

The
**UNION
MISSION**

MISSIONNETWORK

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

**Jesus loves me
— a lot!**

Details on page 2



INSIDE: A Job for Washington | A Win-Win in the Kitchen
Five Coats and Three Hats | Echoes in Eternity



Now I know He likes me *a lot!*

“If ‘Jesus Loves the Little Children,’ why not me?” young Connie wondered. Raised in a suburban 1960s family, her life was far from idyllic. From the age of 8, she was molested by her sadistic oldest brother, a teenager who idolized the occult and “did all he could to turn me away from God.”

“He was evil and mean—and very violent,” threatening to slit Connie’s throat, mocking God’s ability to save her. She dared not tell anyone, even her parents. “I believe he would have killed me.” The abuse continued for eight long years. Though Connie was an honors student who hid her secret terror well, she fought chronic depression and suicidal thoughts. “I didn’t understand why I was going through all of this,” she says. “I felt like God had sort of betrayed me.” But Connie’s other brother, a strong Christian, always reminded her of His love. When her cruel brother killed himself, she thought, “Well, it’s over now,” but the hurt festered inside.

In the years to come, Connie suffered numerous physical ailments, PTSD, anxiety, and severe depression. To help cope, she cut her arms and legs, covering the wounds with clothes.

“I could handle the physical pain so much more easily than the emotional pain.”

She married a good friend the day after her 19th birthday. She’d told her husband that she was still dealing with the fallout of the childhood abuse, but it posed serious challenges to their marriage. They eventually divorced, and she remarried at age 28.

*It’s been so uplifting
to be here. They are
smiles from ear to
ear when they talk
about God.*

Connie had always been good with money and excelled at every job she held—from grocery store clerk to corporate payroll and HR manager to loan processor at a bank. But by 2003, despite compassionate psychiatric care and heavy medication, her depression deepened. “I went straight from being at the bank to being in bed for four years.”

“My husband went through so much of it with me, especially the really severe part,” Connie says, “but after nearly 25 years, he’d had enough.” Despite Medicare and Disability, the bills piled up and she declared bankruptcy.

With no apartment, no remaining family, and no money, Connie came to The Union Mission. “I am thankful I became homeless because I found this place—and they brought me back to God,” she says. “I was so angry with God for a long time,” but the Women’s Shelter staff took the time to listen, pray with her, and help her choose forgiveness and find spiritual solace. “It’s been so uplifting to be here. They are smiles from ear to ear when they talk about God,” she says. “You can’t help but have some of that rub off on you.”

“I’ve learned so much about how I need to walk with Jesus,” Connie says. She’s focusing her time here on rebuilding her faith and relationship with the Lord. “I didn’t really know much about Jesus, just the stories we heard and the songs we sang as little kids.”

Now I know He likes me
— a lot!

A Win-Win in the Kitchen

David managed a popular oceanfront bar and grill in Virginia Beach until the coronavirus spread. He'd hoped that his hotel restaurant would be able to reopen this summer, but that was not the case. As he looks for a new job, he's thankful for The Union Mission.

"The Mission gives you everything: they give you food, they give you shelter, they give you safety — but the most valuable thing they give you is time!"

David is collecting unemployment benefits and doing what he can to trim his expenses, but it pains him that he's had to limit contact with his legally blind, 80-year-old mother. "The last thing I

want to do is expose her to something," he says, but he was unexpectedly blessed to host a summer visit from his 11-year-old son who lives near Chicago.

Arguments and alcohol first brought David to the Mission. "I was at rock bottom in my life when I came here," he says, but "ever since I've been here it's been nothing but help!" David has been putting his life, his faith, and his relationships back in order. "It would have been much better if I had just come here earlier."

"I'm used to staying busy, sometimes with two jobs," he says, "but now that I'm working no jobs, I'd rather help out." That's

why David started volunteering in The Union Mission Kitchen. With volunteers on hiatus due to COVID-19, his prep help, short-order cooking experience, and service skills have been a godsend. He's even been asked to create his own menu. "I'm sure I can look at what's back there and come up with something good," David says like a true Iron Chef.

"It's good to be able to volunteer while I have the time, just to use what I've learned to help out," David says. "The Union Mission has done a lot for me — A LOT! "This is an opportunity for me to give back," he says. "It's a good feeling!"



A Job for Washington

Remember Washington from our July newsletter? Many of you have asked whether he has been able to find a job. The good news is YES! The better news is that he is now a proud member of The Union Mission Housekeeping Crew. Like most new part-time hires, he has started as a contract employee, but "if I do well — and I intend to — I hope they'll hire me full-time."

Our Housekeeping Crew is responsible for the daily cleaning of bathrooms, common areas, and a mile-and-a-half of hallways and floors in the shelter. Since Washington was already voluntarily sanitizing door handles and surfaces with disinfectant, he's familiar with the importance of the job. "I praise the Lord for this opportunity to serve," Washington says. "God does provide!"

The Rising Cost of Compassion



10 meals
for just \$25.80!

We've always done our best to keep meal costs low, but the coronavirus pandemic has caused an increase in our cost of food, disposable food service items, sanitation supplies, and extra staffing due to longer meal service times and a lack of volunteers to help. It's still a bargain, but our cost of a meal is now \$2.58. Will you help feed our hungry guests? You can provide 10 meals for just \$25.80 or 20 meals for only \$51.60.

DONATE AT: www.unionmissionministries.org/donate

Roslyn Harrell has met hundreds of homeless guests who've come to The Union Mission for help. In her first poem inspired by her work as a Men's Shelter Case Manager, she recalls an especially memorable guest who had been living on the streets for years, but came to stay with us for about a month several years ago.

Five Coats & Three Hats by "Angel"

He arrived from the Big City of Tents in the middle of the moonless night
Glad to have his homeless pregnant girlfriend on his side
She was twenty-one; he was thirty-five years old

But glad to be alive

He has no mother or no father,
just the men and women on these
Mean streets he called "home"
He knows everyone and everyone knows him

But he's glad to be alive

He came to meet these godly people at the safe house
He needed prayer
He needed shelter and good food to eat,
to nurture and to comfort
He needed his lost soul revived again
He needed his lost soul to render
up to God
for He is the one that can save him
and his lost soul

I surrender all . . .

© 2020 Roslyn Harrell

Staff Needs

APPLY ONLINE AT

www.unionmissionministries.org

or send resume to Kathy Vaughan at kathy@ummnorva.org.

All applicants must be mature Christians.

Some positions require days, evenings, and weekends.

Women's Shelter

OVERNIGHT SUPERVISOR

- Part-time, 11 p.m.–7 a.m.
- Experience with cleaning preferred
- Female only

Donor Services

GIFT PROCESSOR/MAIL ANALYST

- Full-time, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Experience with finances and computer databases preferred

Facilities

FACILITIES MANAGER

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

Communications

DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST

- Full-time
- Experience in digital marketing strategies and content creation
- Proven communications skills in leading social media platforms



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



Thank you for Your Generosity!



REV. JOHN W. GRAY, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are all living in challenging times, but the Lord has been with us every step of the way. We've had no cases of coronavirus at the Mission amongst our guests or our staff, and we praise God for His protection. We are still operating under the CDC guidelines of "sheltering in place," yet because of your faithful giving we've been able to continue to care for those who need us the most. People like David and Connie came to us when they had nowhere else to turn, and you made it possible to provide for their needs and share God's eternal promises with them.

Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." I pray you will feel His presence as you face your own challenges. You have truly made a difference in the lives of those who are hurting. Will you prayerfully consider an extra gift to help us continue to care for those God sends to our doors? May God keep his hand of protection upon you and your family in the days ahead.

With warmest regards,

Rev. John W. Gray, Jr.
Executive Director

ANCHORS of HOPE ...

As a faithful monthly donor,
you are changing lives!

"I am thankful for the Mission: a roof over my head and food to eat and joy in my heart. ❤️"

—Denise

"The Mission has helped me change my attitude and also be better with my money."

—Davion

"The Union Mission is an anchor of hope for me. [W]hen I needed help, they provided me with a place to stay, food to eat, and many other things. Best of all, they are feeding my spirit, soul, and body. I am in joy...and thankful for the Mission!"

—Michele

**To become an Anchor of Hope,
contact Trudy Rains at
trains@ummnorva.org
or 757-692-2498.**

Yes, Rev. Gray, I want to continue to help you care for those who are struggling.

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.



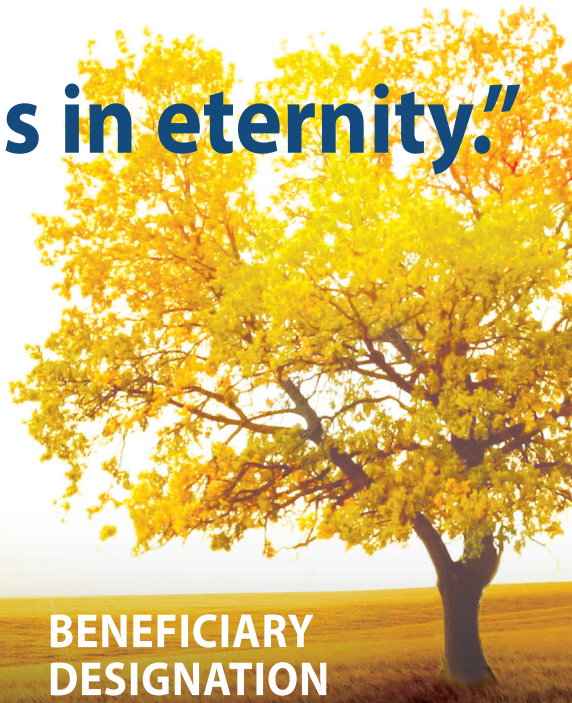
Please complete this slip and return it to The Union Mission with your generous gift. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.

09-2020

“What we do in life echoes in eternity.”

So said the Roman philosopher-emperor Marcus Aurelius. Your generosity helps the hundreds of hurting men, women, and children who come to The Union Mission. When you give of your resources, you’re investing in the future as you transform lives today.

Though the ever-changing tax laws for charitable giving can be confusing, your financial advisor can help you find ways to use your assets to help others through The Union Mission.



IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER GIFT

Tax-free and life-changing

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

APPRECIATED STOCKS

Benefit you and the homeless

When you have securities that have grown in value since you first acquired them, you can gift them 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 Union Mission.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

An ongoing legacy of giving

You can name The Union Mission as a beneficiary on your retirement accounts. If you don't use all the funds in your bank account, IRA, 401(k) 403(b), life insurance policy, publicly traded stocks or bonds, mutual fund shares, or savings bonds during your lifetime, The Union Mission will use your resources to help the homeless.

YOUR GENEROUS GIFT OF ASSETS CAN TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF YOUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS AT THE UNION MISSION.

For more information about giving through your assets or your will, contact Helen Sommer at 757-627-8686, x504 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