

# The Ministries of Hope Haven



**Founded as an outreach of The Union Mission, Hope Haven is dedicated to nurturing children and strengthening families.**

Its natural, wooded setting invites every visitor to experience the peace and presence of God. The Mission hosts several ministries at this tranquil location.

Hope Haven Children's Home is a loving Christian home for children from troubled families. Since 1965, over 350 children have lived at Hope Haven during a time of need. Many Children's Home alumni are making a difference in their communities, and three currently serve on the staff of the ministry.

Parenting a child with special needs can be challenging at times. Recharge Respite provides a day camp for children and teens with special needs, along with their siblings. A day filled with games, crafts, toys, an inflatable slide, farm animals, sensory activities, and a Bible story provide lasting memories in the life of a child. Parents get the day off to use as they wish and rest easy knowing their child is receiving excellent care.

Another ministry of Hope Haven, Switchback brings past summer staff members, campers (15 and older), and others together as a way to stay connected throughout the school year. The teaching of God's Word, worship, games, food, and fun, helps staff and campers alike to grow in their relationship with God in a Christ-centered community.

One of our best-known outreaches, Camp Hope Haven has provided a summer camp experience for thousands of children since 1961. Each summer children enjoy swimming, horseback riding, playing sports and games, and learning that Jesus loves them! Shawn, a former camper, now camp worker, said, "Before I came to camp, I was depressed and angry. I did not know who I should be. Now I can say that I am someone who has found his identity in Christ. I am secure in that, and I am able to share the love of Christ with others."

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We are praying that we can still open Camp Hope Haven this summer. If we have to cancel, we are looking at alternative activities to bless the children of our community.

**Please keep the children in your prayers.**



## Staff Needs

*Experience preferred*

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

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

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

### Women's Shelter

#### Evening Supervisor

- Full-time 3pm-11pm
- Female only
- Must be mature Christian.

### 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



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757-627-8686

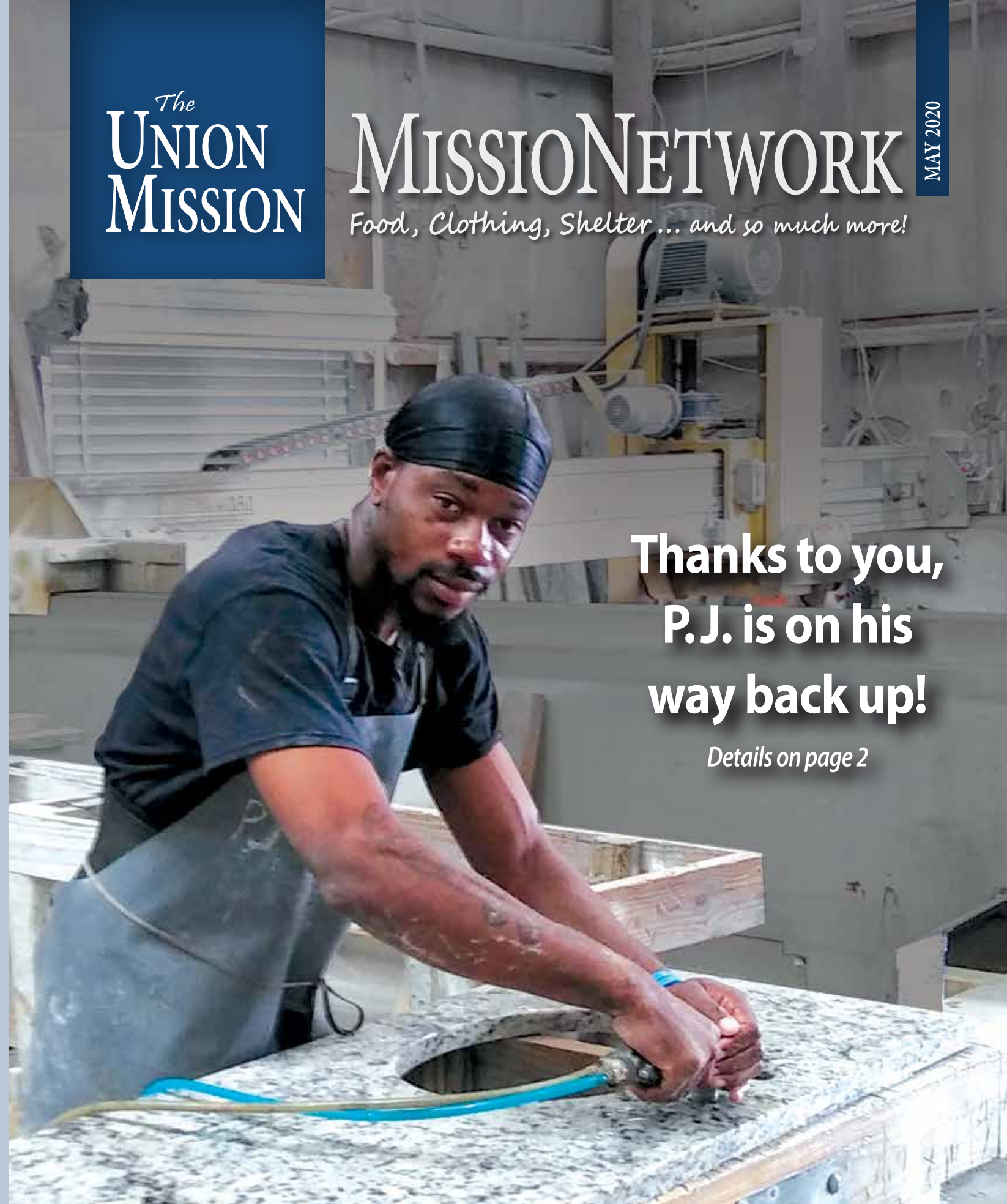


The  
**UNION  
MISSION**

# MISSION NETWORK

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

MAY 2020



## Thanks to you, P.J. is on his way back up!

*Details on page 2*

Please consider making your most generous gift to support Hope Haven today!

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

INSIDE: Thanks to You, P.J. is on His Way Back Up | Elizabeth Has Hope and Happiness Again!

Hope Haven Celebrating 60 Years | How to Get Your Whole Family on the Same Page

# “You can’t be afraid of a lion if you want to be King of the Jungle.”



“My life wasn’t what I wanted it to be, but my grandma was always there for me. When she was sick, and couldn’t care for me, she’d put me back in the foster care system, but she made me a promise that one day she’d get me out, and she did. I thank God for her in my life.”

After high school P.J. joined the Job Corps and AmeriCorps. “That was a turning point for me, a really wonderful experience.” When he met a girl and she got pregnant, they got married and had a son. Wanting “to be better to my son than my daddy was to me,” he took college classes and attended trade school, but each time dropped out. “I was doing way too much. I was a full-time husband, full-time going to school, and I’d come home and try to be a dad.”

P.J.’s marriage ended after two years. He remarried, and his youngest son was born. “I tried to make things right, but I was sinking fast, digging myself a deeper hole, and I took it out on her.” He ran home to his grandma, but when he screamed at “the woman who had done everything for me,” she kicked him out. He apologized, but knew he had to do what she taught him. He tried to fix things with his wife but failed.

With nowhere to go, he came to The Mission. “For the first time in my life I was broken, dealing with lots of feelings.” The staff encouraged him saying, “It’s okay. That’s what we’re here for. This situation isn’t permanent. You’re down now, but you’re not down forever. You’re going to get through this.”

P.J. joined the David Program for young men and likes the “brotherhood”

he feels. “We talk, we laugh, we joke, and study together.” He says, “Everyone keeps reminding me that God accepts me as I am, but I also know I need to act more like Christ is in my life.”

Now he’s working two jobs, one at a granite company. “People thought I was crazy working so hard doing this kind of work.” But the granite company gave him three raises and hired him permanently. He is reaching out to help others get jobs. “I never thought I had it in me, but I did it. I know if I can do it, they can do it, too.”

*“Everyone keeps reminding me that God accepts me as I am.”*

P.J. is working on his relationships and is serious about being a great parent. “I might not be in the household with them, but I want to make sure that their daddy does what he can do for them, showing them they can do anything they put their minds to.”

He wants to start his own company called FTF (Feed the Family). “Everyone has something that someone wants or needs, whether you are making, buying, or marketing the merchandise, we are all feeding the family.” P.J.’s life quote is “You can’t be afraid of a lion if you want to be King of the Jungle. If you want to be the king, you have to act like a king.”



## “I have hope and happiness again!”

Elizabeth practiced criminal law for 23 years. She married and had four sons, but her husband was abusive, so she divorced him. She defended the worst of criminals to support her children. After her ex took three of their four sons and their home, she had a nervous breakdown. Her father, “who had a very deep faith,” had died a few years earlier, leaving her without “one of my best friends.” She tried going to church, but “I never prayed other than to thank God for my successes.”

Though she continued to try cases, her rent was high and she got evicted and stopped practicing law. What followed was 10 years of homelessness in and out of hotels. When doctors found a tumor on her pancreas, she was laid up for a year. “I didn’t want to die, but I didn’t really care either.” She got married again, to a former client, a drug addict. Then she was disbarred for complaints against her. She drank to cope and dull the pain.

Elizabeth asked her husband to quit drugs, but he left her for a girl he met in rehab. “I was heartbroken for two lonely

years.” When her husband went to jail, she had an affair, but then got dumped by the new guy. When he was released, he convinced her to move with him to Virginia. She got a job as a paralegal, but was fired when they found out she was a disbarred attorney. Not much later, she was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease and was prescribed drugs for the pain. “He was an addict and I was taking

*“I can’t believe I ever left [God], but He never left me.”*

opiates. We decided to end it. I found an article describing why people commit suicide: family estrangement, fear of prosecution, loss of prestige, loss of job, no income, homelessness, depression, health problems. “We had that in spades, and I thought this would be a step of faith—go and join God and the angels, see my father again.” They tried and tried with heroin and alcohol, but every attempt failed.

When her husband came to the Mission’s Men Shelter, the Women’s Shelter was full. With suicidal thoughts, she checked into a psychiatric hospital. When she got out, a bed had opened for her, but she relapsed on opiates, overdosed, and had to leave. “I don’t know why I made that bad decision. I was embarrassed and mortified. I felt like I had failed in every area of my life including being homeless, if that’s possible.”

They moved into a rented a room, but the homeowners were “vicious alcoholic hoarders.” Still, they lived in that toxic environment for five years. “I thought I wasn’t good enough to get the relationship with God that everyone else gets.”

When her husband was arrested for selling drugs, “for two months, I laid in bed, smoked cigarettes, drank alcohol, watched TV, and felt sorry for myself. Then I called the Mission and apologized for what I put them through. I was stunned that they took me back.” The staff helped her apply for disability and set up doctor’s appointments, including one for depression. Her husband is still in jail, but is studying the Bible with her, the same passages she is studying at the Mission.

“The staff are always willing to pray with you. It’s like they have a laser beam to God. They’ve helped me tremendously, reminding me what my priorities should be, and to grow in my faith. I have hope and happiness again—no, not happiness. Joy! There’s a difference. It’s internal joy and it’s reconnected me back to God. I can’t believe I ever left Him, but He never left me.”

Elizabeth is looking forward “to being a person again,” back in the world, whole and helpful. “My goal is to get a job, save money, and move out on my own. Meanwhile, I feel so privileged and grateful to be here.”

**THE CORONAVIRUS has caused many of our guests to lose jobs and housing. Many who were ready to move out have had to remain in our shelters. We continue to provide shelter and care for those who need it the most. YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US THROUGH THIS CRISIS.**

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

# Thank you for Your Generosity!



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope by the time you receive this newsletter the worst of the coronavirus crisis has passed. Romans 15:4b says, “And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.” One of his promises is to never leave us or forsake us. As we walk through these uncertain times together, I hope you have felt his presence. Please know we are praying for you and ask that you pray for us well as we continue to serve the most vulnerable people in our community. Will you consider an extra gift to help us through this crisis? Thank you for your support. May God continue to bless you and your family.

With warmest regards,

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.  
Executive Director



## How can I help?

Many of you have asked what we need the most during this time of crisis. We need your financial support and your prayers.

### 5 ways to pray

FOR THE UNION MISSION

Patience and perseverance for our guests

Strength and wisdom for our staff

Continued resources to meet our operating needs

Protection and prevention from any outbreak

That God would be honored in all we do

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

05-2020



# How to Get Your Family on the Same Page

A submission to *Reader's Digest* says: Ours was a family of eight children, but only one boy. One day my friend, who also came from a large family, was complaining to me about having six annoying sisters. I wasn't having it. "What are you griping about?" I asked. "I have seven!"

Sibling rivalry is quite common and can even be humorous in retrospect. But every parent hopes their children grow to share healthy relationships with each other. One way you can help your children avoid conflict and experience peace in adulthood is by creating an up-to-date will or estate plan. Taking time to get your affairs in order and then sharing them with your loved ones puts everyone on the same page.

Through this one simple action your family will hear important messages like . . .



## Value Peace

Did you know nearly 70% of adults do not have a relevant will? Your children will see the steps you took and appreciate that you cared enough to plan ahead, creating peace before there was even a chance for conflict.

## Value Communication

According to a Spectrem Group research study, 40% of parents have never discussed their estate intentions with their children. Even though discussions about death can be difficult, no one wants to be left to sort through a messy estate. You have an opportunity to communicate your wishes (and your love for your family) while you are still alive—a gift they'll always treasure.

## Put our values into action

Experts encourage parents to "demonstrate the behavior they wish to see."

By providing for your loved ones and including a gift in your will to a cause or ministry like The Union Mission Ministries, you can set a powerful example of what you value.

**For more information, contact Helen Sommer at 757-627-8686, x505 or [hsommer@ummnorva.org](mailto:hsommer@ummnorva.org). Go to [www.christianwill.org/umm](http://www.christianwill.org/umm). to bless your family with a God-honoring Will.**

### Comments / Change of Address:

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EMAIL 

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PHONE 

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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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