

A Personal Word from Denny

Healing broken lives is like baking a very complicated cake. You need exactly the right ingredients. You must mix them in a very specific order. Then, you have to allow time for them to bake at the proper temperature.

Miss a step or omit a vital ingredient and you're risking disaster.

Here at the Mission, we're not just healing lives: we're healing minds and bodies destroyed by alcohol, addiction and neglect. We're restoring souls wounded by abuse and abandonment. The ingredients are not complicated: food, shelter, time, encouragement, counseling, care and a huge helping of God's love.

But there are no short cuts, no substitutions.

This Thanksgiving season, many broken bodies and souls will come here to the Mission. Whether you volunteer your time, take part in a special event, donate food or send a gift, you play a vital role in making them whole again.

Let the healing begin!



Dennis H. Bender, APR
Executive Director

James found a New Beginning!

Although James attended a parochial school growing up, he never really had a relationship with God or Jesus. Plus, he was addicted to marijuana. "I smoked every day and had no motivation," he says.

That changed when he went to church with his family one day and went forward for prayer. After the service, one of the pastors who prayed over James told him about the New Beginnings life-change program here at the Mission. James came to the Mission the same day and entered our long-term program!

Having grown up in "a very wealthy home," James was a stranger to Wichita's growing number of homeless people. "**I had no idea there were so many homeless people in Wichita,**" he says. "But seeing them touched my heart, and today, I probably know more than 100 of them by name."

James credits the Mission's New Beginnings program with changing his life!

The biggest change is his belief in the Lord. The Mission's year-long program helped James put his life in perspective, including his sister's untimely death. "Now I know that she



is up in heaven and God is taking care of her."

James went to work for a local nursing home when he graduated, but **he felt God calling him back to the Mission.**

He began doing intake at our shelter, welcoming people and talking to them about the services the Mission offers. Then he started driving men to their appointments and picking up food donations.

"I like getting out there and meeting new people," James says. "It's nice to know that there are so many people out there who want to help!"

“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.” Psalm 146: 7

This season, thank you for providing:

- 27,648 meals
- 14,173 nights of shelter

Your gifts are the fuel that enables us to bring hope and help to hungry, homeless neighbors.

Thanksgiving Shopping List

It takes a lot of turkeys, hams and canned yams to serve Thanksgiving meals to our guests here at the Mission AND provide **Thanksgiving food boxes for nearly 300 families.**

If you could buy and donate one or more of the items on this list, it would be a real blessing to the hungry men, women and children we'll reach out to this holiday season!

Turkeys
Hams
Canned yams
Stuffing mix
Canned gravy
Carrots
Onions
Potatoes
Pumpkin pie
Fruit

Donations can be dropped off at 2800 N. Hillside in Wichita, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. THANK YOU!

Join us 

[Twitter.com/URMWichita](https://twitter.com/URMWichita)

Visit Us Online!

Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at www.URMWichita.org.

Have dinner with David A.R. White!

David A.R. White, a native of Kansas and star of the highly-acclaimed movie *God's Not Dead*, will be our featured speaker at the Mission's annual Celebration Day, Nov. 6. The son of a Mennonite pastor, David attended Moody Bible Institute before becoming an actor and appearing in more than 20 feature-length films, including those produced by his own company, Pure Flix. To reserve your seat today, e-mail Julie at Julie@urmwichita.org.



Happy Thanksgiving x 300!



For the 11th consecutive year, the men in the Mission's New Beginnings Program will join with the Wichita Police Department to deliver the makings of a traditional turkey dinner – plus food for a few extra meals – to families in need in Wichita. “Each year, the list grows longer,” says Executive Director Denny Bender. “But the smiles on the faces of these people are an incredible sight. This is truly the way to show that we love our neighbors as ourselves.”

Tell a friend about...

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

We are grateful that you work with us to end hunger and homelessness year round! **So Nov. 15-23 is a great time to encourage others – friends, family and coworkers – to join you,** and help fix the problems that cause hunger and homelessness by volunteering,



organizing a clothing or food drive, or making a special donation to the Mission.

If you're on Facebook or Twitter, please, urge friends to help. You can even give them our website address, www.URMWichita.org, as a place to get more information. THANKS!

Breakfast, Lunch or Thanksgiving Dinner – Still Just \$2.15!

Some of us still remember when a soda was 5¢. Or a time when you could get a burger for a quarter. These days, a plain cup of coffee can set you back \$2 or more!

But here at the Union Rescue Mission, you can still provide a hot, wholesome, nourishing meal for just \$2.15.

We'll be serving a lot of those great meals this Thanksgiving season, including hundreds of festive Thanksgiving Dinners with turkey and all the trimmings!

Your \$2.15 gift can provide a meal that's a turning point in the life of a person who's lost all hope, along



with the care and counseling that helps end homelessness and addiction.

If you think that's amazing, imagine what a gift of \$25 or \$50 or even \$100 can do!

Please share your blessings by making a special gift today to feed and begin to change the lives of as many people as possible. Use the enclosed envelope, or make a safe, secure donation on our website at URMWichita.org. THANK YOU!