

MISSION NETWORK

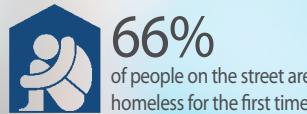
Food, Clothing, Shelter ...
and so much more!

You can make this a **SUMMER of HOPE**

A woman dressed with far too many items of clothing for the very warm day struggled to make her way up the road towards the shelter. A flowered hat on her head and bundles in her hands she pulled what appeared to be a heavy suitcase. As she paused to re-arrange her burdens she looked toward the shelter with a look of despair on her face.

What had happened to her that she had nowhere else to turn to but a shelter? How long had she been on the streets? Was she hungry? Was she afraid? ... a life without hope ...

Hope and healing go hand in hand. Has there ever been a time in your life when the encouraging act of a loved one, or the kindness of a stranger helped you face the future? Summer is a time of particular hardship for the homeless. Every summer, people living on the streets face heatstroke, dehydration, hunger, and food poisoning.



This summer approximately 1,500 people will come to the Mission for help.

Our ability to make this a **SUMMER of HOPE** depends on YOU.

Visit unionmissionministries.org and GIVE TODAY!

INSIDE: The Most Fun Camp Ever | Joy for the First Time | Are Godly Values Disappearing?

www.unionmissionministries.org



A WORD FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*“Come to me all
you who are weary
and burdened, and
I will give you rest.”*

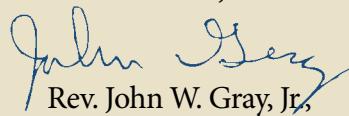
Your generosity makes a real and lasting difference

Dear Friends,

Restoring lives — it's not just a slogan but a very real, every day occurrence at The Union Mission. Single men, women, and mothers with children come to us broken and weighed down with overwhelming problems. They come when they have nowhere else to turn and we welcome them with the love of Christ. When they feel that acceptance, some of their burdens are lifted. When we take care of their physical needs the weight is

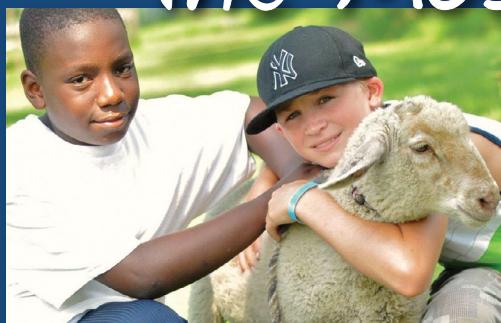
lifted even more, and when we give them hope through our life changing programs, they can rest and the future is brighter. Matthew 11:28 says, *“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* Your generosity makes a real and lasting difference—it restores lives. God bless you!

In His Service,



Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.
Executive Director

The Most Fun Camp Ever!



Three weeks left to go and there are children hoping you will help them have a week at “*the most fun camp ever.*” Camp Hope Haven offers horseback riding, swimming, arts & crafts, a wilderness camp, a petting zoo, and learning about Jesus.

For just \$125 YOU can make a huge impact
in the life of a child this summer!

Visit unionmissionministries.org/camp today!



Like us on Facebook.
Follow us on Twitter!

Without YOU Ginger would still be lost

A life broken by hardship and unimaginable pain, emerges from a dark place into a world of hope and light.

Ginger had a traumatic childhood. Raised by alcoholic parents, she was abused from a young age. Her mother was violent. Her older sister would often lock her mother in a closet to keep her from hurting them. By age twelve she was smoking pot, drinking, and was promiscuous. Then she witnessed a drug dealer shoot her mother's friend. When the police stepped in, her siblings went to family members, but she went into foster care until an aunt took her in. "I was pretty traumatized and she got me into counseling." She got married at seventeen "to a really nice man" and had three children, but the trauma of her past caught up with her. At twenty-eight she knew she had a drinking problem. Diagnosed with PTSD and anxiety attacks she was in and out of psychiatric care. She tried rehab but, "Drinking was a social lubricant for me. I couldn't be around people if I wasn't drinking,



marriage her husband said he needed some peace in his life and asked for a divorce. She was devastated, had panic attacks, and drank heavier than before. She tried suicide and ended up in intensive care but, "God protected me through all of this." With money from her divorce settlement she bought a trailer and moved in with her son. Life kept getting worse and when her sister committed suicide, "It almost killed me. She was my best friend." When her mother got cancer she left to care for her, renting out her trailer until the IRS came for back taxes. So she put the trailer in her son's name and he moved in with his girlfriend and children. When she returned, she

Mission Women and Children's Shelter. "I went to Bible study and told one of the staff, 'I've been running my whole life.' She said, 'Aren't you tired of running? The void inside you is where Jesus is supposed to be,' and she asked me if I wanted to try that way of life instead. I was ready to fill that void with joy and accepted Jesus. It was a miraculous experience. I felt warm all over around my heart. For so long there was sadness and misery, isolation and pain. I started reading the Bible and all kinds of Christian books, and God took away my obsession with alcohol. Now I have joy and contentment for the first time in my life and peace in my heart." Ginger is excited to know the Lord, and continues to grow and be a light to the other women in the shelter. She encourages them with scripture, prays with them, and encourages them to attend the shelter classes.

"I was ready ... and accepted Jesus. It was a miraculous experience. I felt warm all over ..."

but my husband always loved me and forgave me. He was a good father, husband, and provider." Ginger tried to control her drinking and be a good mother. She went to PTA and Boy Scouts. "I cooked and cleaned but I would spend all my time in my room, isolating myself from my family. Depression was a huge factor in my life." After thirty-three years of

helped with the cooking and cleaning but, the girlfriend didn't like her and they kicked her out. She spent time in an addiction program and then lived with her sister until she started drinking again and had to leave. "I felt guilt, shame, and embarrassment. I couldn't face the person I was."

With no hope and nowhere else to turn she came to The Union

You can help more people like Ginger experience that life-transforming joy only the Gospel can give. Visit unionmissionministries.org

Are Godly Values Disappearing?

Do you ever feel like you don't recognize our world anymore? It's important to remember that no matter how times and trends change, we can take hope in knowing spiritual truths and values won't — they just need to be shared. Here's two questions to ask yourself:

1. What values do I want to pass along?

- What makes your heart beat? Are there important experiences or life lessons you've never shared with those you love? You can help build a framework for what really matters simply by sharing the passions and beliefs you hold most dear.

2. How can I best share my values?

- Communicating your values doesn't have to feel intimidating. Many Christians are choosing to create or update their will so it aligns with their values — taking care of loved ones first and then including a gift to support a ministry they care about like The Union Mission. This is a creative way to share values, and change lives.

Trends don't have the final word. You can positively impact the next generation simply by sharing from your heart.

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

Impact the Next Generation in 3 Questions

by contacting Helen Sommer at hsommer@ummnorva.org

or bless your family today with a

God-honoring will at www.christianwill.org/umm

Dear Rev. Gray,

I want to provide hope to someone in need this summer.

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 _____

Staff Needs

Experience required.

Thrift Store/Production

Full-time. Able to work Weekdays / Saturdays / Evenings.
Send resume to Wayne Berry at wberry@ummnorva.org

Men's Shelter Managers

Full-time / Part-time
Experience working with men.
Send resume to Rev. Will Crawley at wcrawley@ummnorva.org

Women's Shelter Evening Assistant

Full-time 3-11 pm.
Able to work Weekends.
Send resume to Jill Gray at jillgray@ummnorva.org



Humble Beginnings
1892 – Cumberland St.



P.O. BOX 3203 • NORFOLK, VA 23514
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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.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214 or 888-830-4989 for NC residents.

Donate online by credit card at donate.unionmissionministries.org