

The UNION MISSION

MISSION NETWORK

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

We are ^{SO} Grateful that you gave

This past year the Mission celebrated 125 years of serving the poor and homeless in our community. Over the years we faced many challenges, but as we prayed, God touched your hearts for the broken and the lost and we were able to keep our doors open. Thousands found shelter from the storms of life within our facilities and hope was restored. While they are grateful to The Union Mission, they are really grateful to you because you made it all possible!

Thank you!

SYLVESTER

"If it wasn't for the Mission I don't know where I'd be. It's a wonderful place. The staff is great. Everybody goes out of their way to help you. I thank God for that."

Grateful ... continued on page 2 & 3





A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way ...”

2 Thessalonians 3:16

The Mission depended on you and you gave!

Dear Friends,

I am moved by your compassion and generosity, and praise God for your faithfulness. The Mission depended on you and you gave when we needed you the most. Hundreds of hurting men, women, and children depended on you to meet their most basic physical needs of food, clothing, and shelter and you responded to their need. Most importantly you gave us the opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with each person and many accepted Him as their Savior changing their lives for eternity.

We are grateful that you chose to walk alongside us as together we strived to meet the needs of those who had nowhere else to turn. Thank you for your kindness and may God richly bless you and your family in the new year. *“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way ...”* 2 Thessalonians 3:16.

With warmest regards,

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

You gave Robert a place to stay

After serving five years in the Marine Corps Reserve, Robert got a job at the shipyard and got married, but the marriage ended after two years. He married again and had a son, now thirty eight, and moved to North Carolina where he did concrete repair and worked at a turkey plant for several years. When his sister lost her eyesight he returned to Virginia to care for her and her children until she passed away a few years later. Over the years Robert's own health declined and he was diagnosed with kidney disease. He applied for disability but unable to work a full time job, he had trouble maintaining a place to live and

Thank you ...
without you, I would be on the street

turned to The Union Mission when he needed a place to stay. In 2015, Robert got an apartment through a city program that paid his rent for a year, but when that program ended he again turned to the Mission and applied for Veterans benefits. They were denied because he had to have served active duty for 180 days to qualify and he had only served 179. “Now I've been on a waiting list for housing for almost two years. My Case Manager is helping me and told me I could stay until a place opened up.” He likes to keep busy and helps



To help Robert and others like him, go to unionmissionministries.org and **GIVE TODAY!**

out when he can. Last September, he joined the Damascus Program, a program for older men providing discipleship and life skills training. “I thank God for the Mission and this program. They understand that we all have problems, but they work with us and talk us through them. It helped me a whole lot and I've seen it help so many others. It's truly been a blessing.”

Grateful...

continued from p.1



ERIC

“If it wasn't for the Mission I'd probably be homeless on the street. There are some great people at the Mission. They keep me up and encourage me, making sure I'm on the right path God wants me to follow. There's a return for those willing to work hard and never give up. Somedays I feel like I can't do it and then one of the staff knows something is wrong and they listen. There's a lot of caring people here.”



TYRELL

“From the beginning it (David Development Program) felt like a family vibe from the whole group. We have each other's back and it feels like a real family. I was always alone growing up and kept to myself a lot. People my age need help and support. We can't do it alone. You get the right guidance here; emotionally and spiritually. If it wasn't for The Union Mission, I'd still be on the streets struggling.”



JONATHAN

“It's the best thing I've ever done in my life coming here. It brought me back to God. He never left me ... I left him. I'm still in the Damascus Program and I'm thriving in it.” (of the two Program Directors) “You can feel their passion and love. That's power ... that's God. I was raised in the church and now I'm coming back to God. All the scriptures I learned are back in my heart and my mind. I'm looking forward to what my future brings instead of being scared of it. The Mission saved my life.”



IDALIZ

“I can now provide for myself and my son. If it wasn't for the Mission I'd be in a much worse place. I wouldn't have a way to make money to eat. When I first came they didn't even have a bed, but they let me stay on the sofa. My English wasn't very good but they helped me to grow. This place is wonderful. It's a place of restoration. This is what a church is supposed to be like. Everything you learn here you can work with to make your life better.”



VERONICA

“The Women's Shelter is teaching me that Christians don't all come the way you expect. When you meet a real Christian they don't care what you look like or what you've been through, they just provide. Things are getting better. I am reading the Bible and learning that God is always there. If you stay in the word, God will stay in you. I have food, shelter, and air conditioning (it was 97° outside) for me and my son. He's happy ... so am I. I don't know what would have happened if God hadn't brought me here.”



MELANIE

“When I came I realized it was the cleanest place I'd ever seen. It wasn't too easy being here, but everyone was wonderful. I had solid ground beneath my feet and learned things about myself that needed to be changed. I made good friends at the Mission. The Lord spoke to me and I learned to wait for things and God is providing what I lack. People just need encouragement and hope. The joy of the Lord is my strength.”

You are Transforming lives!

Thank you!

In 2017, The Union Mission celebrated 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.

Because You Cared in 2017

2,537 Men, Women, and Children ...

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 services, showers and care for people who chose not to stay overnight.

Our Community Assistance Program ...

helped hundreds of poor families with food, clothing, furniture, household goods, and holiday meals.

374 people secured full or part-time employment

530 obtained housing

994 veterans were assisted

923 people received medical care

755 children attended Camp Hope Haven absolutely free

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.

Go to unionmissionministries.org and GIVE TODAY!



Staff Needs *Experience preferred.*

Men's Shelter Manager

Full-time: 3 – 11 pm or 4 pm – 12 am. Able to work rotating weekend hours (male position). Send resume to William Crawley at wrcrawley@ummnorva.org.

Kitchen Manager

Full-time: Flexibility in scheduling is required. Send resume to William Crawley at wrcrawley@ummnorva.org.

Women and Children's Shelter Overnight Supervisor

Full-time 11 pm – 7 am. Must be able to work weekend hours. Must enjoy cleaning. Send resume to Jill Gray at jillgray@ummnorva.org.

Women's Shelter Evening Assistant

Full-time 3 pm – 11 pm. Must be able to work weekend hours. Send resume to Jill Gray at jillgray@ummnorva.org.

Women's Shelter Evening Assistant

Part-time 3 pm – 11 pm. Must be able to work weekend hours. Send resume to Jill Gray at jillgray@ummnorva.org.

Thrift Store Assistant Manager

Full-time: Able to work day, evening, and Saturday hours. Send resume to C. Wayne Berry at wberry@ummnorva.org.

Thrift Store/Production

Full-time: Able to work day and/or evening hours. Send resume to C. Wayne Berry at wberry@ummnorva.org.



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Like us on Facebook.
Follow us on Twitter & Instagram!

You gave ... now Michele is excited about a new future



Michele's parents divorced when she was young, putting her in the middle of a custody battle. Troubled, she dropped out of school in the ninth grade but later got her GED and attended college for a year. At eighteen, she gave birth to a daughter. When she was twenty she was in a serious car accident, fracturing her sternum. "I had trouble getting into a car for a long time after the accident. It was very traumatizing." She was given Vicodin for the pain, but when her prescription ran out she turned to cocaine.

After the accident she lived with her mother and her step-father, staying with them until her daughter was ten. She got pregnant again and gave birth to a son, but continued a downward spiral into drugs, a habit that cost her custody of her children. She tried to get them back taking parenting classes but: "I was very

unstable and had a lot of difficulty dealing with everything that was going on in my life. I had the desire to stop using but didn't know how or what to do. It wasn't what I had intended for my life." Michele tried to get her life together and got a job at the rehab center she had been attending. Then she returned to her hometown in Massachusetts to start a new life, but couldn't find a job and became homeless. Then she was attacked, causing a brain injury and more pain. "I was disabled and had no one."

Michele attended AA meetings trying to get help. She cleaned houses and rented rooms, focusing on recovery. She finally applied for disability, got her own apartment, and bought a van. "I focused on

staying clean and bettering my life." She went to rehab and volunteered at Social Services, but life took

another downturn.

An apartment she lived in had code violations, and the tenants were ordered to leave. She

applied for new housing, living in hotel rooms when she could afford it and sleeping in her van. Last January she got a dog for companionship and headed south to escape the cold northeast. When the pain got worse she took her dog to the humane society. "It was too much for me to bear."

"The staff helped me spiritually. Now God is in my life daily."

continued ...

Dear Rev. Gray, I want my year-end gift 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.

Method of Payment: Check VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Number _____ CCV Code _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Please make your check payable to The Union Mission. To make an online donation go to donate.unionmissionministries.org



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.

MICHELE ... *continued*

She continued to work on and off, taking showers at a fitness center and renting a room from a lady she met there. But “my head was causing me so much pain I went to the hospital where they kept me for 11 days.” When she was released she headed to Virginia to live with her now grown daughter for two weeks and then slept in her van until she found The Union Mission on the internet. She came in May for the first time. Life started looking better for Michele. “The staff helped me spiritually. Now God is in my life daily. I joined the savings program, and they are helping me with my stability and to find housing. If it wasn’t for the Mission, I would still be living in my van. Being here helped me pay my bills. I’m very grateful for the Mission. I received guidance from the Lord here.” Michele recently moved into her own apartment excited about a new future.



Thank you for providing the
JOY of CHRISTMAS
to those without home or family, to the elderly, and to the disabled.


You can be a Blessing!

It’s a new year and many of us make New Year’s resolutions but how many of us keep them beyond a few weeks or even a few months? We vow to lose weight, get out of debt, or even make out a will. Christian author Dallas Willard once said, “blessing is the projection of good into the life of another.” Having an up-to-date estate plan or will can be much more than having a plan on paper, it can be a purposeful way to project good into the lives of loved ones and the ministries you care about. This is good stewardship

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

and it blesses the heart of God too.” Don’t miss this obvious and easy opportunity to be a blessing. As Hebrews 13:16 says, “*And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*” The American Bar Association cites 55% of American adults as not having a will or estate plan. For more information contact Helen Sommer at (757) 627-8686, ext. 505 or hsommer@ummnorva.org — or bless your family today with a God-honoring will at www.christianwill.org/umm.

Double your donation



Matching Gifts

Have you asked your employer if they have a matching gift program? Many employers do and it’s a great way to start off the new year by helping those in need. A gift that doubles in value will double the impact you can make in someone’s life.

GIVE TODAY at donate.unionmissionministries.org

Comments / Change of Address:

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

No person is denied service based on race, creed, gender, disability, or national origin.

Photos are representative of actual mission clients.

If you would like to donate food or other supplies, or volunteer your time, please call (757) 627-8686. Thank you!

In the event contributions exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to feed, shelter, and care for the hungry and homeless throughout the year.

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.

THE UNION MISSION MINISTRIES

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