

The
**UNION
MISSION**

MISSIONNETWORK

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

**Your gift
surrounded her
with care!**

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Surrounded by *Care* Because You Gave

After high school Maureen studied Early Childhood Education and worked in a community youth program. In her 30's she earned a degree in Business Management and worked at a day care center, taught at a pre-school, then at a church school. Her last job was at a 7-11 where she worked for nine years until she hurt her foot, and was out of work for several months. Unable to pay her bills, she depended on friends to help her stay in hotels, until she heard about the Mission. "At first, I thought it was like a prison, like we were being punished for being homeless. But then I realized, when you come from having freedom, being able to do everything when you want to do it, then you are put on a time frame, it's not a bad thing. It's a good thing. The shelter puts you on a time frame so when you get out there into the world again, you know, 'I have to eat dinner between 6:00 and 8:00. If I have to go to work tomorrow, I have to be in bed by 10:00 or 11:00 and when I have to get up by 6:00 to get to my job, you have the time frame or structure you need.'"

Today Maureen has a job and the staff is helping her find an apartment. "Sometimes you don't even feel like you are in a shelter because you are surrounded by people who care. It feels more like a home. Maureen suffers from depression and anxiety but says, "It's gotten better since I've been here. I'm doing crocheting now and I really enjoy the people here. If it wasn't for this place, I'd probably still be living in a hotel or on the streets."



"Sometimes you don't even feel like you are in a shelter because you are surrounded by people who care."

Thank you for changing a child's life this summer!



With your support, this past summer was one of great accomplishment. You sponsored 713 campers and teens for a fun-filled week at Camp Hope Haven and 88 gave their lives to the Lord!

Your gift made a difference!

Your Generosity Gave Her *Hope*

Lorraine got married at 21 and had three children, but after 31 years of marriage, her husband left her for someone else. "My marriage was awesome and our relationship was awesome. We were friends and did everything together. I had a good husband, a good provider and was a full time mom. He was my Prince Charming. When he left I didn't know where to go or what to do. I was about to lose everything."

Her mother was sick so she packed up some things and went to her aunt's. Her son went to live with his father's family, and she kept her two daughters. "You want to do what's best for your kids. I was always there for everyone including my children."

Her family used her for her money, and destroyed what little she had stored at her aunt's. "I didn't have anywhere else to go. One night I woke up, and my 16 year old daughter was gone. Her father came and got her while I was asleep and no one told me. I went out in the middle of the night screaming for my baby. I called the police and then found out three days later he took her. Everyone knew but me. I can't explain how that feels to have your child taken from you. When you find out where she is and people don't tell you. She'd been through a lot and wanted to go with him. I was hurt and I understood, but as parents, we should make decisions for our children together. He was gone for three years and didn't talk to them, or contact them. Then he let her move to Missouri with an older man and now she's pregnant. Things would have been different if she had stayed with me."

Because Lorraine didn't have a job and no permanent home, Social Services sent her 10-year old daughter to live with her father until she gets on her feet. "They said I wasn't a bad mom but all his moving around wasn't stable and I needed to be independent. I miss her so much."

good hearts. They welcomed me and I feel loved." The staff helped her apply for food stamps and Medicaid and gave her a temporary ID.

It's been four years since her husband left. Her mother died two years ago. "I have so much pain inside me, but a lot more hope than I had

"The people here have good hearts. They welcomed me and I feel loved."



Alone, homeless, and scared, she went to an overnight shelter until a Social Worker sent her to The Mission. "I had to sleep on a couch the first two nights, but I was very grateful for that. The state of mind I was in wasn't good. It's so hard to get a job if you've been a housewife and mom for so long, but the staff helped me get an interview with a wedding planner. The people here have

before. At first I was angry at God. I thought he'd given up on me when I did everything I could to be a good mom, a good wife. I didn't understand, but every time I come to the Bible studies I get a little peace and am understanding more about myself. There's a reason for everything. This place gave me hope."

Thank you for your partnership! www.unionmissionministries.org



You Gave
Him a Gate
to God

Parish's mother was a drug addict so he had the responsibility of raising his 7 siblings. It was too much, and at 15 he dropped out of school and left home. "I worked odd jobs, but was homeless and hanging with the wrong people. They were doing drugs and I got into what they were doing." At 30 he was diagnosed with PTSD and applied for disability. He found an apartment but, "It was in a bad neighborhood. I had neighbors threatening me, told me they was going to have me killed, and do this and that to me, to the point I had to call the police. One day I put my keys in the apartment, locked the door and left."

He kept a roof over his head, until his money ran out. Then it was back to the street until the following month. He stayed in winter shelters and lived in a tent. "One night I was laying there and got to thinking what I was going to do, and how I was going to survive. A voice came into my head and said, 'Go to the Union Mission.' He came and joined the Damascus Program. "I wanted to change

and this was something I needed in my life." He attended classes and bible studies. "The Word of God was touching me. It was like God talking to me about all the things I done in life. It's like planting a seed in the ground. God will water it, give it sunlight and make it grow."

"The messages I heard in Chapel opened my eyes. "I never knew the anger, the depression, the stress, all that weight I had on me. Now I feel light.

All the things I was going through, it just cleaned out of me. I prayed to God to forgive my sins. Now I can feel in my heart, a warm feeling, a good feeling."

"If it wasn't for the Mission I'd probably still

be in the street drinking, doing drugs. When that voice came into my head and said 'leave here', I left everything I had. I needed somewhere to lay my head and get a meal, but God put me here where I could get more. This place was a gate to God. He's given me a new life." With your help more men like Parish can find hope for a new life. Give at www.unionmissionministries.org!

*"This place was a
gate to God.
He's given me a
new life."*

For more information about The Union Mission programs,
visit www.unionmissionministries.org/learn.

Join us for the

ANCHORS of HOPE

MONTHLY DONOR RECEPTION

October 18th
1:00 pm

RSVP Susan Hoster at
shoster@ummnorva.org

Staff Needs

Experience preferred

APPLY ONLINE AT
www.unionmissionministries.org

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

Send resume to Kathy Vaughan at
kathy@ummnorva.org

Men's Shelter

Shelter Managers –
Full-time: male only

Women's Shelter

Overnight Supervisor –
Full-time 11-7: female only

Development

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Full-time

Thrift Store

Store/Production – Full-time
Truck Driver – Full-time



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NORFOLK, VA 23502
757-627-8686



Give and it will be
given to you!



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day we see more and more people with many challenges coming to the Mission seeking help. I am thankful for the loving staff that God has provided to care for them. and I am thankful that He has provided you! With your support, we can meet the challenges and make a difference in the lives of hurting people. Will you prayerfully consider making an extra gift as an investment in someone's life this month? Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

In His Service,

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.
Executive Director

Thank you for
helping us meet
their needs!



Dear Rev. Gray, I want to make a lasting impact for hurting neighbors!

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.

09-2019



Giving & Worship Go Hand in Hand

Yiru Sun called off her wedding, but couldn't get the hall rental refunded. So she threw a party for 60 underprivileged families instead. As she mingled, she told the New York Post, "I cannot be the princess of my wedding day, but I can give these kids a fairy tale."

(Story from Readers' Digest)

Generosity changes lives. Here are two unique ways:

Giving can build relationship. Many people are shifting their Christmas shopping toward buying "shared experiences" rather than "things."

Giving is an act of worship. Author Jay Link said, "There is no story in the Scriptures that more vividly connects giving to worship than the story of the wise men when they entered the very presence of Jesus... 'On coming to the house, they saw the child... and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures... of gold and incense and myrrh.' These magi could not worship Jesus without presenting their gifts to Him." When we give to an organization like The Union Mission Ministries it can be an expression of praise for God's goodness and blessings.

While changing tax laws in charitable giving may be confusing there are several ways your assets could help but check with your tax advisor.

IRA Charitable Rollover Gift: tax-free and life-changing

If you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA or other retirement plan, but don't need the income, ask your financial advisor or institution to distribute a life-changing gift directly to The Union Mission. You are not required to pay taxes on this gift. (Gifts up to \$100,000 may qualify for your RMD Rollover Gift.)

Appreciated Stock: benefit you and the homeless.

If you have stocks, you can make a gift of appreciated stock to The Union Mission. You will not have to realize the capital gains from the stock as income, yet you can recognize the value of the appreciated stock as a charitable gift at the time of its transfer to The Mission.

Beneficiary Designation: continue a legacy of giving

If you don't use your retirement resources during your lifetime,, you can help the homeless by naming The Union Mission as beneficiary on your bank account, IRA, 401K, 403B, life insurance policy, publicly traded stocks or bonds, mutual fund shares, or even savings bonds.

Your generous gift of assets can transform the lives of your homeless neighbors at The Union Mission.

To request a FREE copy of "Re-think Your Giving This Christmas" or for information about giving through your assets, **contact Helen Hayes Sommer at (757) 627-8686, ext. 504 or hsummer@ummnorva.org** or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/umm

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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