

The
**UNION
MISSION**

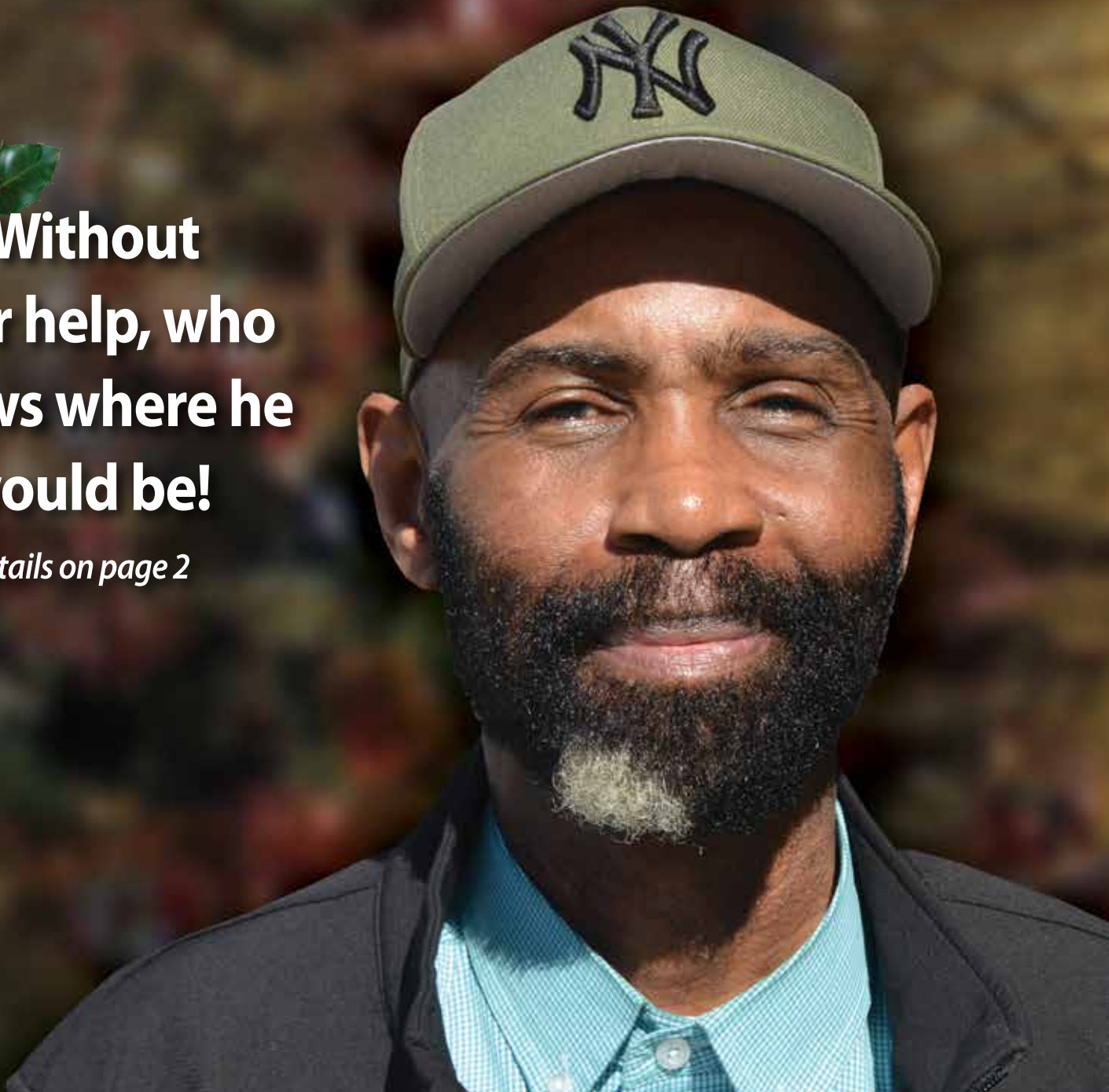
MISSION NETWORK

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



**Without
your help, who
knows where he
would be!**

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Without You Guys, I Don't Know Where I'd Be | Making Gifts from IRA'S | Giving the Gift of Joy

Hope Begins With a *Meal*

You can give someone who is hurting the joy of *a holiday meal for just \$2.08*.
Give \$20 and ten people will experience the hope that begins with a meal!



*You help people here
and that's what
I want to do.*

Samuel was raised in a good family but he started doing drugs at 17 and dropped out of school. He joined the Job Corps, got his G.E.D. and worked as a merchant seaman for seven years. "I was definitely

Without you guys,
I don't know where I'd be.

addicted and used a lot of drugs in my travels." When he returned home he worked at the shipyard. Then he moved to Philadelphia and worked as a security officer in a hotel. He was married in the 1980's, but it didn't last long. He has five daughters, and twelve grandchildren.

"There was a time when I didn't use and stayed clean for five years, but started using again. People always ask why I returned to drugs. I'd like to say it was some tragic thing that happened or a job loss, but it was just me being me, just doing what I wanted to do at the time. I removed God from the driver's seat and started driving again."

The first time Samuel was homeless was when his mother died in 1999 and he lost his job. He came to the Union Mission downtown for a while but ended up back on the streets. When he lost the ability to use his right side; "I thought I had a stroke but it was some vertebrae in my neck pressing against my sciatic nerve." He was hospitalized

for a month, then went to rehab. "I can't walk the same as I used to and can't run, but am very blessed. The doctors didn't think I would walk again, but I was very hopeful and God is a good."

Then he decided to try the Mission again. "I tried another shelter, but they told me I was too old. I was 64 and that was their limit. I tried rehab a couple of times to get myself straight but it didn't work... until this time."

"I also learned a few things about helping people here. I got a security job at the mall and started feeling better and better about myself and now I feel like a brand new person. You help people here and that's what I want to do. A lot of homeless people come into where I work and I find myself buying them lunch. I'm a better person than I was. I'm clean now and am in the process of getting housing. Without you guys. I don't know where I'd be."

Thank you for giving me a
place that makes me feel safe.

After high school, Michele attended college, worked for Coca Cola and then for Life Touch National Studios for eleven years until her mother got sick. "My mom took ill with kidney failure that brought on a stroke, leaving her right side paralyzed. She told us to never put her in a nursing home, and I was the only one who could leave my job and take care of her." She took care of her mother for two years until she passed away.

Her next job was transporting people to doctors and other appointments. She did that until she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. "I had swollen up and put on about 60 lbs. of water weight. I didn't know what was going on, but I got tired of hurting, not sleeping, and it was hard to get around." She was hospitalized for 14 days, took time to recover and started job hunting. In the meantime, she took care of her family's kids, and helped people in financial difficulty.

"That's when it started falling apart. I couldn't find a job and I totally ran out of every dime I had. I called everywhere. Then I called The Union

Mission and left messages, but they were full." She kept calling while her sister paid for a night in a hotel. "I had to call The Mission the next morning at 8:30, but at 8:15 they called me and gave me a place to stay. I was so happy. I was trusting God to provide a place for me so I wouldn't have to spend the night on the street, and He worked it all out for me. I don't know what I would have done because no one would take me in."

I've never been in a shelter. I was scared. I thought there would be lots of people in a big open room, sleeping on the floor, and I would have to guard my stuff. Instead I have a room with other women. It's almost like being in a college dorm. It's a place of relief and safety.

I'm grateful and thankful to the Mission for taking me in. They provided me with bible study and encouragement, opportunities to look for a job without worrying where I'm going to sleep, what I'm going to do in the daytime, how I'm going to protect myself. I don't have to worry about being on the street, where nobody cares about you."



*I'm so grateful that there's
a place that makes
me feel safe.*

"I'm doing pretty good and trusting God to direct my path for the right job. I'm so grateful that there's a place that makes me feel safe. I've met so many nice ladies here, it's like a family. We eat together, praise the Lord together, go to the chapel together and pray for each other. I'm grateful to the donors who provide us a place to stay, food to eat; nourishment for our minds, bodies and spirits. I couldn't ask for a better place to stay at this season of my life."



**Give today and help more people like Samuel
and Michele find safety and a new direction.
They can't do it without you!**

The Gift of Joy

Give the Gift of Joy this Christmas by decorating a paper lunch bag and filling it with the following items:

\$5 Fast Food Gift Card

Men's Wallet

Men's Manicure Set

Men's underwear

Candy

Christmas Card

Bus Pass (go to <https://gohrt.com/fares/where-to-buy/>)



Did you know that there is a list on our website of our Most Needed Items?

People often ask what we need, or sometimes collect things that we don't need at the time.

With over 400 men, women and children in our shelters (mostly men), one of our biggest needs is underwear, especially sizes L & XL. We also need things like towels, wash cloths, some toiletries, (but not all), and other items.

For a complete list, go to:

www.unionmissionministries.org



Ways To Give



Give Goods

Your donation will help restore dignity and self-respect to those who need it the most.



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

***Needed: 350 men's gift bags by December 18th.**

Drop off completed bags at The Donation Drop off Center. For more information, contact Linda Jones at 757-627-8686, ext. 426 or lindaj@ummnorva.org.



Thank you for Your Partnership!



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A recent Mission guest said, "The Mission means hope to me. It saved my life and gave me a supportive safe haven to set my life back on track" I am grateful for your faithful support. We could not do this work of the Lord without you. As we near the end of 2019, I want you to know we need you more than ever before. The people coming here for help have more complex issues and need more intensive programs and counseling to help them overcome the trauma in their lives. Will you prayerfully consider an extra gift to help us give them hope for the future? Thank you and may God bless you and your family this holiday season.

With warmest regards,

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.
Executive Director



It's Not Too Late!



2019 is almost over.

Christmas is a month away. 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 leave a legacy of giving for your children and grandchildren.

Best of all, your gift will change someone's future!

Give today at
unionmissionministries.org

Yes, Rev. Gray I want to include an extra gift to give homeless people hope for the future!

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.

Did you know 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 presence of baby Jesus. These magi could not worship Jesus without presenting their gifts to Him." When you give to an organization like The Union Mission Ministries, it is an expression of praise for God's goodness and blessings.



With recent changes to the tax laws, many donors find that their giving no longer qualifies for charitable deductions. While not their primary reason for giving, those deductions allowed them to be more generous to the organizations that they care about. Two different strategies have been suggested to address the issue:

1

Consider doubling up on giving in one year in order to meet the annual threshold for a charitable deduction.

or

2

Make a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" or QCD gift from your IRA.

Donors who are at least 70.5 years old may give charities up to \$100,000 a year directly from their IRAs without it counting as taxable income. The QCD gift counts toward the donor's required minimum distribution (RMD), the amount of money they must withdraw from their IRS each year. The QCD gift is transferred from an account directly to the charity so the money is recognized as taxable income by the donor.

Ask your financial advisor or tax preparer, if this makes sense for you.

For more information, contact Helen Sommer at 757-627-8686 x505 or hsommer@ummnorva.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

P.O. BOX 3203 | NORFOLK, VA 23514 | 757-627-8686
info@ummnorva.org | www.unionmissionministries.org