

*The*  
**UNION  
MISSION**

# MISSIONNETWORK

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

MARCH 2019

**Give today &  
transform a life!**

[unionmissionministries.org](http://unionmissionministries.org)

**HUNGRY,  
HOMELESS  
MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN  
DEPEND ON YOU!**

INSIDE: You Gave Johrden a Second Chance | Without You Sandra would be on the Streets | You can Impact the World  
Remember the Poor and Homeless | Fill a Tote and fill a Heart with Hope!



# Johrden felt forgotten ... until you believed in him and gave him a second chance

Johrden and his siblings were raised by a disabled mother. "She struggled to provide for her children in a rough neighborhood." Their father was rarely in the picture.

After high school he went to Bluefield College, but when a loan was declined, he couldn't pay the tuition and transferred to Norfolk State University. He is majoring in Social Work, remembering a Social Worker who helped his family in a rough time. He attended classes, worked part-time, and lived with his grandfather, but when the home went into foreclosure, he had to drop out of school. He moved in with a cousin and then with his father until his dad said, "You need to go to the Mission" and drove him to its doors.

"There was always the problem of finding a consistent place to live, dealing with family issues, back and forth to friends' houses, finding employment, and always struggling finding somewhere to live."

"I never imagined being in a shelter or being homeless. My first thought was to try and get a job, a roommate, and get out as soon as possible. I was by myself and kind of lost. When you come to a shelter you believe certain people don't believe in you anymore. You are the forgotten one."

Then Johrden joined the David Program for young men. "Mr. Metcalf (Director) didn't give up on us and believed in us. You could call him at midnight when everybody was sleeping and he listened to you. He is a father figure to me and the other Davids. I also learned about brotherhood. When you hear someone else's story who had it worse than you did, you realize you don't have it so bad."

"I am learning to be more in tune with God, apply it to everyday life and to

reach out and ask for help when I need it. Mr. Metcalf teaches us to help in the community, putting someone else first who might not have what you have. But everything doesn't happen

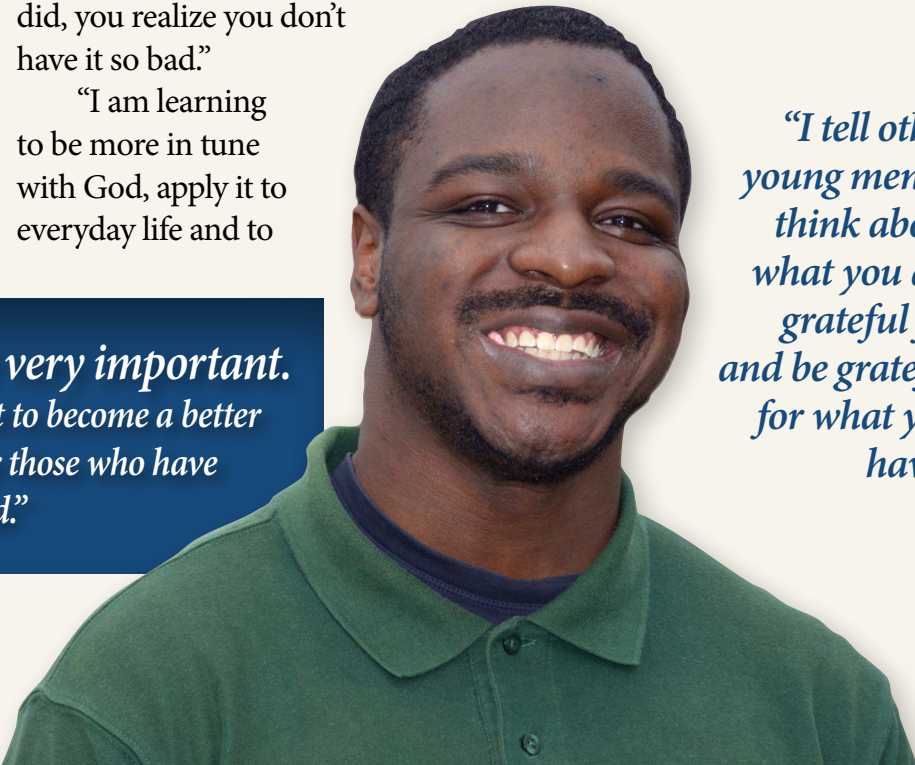
overnight. I am learning patience and to trust in God. My goal is to graduate college

and do non-profit work in the neighborhood I came from where resources are limited. I also want to get a job and a place to live."

Today Johrden is taking 15 credits at Norfolk State, working 30 hours a week, and saving money. "You have to learn how to forgive people when your heart is hurt about things in your past and move forward."



*"I tell other young men to think about what you are grateful for and be grateful for what you have."*



*"Your contributions are very important. They help someone who was lost to become a better person, a good citizen ... and for those who have no faith, to become closer to God."*

GIVE TODAY at  
[www.unionmissionministries.org](http://www.unionmissionministries.org)

## Without you ... Sandra says, "I would probably be in the streets."

Sandra dropped out of school in the 11th grade to get married. Her husband joined the Coast Guard and for 20 years they moved from place to place. They had three sons, but the marriage ended in divorce after 28 years.

In 2003 Sandra married again. "We were very happy together until he became very ill and died in 2007. We didn't even have four

"My dear friend, who lived in my building, had lived in the Men's Shelter and told me about the Mission. This is the first time I was ever homeless. It was hard at first, but everyone is cordial and nice, and I'm happy to have been here. If it wasn't for The Union Mission, I'd probably be in the streets ... I just do not know. When I lay down on my pillow every night, I'm in touch with my Lord and Savior. I know He loves me and I love Him. I thank Him for where I am now."

Sandra's Case Manager helped her apply for an Assisted Living apartment and she is excited about moving into her own home.

*"I am truly grateful that there are places like this that you can go and get the help you need."*



years together. Both my husbands were very fine men. I give thanks to my Holy Lord and Savior for all He has given me."

Sandra got her G.E.D. She took computer classes at TCC and says, "I was good at it." She did secretarial work, worked in a bank, and in schools. After her husband died she went back to secretarial work, until in November 2018 she found herself without a job and unable to pay her rent. "I had ten days to get out."

*You can help women like Sandra by becoming an*

**Anchor of Hope**  
MONTHLY DONOR

For more information go to  
[unionmissionministries.org](http://unionmissionministries.org)



# YOUR FAMILY *can* Impact *the* World!

When Dae Brown tweeted a photo of her newly-adopted son, she had no idea it would go viral ... but who could resist an adorable three-year old throwing a celebratory fist in the air? Over 56,000 shares and nearly 142,000 likes prove people shared his excitement in seeing his 832 days in foster care come to an end.

Why do we love a good adoption story? Maybe it's because adoption tugs at our human desire for belonging, or to see families experience wholeness. Either way, building a family is powerful.

Did you know there's another form of "adoption" that can bring meaning and depth to your family?

It's called "Child Named Charity," or "Child Called Charity" and it's literally inviting a ministry to become one of your heirs. Many people have found adding The Union Mission Ministries as another "child" in their will has enriched their lives with purpose, knowing their legacy will impact lives for generations to come.

## Here's an example of how it works:

Robert and Brenda have three adult children and an estate valued at \$500,000 after taxes. When it was time to update their will, they decided to include a ministry gift — adding a charity as another "child" in their estate plan. Instead of dividing their estate three ways, they divided it equally into four, giving a quarter of their estate, or \$125,000, to each party.

"True, pure religion includes looking after orphans." (James 1:27)  
As Max Lucado said, "If anybody understands God's ardor for His children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us ..."

*Your legacy and end-of-life plans  
can ensure others will experience  
love, belonging, and wholeness.*

For more information contact Helen Sommer at  
627-8686, ext. 504 or [hsommer@ummnorva.org](mailto:hsommer@ummnorva.org)  
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)

*Some positions require days,  
evenings, and weekends.*

### Men's Shelter

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

#### Evening Manager –

Full-time: male only

#### Overnight Manager –

Full-time / Part-time: male only

Cook – Full-time

Kitchen Staff – Full-time

### Women & Children's Shelter

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

Assistant – Part-time: female only

### Donor Services Specialist

Full-time / Part-time

Send resume to Roseanne Dickerson at  
[roseanne@ummnorva.org](mailto:roseanne@ummnorva.org)

### Volunteer Engagement

#### Coordinator

Full-time

Send resume to Helen Sommer at  
[hsommer@ummnorva.org](mailto:hsommer@ummnorva.org)

### Thrift Store

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

Store/Production – Full-time

Truck Driver – Full-time



5100 E. VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.  
NORFOLK, VA 23502  
757-627-8686



# Remember the poor & homeless give generously!



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

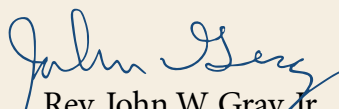
Dear Friend,

As we approach the Easter season, we are reminded of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross, as he took on the sins of mankind to set us free, giving us the promise of eternal life. We are also reminded of that glorious day when he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. In Luke 24 the angel guarding his tomb said to the women who came to prepare his body, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he is risen!"

*As you and your family celebrate the resurrection of Christ this Easter, please remember your poor and homeless neighbors and give generously, so they too can celebrate Christ's love for them.*

May you and your family have a blessed Easter!

In His Service,

  
Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.  
Executive Director

WHY DO YOU  
LOOK FOR THE  
**LIVING**  
AMONG THE DEAD?

HE IS NOT HERE  
**HE IS  
RISEN!**

Dear Rev. Gray, I want to remember the poor and homeless this Easter.

**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.

03-2019

# Fill a TOTE and fill a heart with hope!

Did you know that by filling a little purple bag with some basic items, you will provide a warm, bed, help someone who is homeless find a job, and give them hope for the future? You can ... when you fill it with the few items listed here.

Go to [www.unionmissionministries.org/hope-tote](http://www.unionmissionministries.org/hope-tote) to learn more, or contact Linda Jones at [lindaj@ummnorva.org](mailto:lindaj@ummnorva.org) or (757) 627-8686, ext. 426 to get your bags today. (Return filled bags by April 15th. We'll begin distributing HOPE TOTES to our guests in need on Easter.)

You might be able to fill one, two or more and give someone "hope to hold on to!"

*Thank you for giving  
the homeless hope.*



## Simply fill totes with NEW items:

- White towels and washcloths
- XL white twin sheets and pillow cases
- Men's and women's underwear
- Bus Passes (find where to purchase by going to [unionmissionministries.org/bus-passes](http://unionmissionministries.org/bus-passes))



## Comments / Change of Address:

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EMAIL 

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PHONE 

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## 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)

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.