



## A Message from Denny

As we begin our 64<sup>th</sup> year of caring for people who are hungry, homeless and in need, I want to thank you for being a “door opener.”

For many of the people who come to the Union Rescue Mission, life has been so hard for so long that it’s often difficult for them to believe that there is another way to live, “a door to a better life.”

You are the person who helps open that door!

It may start with a simple meal or a night of safe shelter. A chapel message. Or a conversation with a staff member.

**Tomorrow, new faces will come through our doors.** They will be hungry, homeless and lost.

Please continue to feed them, give them a warm place to sleep and begin the work that returns them to their homes, their families and their communities. Use the enclosed gift slip to make your gift or give through our website, [www.URMWichita.org](http://www.URMWichita.org).

Your support is a great blessing that is never taken for granted.

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director

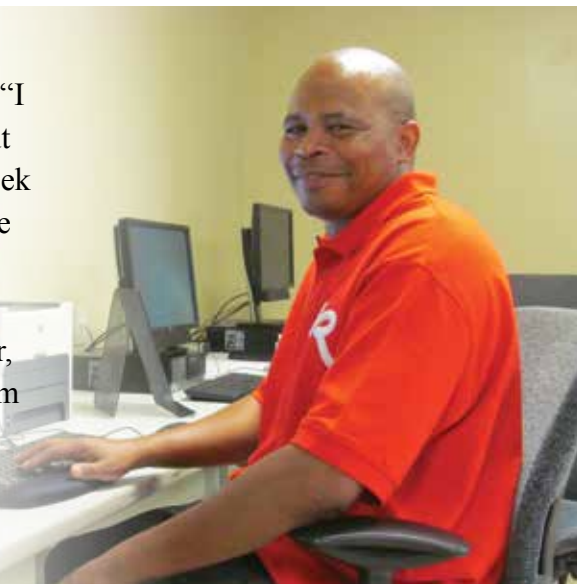
## “I give all the glory to God!”

Grady used drugs for nearly 30 years, a way of life which eventually destroyed his marriage. “I took care of the household bills, but after that, I would be gone for a week or two and spend all the money,” he says.

When his marriage fell apart, Grady wound up sleeping in his car, until another homeless man told him about the Union Rescue Mission’s Emergency Shelter. Grady began coming here for our evening meal and a place to sleep, and a week later, joined the New Beginnings life-change program. “I felt like I was really ready,” he says. **“I’ve been off and on drugs for years and years. I was tired.”**

Grady has grown and healed through the program’s life-skills classes such as anger management. “I had a real bad temper...the street mentality to a degree, but I was able to calm that down,” he says. “I learned to be patient.”

He’s also grown spiritually through the program’s Bible studies. **“I went to church all my life, but I never paid attention to God or the message,”** he says. “They taught me Scripture. They give you all the tools so you can be productive, go out and



help others, do what’s right, what God’s purpose is for you.”

Since graduating from the program, Grady has remarried, has a new baby and two stepchildren, and works at the school board. “When I come home, I am Dad. I take them to football practice. I take care of the baby. I’m at church every Sunday,” Grady says. “I give all the glory to God.”

Grady also visits and volunteers at the Mission once a month. **“There’s a life-changing experience there if you are willing to follow the path to get it,”** he says. “I try to give something back for what they did for me.”

# Thank you for your support in 2013!

These are truly wonderful reminders of all the great work you've made possible here at the Union Rescue Mission during the past year.

If you volunteer, you may find yourself in one of these pictures! Dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies and families donated more than 10,684 hours of their time to make life better for homeless men, women and children.

## Emergency Food & Shelter

More than 57,480 nights of safe shelter were provided for people who might otherwise be sleeping in cars or on the streets of Wichita.

Nearly 112,128 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.

## New Beginnings Recovery Program

18 men graduated from our year-long rehabilitation program ready to start new lives, reunite with their families

and return to being productive, contributing citizens.

20 men have entered or are continuing to work their way to wholeness, health and sobriety in this long-term recovery program.

## Food Program & Community Outreach

As many as 160 families who are "living on the edge"—single moms with young children, seniors on fixed incomes, the working poor and those who are disabled—can "shop" here at the Mission each month and fill their carts with fresh fruits and vegetables and other staples that help them make ends meet.

## Holiday Food Boxes

200 families received Thanksgiving or Christmas food boxes, including all the special ingredients for a holiday feast, thanks to a cooperative program between the Mission, Walmart, Learjet and the Wichita PD.



**New Beginnings Choir** made beautiful music at our Celebration Day.



**Wal-Mart donates a truck.** We want to thank the Wal-Mart foundation for giving the Mission a \$70,000 grant. With it, we purchased a new delivery truck that allows us to pick up food supplies for our community food pantry.



**Delivering smiles for the holidays.** In partnership with the Wichita Police Department, the Mission distributes more than 200 holiday food boxes to neighbors in need.



**Guinness World Record!** Twelve men from the Mission's New Beginnings life-change program joined other volunteers in Park City to set a Guinness World Record by packaging 479,034 hunger relief meals in one hour! The food, enough to feed 800 children for over a year, was sent to Haiti by Numana, a non-profit organization partnering with the Red Cross.



**Free Dental Care.** Men in our New Beginnings recovery program can now receive much-needed dental services free of charge through GraceMed Dental Clinic, a Christ-centered, non-profit community health center serving Wichita, Sedgwick County and central Kansas.



**Warm smiles and home-cooked meals.** Our kitchens serve meals every day of the year to those in need. This year 1,050 volunteers helped serve more than 111,000 meals.

**The loneliest time of the year is turned into a celebration** as guests enjoy food, companionship and worship. The presence of volunteers to share these holiday meals means so much to those with no friends or family!



**Soles 4 Souls.** When you spend your days walking the streets, a sturdy, well-fitting pair of shoes is your best friend. An international non-profit organization, Soles 4 Souls, partnered with the Mission to provide hundreds of brand new pairs of shoes for homeless men.

# 2014 Forecast



**T**he Mission never closes. Ahead of us are 365 more days of providing food and shelter, healing and hope, to people who are homeless, abused, addicted and poor.

What the statistics do not count are the tens of thousands of hours of care, counseling and classes that help people get back on their feet. Or the

tremendous amount of compassion and generosity shown by our donors, volunteers and staff – gifts of time, talent and treasure that help achieve such outstanding successes.

Please continue to partner with us to create a better life for people who are hungry, homeless and in need of your help.

## You change people's lives and give them hope!

**A**s we marvel at all the good works that have been done in 2013 and look forward to 2014, one thing is crystal clear: **None of this would happen without your support.**

Your generosity provides meals and shelter. Your gifts make it possible for homeless people to receive the help they so desperately need. Your donations get people off the streets and into programs that will change their lives and give them hope!

Wichita has an enormous number of people in need right now. We need your generous support today to feed, clothe and shelter them, heal them physically and show them the love of Christ that will mend their broken hearts and souls.

Please help us start the New Year off strong. Use the coupon below to send your gift today. Or give safely and securely on our website at [www.URMWichita.org](http://www.URMWichita.org).

Thank you in advance for your compassion and love!

