

Fill a TOTE
and fill a heart
with hope!

HOPE
TOTE

This Easter season, please join us for Operation Hope Tote

This annual outreach provides living essentials for those in great need. Everyone is invited to participate – your church, family, friends, and co-workers. Simply fill totes with the following items and **return the filled bags by April 10th:**

White towels and washcloths

XL white twin sheets and pillow cases

Men's underwear sizes XL, 2X and 3X

Women's underwear (all sizes)

Shower shoes (flip flops)

Women's umbrellas

Bus passes



Order HOPE TOTE bags

from Linda Jones at
757-627-8686, ext. 426 or
lindaj@ummnorva.org.

Pick up HOPE TOTE bags

at The Union Mission Welcome Center
at 5100 East Virginia Beach Boulevard,
Norfolk, VA 23502.

Thank you
for giving
the homeless
hope.

Learn more at:

www.unionmissionministries.org/hope-tote

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*

Women's Shelter

Evening Supervisor

- Full-time 3pm-11pm
- Female only

Overnight Supervisor

- Must be mature Christian
- Full-time/Part-time: 11 pm – 7 am

Facilities Manager

- Full-time
- Must be mature Christian
- Experience in facilities management, communications and construction required
- Only qualified candidates need apply

Thrift Store Manager

- Full-time
- Must be mature Christian
- Experience in retail and managerial operations required
- Only qualified candidates need apply



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



The
UNION
MISSION

MISSIONNETWORK

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

MARCH 2020

With your help,
Ernest is doing
much better!

Details on page 2



INSIDE: With Your Help, Ernest is Doing So Much Better | I Couldn't Have Made It Without You
Jersey Mike's Day of Giving | Fill a Tote with Hope | What Your Adult Children Need From You

With your help,
Ernest is “Doing
so much better”...

*The Mission has been good...
We're like a little family. Everybody
trying to help each other out.*



Raised an only child, Ernest worked doing welding after high school. For the next twenty years he worked as a cook in various restaurants. He had an eighteen year relationship with a woman, and they eventually married, but after eight years they divorced. Life spiraled down from there. In 2014 he started losing his family, one by one. His dad died in 2014. He lost his 34 year old brother in 2015. His step-sister died in 2016, and his mom in 2018. He was devastated by all the loss. “That was most of my immediate family. After my divorce, I left town, and I’ve just been floating around since then. I was really going through a bad depression, because when I lost my mom that was the only person I had left.”

Depressed and homeless, he suffered from chronic back pain, arthritis, knee problems and “I’m half blind.” He bounced around and stayed on the streets in Augusta, Georgia for six months. He returned to Virginia and stayed with a cousin

but, “I needed to get some things done on my own, so I came to the Mission.”
“Now, I’m starting to get the help I need. Since I’ve been here, I’m doing so much better. The (Damascus) Program has been great. I’m in the process of trying to get my own place, trying to get my benefits started and get my license back. The Mission has been good, a nice clean place. You don’t need for anything. You get three meals a day and the staff is really nice. I’m glad to be here. We’re like a little family. Everybody trying to help each other out. I used to walk around like I didn’t care about nothing, but you know I feel better now, getting back to where I used to be, dressing better, looking better and I’m getting a lot of my health problems taken care of. I’m thankful for being at the Union Mission and thankful for being in the Program. Pastor Jeremiah Jones and Pastor Adrian (Damascus Program Co-Directors), they some good guys. They really try to help you out.”

Your support of the Union Mission gives men like Ernest hope for the future. Give today at www.unionmissionministries.org

The Union Mission Day Centers provide services for hundreds of people not staying in our shelters. They have access to toiletries, showers, clothing, laundry facilities, meals and information about our services and other community services.

“I couldn’t have made it without *You!*”

In the acknowledgement section of her book, *Shut up and Look Cute, Diary of a Homeless Soul*, Yasmine Charles says, “To the Union Mission Women’s Shelter. Thank you for serving the poor and homeless. Thank you for very meal, for every prayer, for every hug. I couldn’t have made it without you.”

Born in Haiti, Yasmine moved to the U.S. when she was twelve. She served in the Navy for nine years and moved to San Antonio to buy a house. When she totaled her car, she had to dip into her retirement to buy another one that needed constant repairs. Unable to find a good job, she enrolled at San Antonio College, then transferred to Norfolk State University. “I struggled through college because I wasn’t prepared for it at all, and the Navy only gave me three years to complete my degree.” Then her GI bill ran out and with it her housing benefits. Her attempts at accessing aid through veteran resources proved unsuccessful so she gave up her apartment to rent a room, until the landlord asked for 3 month’s rent in advance and she didn’t have it.

Yasmine heard that the actor Steve Harvey had lived in his car for three months, so decided if he could do it, so could she. She put her belongings in storage and slept in her car at the University. Then a friend told her about The Union Mission Women’s Shelter. She called, but the beds were full, so she used the Day Center services and returned to the campus library to job search. “The Mission kept me afloat.” When she grew tired of her situation and the weather turned cold, she applied for a grant from the University that included housing.

When the campus closed for a break, she had nowhere to go so she used the Mission’s Day Center again. “I was thankful to be able to wash my clothes, even though I was not a resident. I didn’t want to move in because I didn’t want to get comfortable, and I wanted to be at the campus library until it closed, but I was at my wits end. I called Channel 13 and they told me about Vets House that had transitional housing for female vets.” She stayed there for three months while completing her degree.

After graduation, she got a job teaching at Stratford University, until the University shut down its Hampton Roads campuses in June 2019. Today she works for the Department of Commerce.

“My passion is to give back to homeless vets.” And she is doing just that. A research paper she did on the Social Economics of homeless vets in Virginia became a documentary series. She created a platform on YouTube for homeless vets to tell their stories, “Homeless Veterans Tell All”. Channel 13 did a story on her, and WHRO interviewed her about African American women homeless vets.

“Life’s experiences are not just for us. God has allowed me to go through this to help others- it never defined me. Now I have a story that can encourage other women. My relationship with the Lord has skyrocketed. Some aspects of His personality He only shows those who’ve hit rock bottom. **How can you know He’s a provider if you’ve never lacked anything?”**



You can help more women like Yasmine by visiting www.unionmissionministries.org.



Love a good sub? Try the best in town at Jersey Mike’s Subs throughout the month of March. In addition to getting a delicious meal you will have the opportunity to participate in Jersey Mike’s 10th Annual Month of Giving that benefits The Union Mission. The campaign will culminate in **Jersey Mike’s ‘Day of Giving’ on Wednesday, March 25**, when local Jersey Mike’s owners and operators throughout the country will donate their resources, and every single dollar that comes in to more than 200 different charities. **Locally, 14 Jersey Mike’s restaurants will give 100% of the day’s sales – not just profit- to The Union Mission.**

Thank you for Your Generosity!



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Easter approaches and we look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, I am reminded of the verse in 1 Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." This is the promise of hope for a new life for you and I, and for people like Ernest and Yasmine. As you thank Him for his sacrifice and praise him for his mercy this Easter season, remember their stories of hope and victory they found at The Union Mission and prayerfully consider an extra gift.

In His Service,

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.
Executive Director

Easter 2020



As you gather around your dinner table with family and friends this Easter, remember those who are hurting and alone. You can give them the joy of **a complete Easter dinner for just \$2.08** or you can provide **10 meals for just \$20.80**.

**Give today and
transform a life at**

www.unionmissionministries.org

Dear Rev. Gray, I want to help you meet the challenges of the coming year.

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.

03-2020



What Your Adult Children Need From You

Talking about end-of-life plans can be difficult, but those conversations are important. We invite you to read the following letter and consider if your children may feel the same way.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Throughout our lives you have given us so much love, support, help and even discipline. You've always been there for us and the grandkids too. We love you deeply, but we've recently had a concern we want to mention. We need you to talk with us about the future. We understand you may be uncomfortable talking about aging and death, but what if something happens to you and you've never communicated your plans or wishes with us? Losing you will be much more painful if our family is left trying to process your estate while we're grieving.

Do you have an up-to-date will? If not, we hope you'll take time to get your affairs in order and designate your assets as you wish. We've heard stories of how difficult it can be to settle things through probate. Please share your plans with us. Whether it's one-on-one over coffee, or all together at an official family meeting, we would love to hear what you've planned and why. We want to know your motivations for giving and have a chance to record old family stories.

Everyone in our family has been impacted by your example. We're all a part of your legacy. We want to hear about the beliefs and values that have shaped your life – and just how you feel about us.

Love, Your Adult Children

Could this letter have been written by your adult child? Estate planning can be a simple and powerful way to communicate love and connect with your loved ones on a deeper level. Talking about the future can create certainty, peace and even inspire them to get involved with the values, passions and causes you care about – like the work of The Union Mission Ministries. Don't miss out on an opportunity to be there for your kids. "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification." Romans 14:19

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "What Your Adult Children Need from You" by contacting Helen Sommer at 757-627-8686 x505 or hsommer@ummnorva.org.
Go to www.christianwill.org/umm to bless your family with a God-honoring Will.

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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