

Camp starts June 26th
and runs through
August 4th.

camp hope haven ...

Make a difference in the life of a child

INSIDE:

Restoring Hope
page 2

A Mother and Son Reunited
page 2 -3

*How Will You Impact the
Ones You Love?*
page 3

125 Years of Changing Lives
page 4



Campers
ride horses,
swim in an
Olympic size
pool, explore
nature, do
arts and
crafts, and
learn about
Jesus.

*Can you hear the children laughing?
Can you see the smiles on their faces?*

Boys and girls from eight to fifteen are excited about the opportunity to go to camp this summer. Most have never been because their parents can't afford to send them ... without your help!

The children are waiting.

Will you help?

Visit www.unionmissionministries.org

**For just \$125
you can sponsor
a child for a
whole week
of camp!**

Thank you!



You can restore hope for a better tomorrow



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

When you provide a meal, a shower, and a safe place to sleep for someone who is living on the streets, you restore their dignity and self-respect. When you give someone the tools to get a better job so they can provide for themselves and their families, or provide a week of camp to a child from the inner city, you give them hope for a better tomorrow. Whether they are young or they are old, hope restores the soul. Psalm 31:24 says, "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD." Your generous support is needed. Will you prayerfully consider how you can help restore hope to those who need it the most? Thank you and God bless you.

In His Service,


Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.,
Executive Director

Thank you ... you gave me the right to be a mother again!

"The world is a dark place and people can get lost on the streets. If it wasn't for the Mission, I'd be in a much worse place. I wouldn't have a way to make money for us to eat. This place is wonderful. Everything you learn here will make your life better."

Idaliz was born in Puerto Rico where she got a Bachelor's degree in nursing, but giving birth to a son in 2016 kept her from getting a good job, and complicated her life. When her son's father left Puerto Rico for the U.S. and took their son with him, she followed him, but when she got here, "Our relationship was bad. He didn't want me to work or to have contact with anyone else. I had to stay in the house all day, and he abused me."

Unable to take it any longer,

she left him. Not knowing where to turn, she found a policeman who took her to The Women and Children's Shelter. "I was really scared. In Puerto Rico, the shelters aren't good. I was expecting a place I could only stay one night and then have to go, but it was nothing like that. This is a safe haven. The people here are kind, humble, and want you to grow. They gave me clothes, food, and bus passes to get to the doctor and other appointments; just everything I needed for my personal care. They even helped me find a lawyer to help get custody of my son. They gave me the right to be a mother again!"

The staff helped Idaliz get



Once homeless ... Idaliz now has a job as a phlebotomist, her own apartment, and custody of her son.

a job as a phlebotomist (medical screener) and gave her bus passes to go to work until she got her first paycheck. Last December she moved into her own apartment. Four months later, she got custody of her precious little boy.

COMING SOON ... a new recovery program for women, RISE (Relationship Building, Improving Health, Spiritual Growth, Education and Training).

Your support will help restore hope for more women like Idaliz.

Why wait until you're gone to impact the ones you love?

Many people strive to leave behind something of worth. Roberta King's father was no exception.

When Mr. King died, his estate was well planned, and Roberta was tasked with distributing the money he'd left. The process of doling out the checks to the organizations her father loved not only brought joy and pride to her heart — it helped ease her grief. Of

the experience Roberta wrote, "Yes, I did receive a nice inheritance, but the gift my dad gave me was a deeper understanding in a very personal way, the importance of volunteering and financially supporting a community that you love."

Have you considered the legacy you'll leave behind? And if so, why wait until after you're gone to impact the ones you love? Harness the power of today with these ideas:

1. GIVE TOGETHER: Include your loved ones in giving. Introduce them to ministries like The Union Mission Ministries and share your passion.

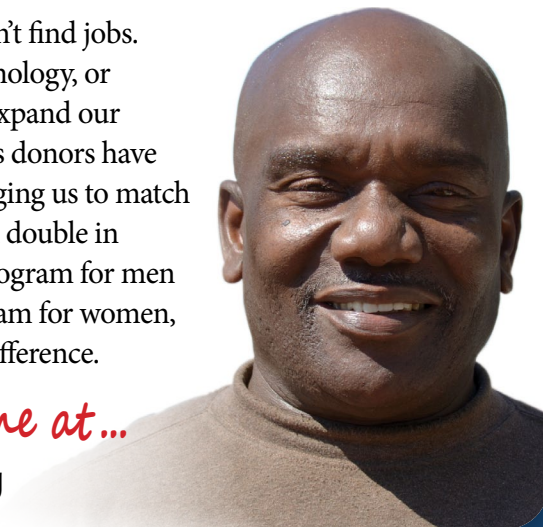
2. CHOOSE TODAY: What about giving to your loved ones now? Why not bless the people you care about when you can see the blessing and reaction it creates first-hand?

RESTORING HOPE Campaign

YOUR GIFT BY JUNE 30 WILL DOUBLE IN IMPACT

Men and women lie awake at night because they can't find jobs. They've lost them due to addiction, advancing technology, or disability. To help them we must raise \$500,000 to expand our workforce development programs. Several generous donors have donated \$60,000 towards this expansion ... challenging us to match it dollar-for-dollar by June 30th. Your gift today will double in impact to strengthen our Damascus Destination Program for men and expand our new workforce development program for women, RISE. Your support can make a life-transforming difference.

Restore hope today! Give online at...
givehope.unionmissionministries.org



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For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of

"3 Ways to Harness the Power of Now"

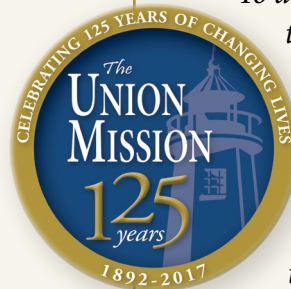
contact Helen Hayes Sommer
The Union Mission Ministries
(757) 627-8686, ext. 504
hsummer@ummnorva.org

or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at
www.christianwill.org/umm

125 Years of Changing Lives

The Union Mission was founded in 1892 by a group of Methodist businessmen who wanted to help the poor and homeless in their community. Over the years, thousands of lives have been transformed. In 1956, a humble country preacher, Reverend Theodore (Ted) Bashford became its Executive Director and until

his death in 2008, helped turn the ministry into the wonderful life-changing program it is today. His daughter Linda Bashford Vaughan succeeded her father as Director until 2015 when Reverend John Gray, a young man raised in the ministry at Hope Haven, became its present Director.



From its humble beginnings, The Union Mission has remained true to its original purpose ...

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.

Over the years, thousands of lives have been transformed ...

Your support makes it possible.

Staff Needs

Experience required.

Thrift Store/Production

Weekdays / Saturdays. Send resume to Wayne Berry at wberry@ummnorva.org

Bashford has been helping the unwanted for 28 years

By CINDY SCHREUDER
Last week

From his sparsely furnished office in the Union Mission in downtown Norfolk, the Rev. Theodore A. Bashford reflected on the 28 years he has spent helping thousands of the wayward, the mistreated and the misguided.

He spends his days ministering to alcoholics, battered wives and children whose families don't want them or can't care for them.

"Doesn't this work sound exciting?" he asked, his blue eyes sparkling behind glasses.

Bashford didn't wait for an answer. "It is exciting!"

Bashford is executive director of the Union Mission, which, in addition to a temporary shelter for the homeless in downtown Norfolk, operates Hope Haven children's home, a summer camp for underprivileged youngsters and a senior citizens' complex in Virginia Beach.

He talks little about his personal life, preferring instead to discuss his work and his God, who he said has given him the ability to carry on despite four heart attacks since 1985 and continuing difficulties from blocked arteries.

"I believe that was the will of God for my life," he said of his nearly three decades at the mission. "If I hadn't believed it, I would have been gone."

Bashford says a person needs a strong constitution to engage in the work he does. Still, he admits he would never want to give up his work — even at the age of 68.

And as the Union Mission celebrated its 125th anniversary last month, Bashford saw a continuing need for its services.

"There's a lot of sadness out there in the world, a lot of people that need help, and we want to become involved," Bashford said.

City officials and businessmen praise Bashford and his programs but say they would like to see the Union Mission, now on Brooke Avenue and South Street, moved to another location.

The seven-story building can be home to several hundred men, women



"You can put a roof over a man's head and give him something to eat, but if you leave him there you haven't helped him any. Man is body, soul and spirit."

— The Rev. Theodore A. Bashford

tion is acceptable, but they want the business community to help pay the costs of a new building.

Developer Harvey Lindsay, who is advising mission officials on development, said the current building is worth about \$1 million, while a new one may cost as much as \$3 million. No action has been taken on the move.

Bashford said he is eager to cooperate on the mission, even if it is moved to a new location, because he believes the work is vital.

Those who check in at Bashford's mission also check in with the Lord. In exchange for meals and a bed, Bashford requires that everyone attend a daily worship service.

"You can put a roof over a man's head and give him something to eat, but if you leave him there you haven't helped him any."

"Man is body, soul and spirit."

G. Conolly Phillips, president of the mission's board of directors and a former Norfolk city councilman, said Bashford has been successful with the mission because of the preacher's religious devotion.

"He's a man of prayer and he listens to God and is willing to obey," Phillips said. "I believe that's his real gift and the reason that the mission has moved forward over the years."

"He is a very caring individual. He has a heart for the down and out."

When asked to describe Bashford, the Rev. Carroll W. Lewis, pastor of the Rosemont Christian Church in Chesapeake, chose a string of adjectives: "Personable, kind, friendly, understanding."

Lewis, who has been a friend of Bashford's for 24 years, said he sometimes refers people to the Union Mission. Also, he once recommended a child for placement at the Hope Haven children's home in Virginia Beach, a group home for youngsters whose families cannot care for them.

But Bashford, a Portsmouth native, admits that if anyone had told him years ago that he would become a preacher, he would have laughed.

A high school dropout, Bashford

help shape downtown.

City officials have proposed that a new mission building be constructed on part of a largely vacant, city-owned tract bordered by Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach Boulevard, Monticello Avenue and Sailer Street. Mission officials say the loca-

— Please turn to page 30

"You can put a roof over a man's head and give him something to eat, but if you leave him there you haven't helped him any. Man is body, soul, and spirit."

— The Rev. Theodore A. Bashford

AN EXCERPT FROM THE BEACON, DECEMBER 2, 1984

Yes, Rev. Gray,
I want to give to restore hope to those in need.

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 _____ 05-2017



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www.unionmissionministries.org

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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