

The  
**UNION  
MISSION**

# MISSION NETWORK

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

You can turn  
sorrow into JOY ...  
give the gift of HOPE  
this holiday season.

*Let them know you care!*

The holidays are a lonely and depressing time of year for those living on the streets or in a shelter. Ties with family and friends are broken, and memories of holidays with loved ones a sad reminder of what they have lost. You can turn sorrow into joy. You can give hope for a brighter future.



## Hope Begins with a Meal

Provide a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal for a homeless, hungry man, woman, or child for just \$2.08, or 10 meals for \$20.80.

*Give the Gift of Hope for a better future.*

Go to [unionmissionministries.org](http://unionmissionministries.org) and give today!



# Give the Gift of Joy this Christmas!

**Provide Christmas gift bags for men.** Decorate paper lunch bags and fill them with ... bus pass • \$5 fast-food gift card • wallet • small manicure set • Christmas card • candy  
*(Bus passes provide transportation for work. Gift cards provide meals while working.)*



Please deliver to The Union Mission by December 21st.

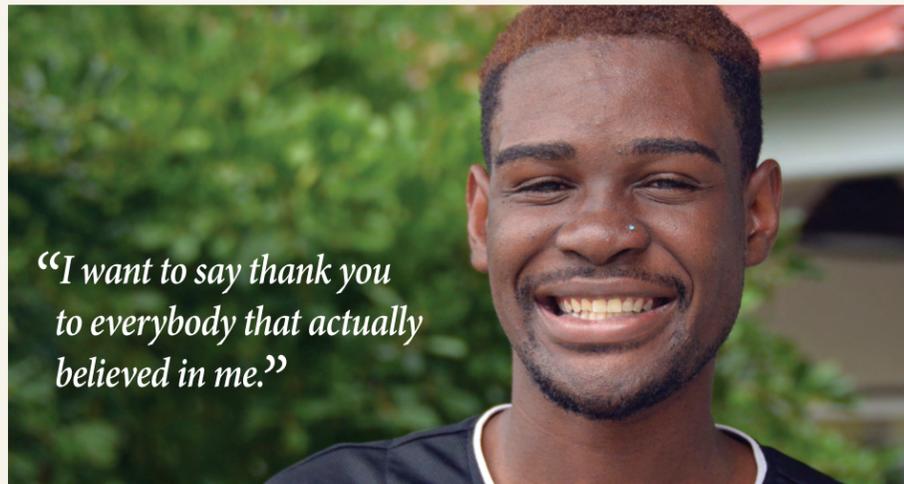
## Because of you ... Tyreek is no longer just surviving, but thriving!

Tyreek's mother passed away when he was five and "my father wasn't really here, so I was raised by my aunt. She was like a mother to me; I call her *mom*, just like she was my biological mother."

While in high school, he worked at a discount store and was promoted to Assistant Manager. "They were going to give me my own store, until they found out how young I was." Then someone accused him of stealing. The stores video tape proved he hadn't done it, but he was hurt and decided to leave. "I didn't want to work somewhere that accused me of that."

Tyreek and his aunt drifted apart. "I felt lonely and started hanging out with the wrong crowd, just to feel like I was needed somewhere." When they fought over his curfew, she told him to pack his things and leave.

He stayed in a friend's college dorm until the semester ended, then came to The Union Mission. "I didn't expect to be treated so well. I have heard people say bad things, but when I came here, I thought I was in the palace of homeless shelters. They were very



*"I want to say thank you to everybody that actually believed in me."*

welcoming and made me feel comfortable and encouraged me to go back to school."

He joined the David Development Program for young men 18-26. "I love the Program. It made me connect with guys that I wouldn't have connected with. It made me see things from their perspective, put myself in their shoes, and be more understanding. Now, I am learning to trust in Jesus; how to be the bigger man in a situation when things go bad."

Tyreek moved into his own place in July. He still participates in the David After-Care Program and will graduate in January 2019. He is looking for a good job and has money in his savings account. "The Program taught me the

values of life, like not to always give up. If it wasn't for the Mission I honestly don't know where I would be."

"While working full-time and residing at the Mission, Tyreek earned his high school diploma. Following his DDP *Grow-up* Plan, he was accepted into Tidewater Community College, where he started classes this fall. We encourage and congratulate this young man for overcoming, as the world would see it, insurmountable odds and staying steadfast in his desire to change his situation. He is no longer just surviving, but thriving."

- DDP Director



## You gave Regina a place to sleep and peace of mind.

Regina was raised in North Carolina with eight siblings. After high school she got a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Social Work from Elizabeth City State University, then moved to Virginia, got married and had a son, now 27. She got a job at Walmart, but separated from her husband in 2007 and moved back to Elizabeth City with her parents.

When they passed away in 2014, just two months apart, she moved back to Virginia transferring her job to a Walmart in Norfolk where she still works today. "After my parents passed away, I moved in with a family member who lost her job and home. All my other sisters and

brothers lived out of state and wouldn't help. I stayed in a hotel for nine days until a bed opened up at the Mission.

"I had nowhere else to go. This was my first time in a shelter and I was scared and didn't know what to think, but everybody made me feel welcome and comfortable.

My nervousness went away. They gave me a place to sleep, gave me food, and clothing. Now they are helping me get housing. I'm very thankful for that. I've learned a lot more about God through the Bible studies. They tell us to trust in Him and that's what I'm doing. I'm glad I came here. I'll be ok. I have a long term job and I'm on the right track. If it wasn't for the Mission, I don't know where I'd be."

*The average age of women entering The Women and Children's Shelter today is 50 with some in their 70's and even 80's. Family has deserted them and with only social security to live on, they can't make it on their own. That's why they need you!*



## Text-to-Give HOLIDAY MEALS

*Letters and phone calls are things of the past, and let's face it, texting is easy and fast. Did you know it's also an easy way to give to the charity you love and support?*

**Text LIVES 10 to 50155**

*and provide 5 meals for homeless and hungry men, women, and children ... just like that!*

## It's Not Too Late!

**2018 is almost over.** Thanksgiving is almost here and Christmas is just around the corner. Time to start shopping for your children and grandchildren and decorating your home for the holidays. Before you know it, the year will be over. You had the best of intentions, and it's been in the back of your mind, but you've been so busy you've put it off.

**But, it's not too late! You can still make a year-end gift and change someone's future.**

**Go to [unionmissionministries.org](http://unionmissionministries.org) and give today!**

# Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?

A study found the average adult forgets three things daily ...

- letting your coffee get cold
- where you left your keys
- what you meant to buy at the store
- charging your mobile device
- where you parked your car

While we're all guilty of forgetting from time to time, we would never forget to teach our children to call 911 in an emergency, or to look both ways before crossing the street. But every day parents neglect to pass along equally vital information — by not communicating important personal data and plans only they know.

People who prepare for unanticipated life events show love for their family by saying, "I've already planned so you'll be taken care of even when I can't be the one to do it." One of the best ways to do this is with an up-to-date will or estate plan. Another is by compiling information like:

- passwords for existing accounts — financial, social media, etc.
- contact information for your accountant, attorney, or broker
- details regarding investments, accounts and insurance policies
- family stories, genealogy, or recipes
- a list of charities you support
- explanations of the values and beliefs that have shaped your life

Remembering to care for your loved ones during and after your life is a beautiful gift. So is remembering a ministry like The Union Mission in your will. Don't let time or good intentions get away from you. *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time..."* Ephesians 5:15-16.

## For more information

contact Helen Sommer at [hsommer@ummnorva.org](mailto:hsommer@ummnorva.org) or (757) 627-8686, ext. 505 or go to [www.christianwill.org/umm](http://www.christianwill.org/umm) to bless your family with a God-honoring will.

## Staff Needs

Experience preferred

APPLY ONLINE AT  
[www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org)

### Men's Shelter

Send resume to William Crawley at [wrcrawley@ummnorva.org](mailto:wrcrawley@ummnorva.org)

**Evening Manager** – Full-time: evenings and rotating weekends (male position).

**Overnight Manager** – Full-time or Part-time: overnight and rotating weekends. (male position).

### Women's Shelter

Send resume to Kathy Vaughan at [kathy@ummnorva.org](mailto:kathy@ummnorva.org).

**Overnight Assistant** – Full-time: nights and weekends.

### Women & Children's Shelter

Send resume to Kathy Vaughan at [kathy@ummnorva.org](mailto:kathy@ummnorva.org).

**Overnight Assistant** – Part-time: nights and weekends.

**Assistant** – Part-time: days and some weekends.

**Evening Assistant** – Full-time or Part-time: evenings and weekends.

### Thrift Store

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

**Assistant Manager** – Full-time: days, evenings, and/or Saturdays.

**Production** – Full-time: days and/or evenings.



Countdown to **CHRISTMAS**

See our  
"Countdown to Christmas"  
calendar in this issue!

Share compassion and love of giving with the children in your lives using the enclosed calendar. Then bring your gifts to the Mission on December 21st from 10 to 12 noon for a family-friendly event.

RSVP to [shoster@ummnorva.org](mailto:shoster@ummnorva.org) or 757-627-8686 ext 506.



5100 E. VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD. ■ NORFOLK, VA 23502

757-627-8686



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

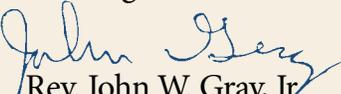
# You've done so much this past year ... but we need you more than ever before!

Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe the holidays are here and the year is almost over. You've done so much this past year. You provided nutritious meals, warm beds, toiletries, and clothing for thousands of homeless men, women, and children. You sponsored over 700 children to come to Camp Hope Haven this past summer and provided for the poor in our community through your donations of food, clothing, household goods, and furniture. Most importantly, you shared the love of the Gospel with hurting men, women, and children and many lives were changed for eternity.

You have been faithful and we are so grateful, but we need you more than ever before. Our shelters are at capacity each night, and more and more people come to us for help. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Will you consider one more sacrificial gift as the year draws to a close?

May God bless you and your family this holiday season.

With a grateful heart,  
  
Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.  
Executive Director

*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Luke 6:38



*P.S. Use the calendar on the other side. Teach a child about the Joy of Giving!*

**Dear Rev. Gray, I want to help the hurting and homeless during this holiday season.**

**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](http://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.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

You teach your children about giving by sharing their toys, but you want to do more. Here's a great idea for the month of December. Read what the Bible says about giving, gather change and goods, then bring them to the Mission on December 21st.

# Countdown to CHRISTMAS

1   
Read Deut. 15:11

|  |  |  |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 <br>pray for a homeless mother & her children           | 3 <br>donate \$5 to provide breakfast for a family starting their day | 4 <br>donate gently used clothes & shoes      | 5 <br>save your change to donate to the Mission   | 6 <br>visit our website to learn about homelessness                  | 7 <br>Read Proverbs 19:17   | 8 <br>donate \$2.08 to feed a veteran              |  |
| 9 <br>pray for a disabled homeless man                     | 10 <br>give \$4.50 to buy a bus pass so a man can go to work          | 11 <br>make a Christmas card for the homeless | 12 <br>shop for most needed items ... use our Amazon Wish List online   | 13 <br>Read Luke 6:38   | 14 <br>pray for the poor in our community                         | 15 <br>make Christmas gift bags (learn how online) |  |
| 16 <br>praise God that you are able to help the homeless | 17 <br>donate travel size toothpaste & soap                          | 18 <br>collect socks & underwear             | 19 <br>Read Matthew 6:2-4  | 20 <br>donate \$4.16 to provide bag lunches for 2 men going to work | 21 <br>come to the Mission from 10-12 & bring what you collected | 22<br>pray for a lonely homeless woman  |  |
| 23 <br>visit our website & GIVE TODAY!                  | 24 <br>donate meals online for a hungry mother & child              | 25 <br>Read Luke 2:1-21                     | <p><b>Use this calendar to teach your children about giving while you help the poor &amp; homeless this Christmas season.</b></p> <p>Visit us online at <a href="http://www.unionmissionministries.org">www.unionmissionministries.org</a> and GIVE TODAY!<br/>Learn more about holiday giving by selecting Ways to Give/Holiday Giving.</p> |   |  |    |  |

**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**  
P.O. BOX 3203 | NORFOLK, VA 23514 | 757-627-8686  
[info@ummnorva.org](mailto:info@ummnorva.org) | [www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org)