couldn't believe people cared."

—Jill Gray, Women & Children's Shelter Administrator

You can give a child the opportunity of a lifetime!

Hurry! There are children still waiting, hoping you will sponsor them for a week at Camp Hope Haven this summer. Just one month to go for children who can't afford to go to camp without your help. Give a child the opportunity of a lifetime: swimming, horseback riding, arts and crafts, games and sports, and learning about Jesus.

*Sponsor a child today
for just \$125.*

*Visit us online at
www.unionmissionministries.org
and change a life.*



THOMAS ... continued from page 3

helped me so much through Brother Metcalf (Eric Metcalf, Case Manager). I've come so far from wondering where my next meal was or if my family still cared."

Thomas shared his desire to become an aviation mechanic with Mr. Metcalf, who helped him apply to the Aviation Institute of Maintenance. He started school in May and says he is proud that he's a straight "A" student but, "I'm focusing on the Word. It's making me so much better than I used to be. God has been immensely good to me. He brought me through jail, my bike ride, to school, and to the Mission. I can't hold the joy in. I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for the Mission."

Staff Needs

Men's Shelter Support Staff

Experience required. Send resume to William Crawley at wcrawley@ummnorva.org

Women & Children's Shelter Staff

Experience required. Send resume to Jill Gray at jillgray@ummnorva.org

URGENT NEED!

Perishable and non-perishable food...

Chicken / Ground Beef
Dried Beans
Rice / Grits
Fresh Vegetables
Canned / Boxed Foods



Contact Linda Jones at
(757) 627-8686 or
lindaj@ummnorva.org

Dear Rev. Gray,

I want to help The Union Mission continue to transform lives.

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 _____



P.O. BOX 3203 • NORFOLK, VA 23514
757-627-8686

info@ummnorva.org

www.unionmissionministries.org

**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

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