



Pulling themselves up...

Several months ago, the Mission launched two new programs aimed at enabling the men we serve to move beyond homelessness.

The new Working Guests Program is designed for men who hold down jobs, but still rely on the Mission for food and shelter. All of them work. Many make just minimum wage, or don't get enough hours to qualify for benefits like sick leave and health care, let alone pay for rent and meals.

Others have had the wages they do make garnished for child care, court fines or debt repayment. Whatever the case, they don't have the money they need to pay for shelter and meals.

For a modest fee – about \$5 a day – each gets an assigned bunk here at the Mission and two meals for up to 90 days. During that time, we continually evaluate their status and encourage them to take steps toward permanent self-reliance, including

Denny continued >>>

“God has blessed me in so many ways!”

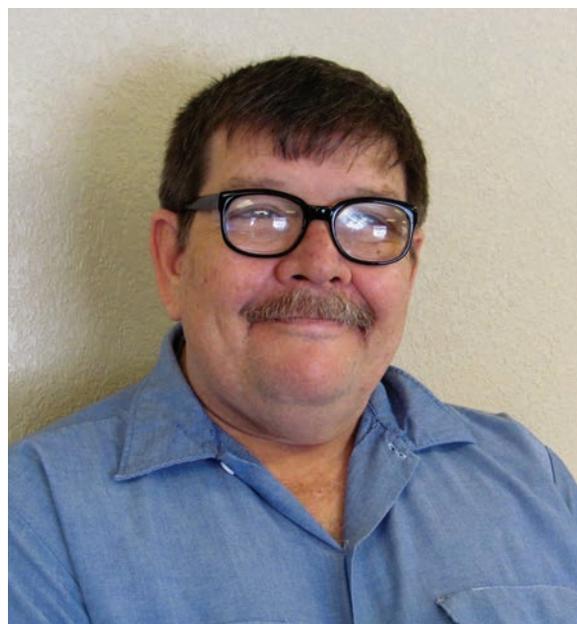
Two problems brought Dennis to the Mission.

The first one was financial. “I owned my own home, had cars and money saved up,” he says. “But then my Mom got sick and I had to leave my job and take care of her. That ate up my savings. By the time I got her into a nursing home, I was unemployed and had lost my house.”

Dennis had heard about our Steps program – a 90-day “hand up” that provides food and shelter for able-bodied men while they find jobs. But in order to participate in the program, you have to be drug-free.

That was Dennis' second problem. He'd been smoking pot for nearly 40 years.

So a counselor here at the Mission suggested our longer-term New Beginnings life-change program. “When I first came, I was listening to the chapel service one night and they



started talking about New Beginnings. But I thought I'd take a 'shortcut' and just do the 90-day program and find a job. Luckily, that's not how things turned out!”

It wasn't just the classes on addiction that caught Dennis' attention. “I knew about God and the Bible, but I wasn't a big follower. Then I got in this class called Brokenness. It explained everything to me. It tells you why you're here. It explains why God is doing everything He is doing in your life!”

Dennis continued >>>

>>> Denny continued

saving 40% of their income for items like debt repayment and first and last month's rent.

Thanks to another initiative, 14 men who were relying totally on the Mission for food and housing are now in various stages of obtaining permanent shelter. For some, like Calvin, who has been a guest here at the Mission off and on for several years, this can be as simple as providing help applying for the Social Security payments to which they are entitled, and which will help them become self-supporting.

Thanks to your support, people are leaving the Mission! Your gifts are making a tremendous difference by enabling those who are homeless to help themselves.

God bless you for all you do,

Dennis H. Bender, APR
Executive Director

The backbone of our ministry...

Many men walk into the Mission with just the clothes on their backs. They're homeless, abandoned by friends and family. They have nowhere else to turn.

Our job is to take them into our family and make them feel at home. Feed them. Shelter them. Share the love of Christ.



Thanks to a very special group of people who really have faith in our work here in Wichita, we have the resources to do just that.

These people are members of our Circle of Hope, and I would like to invite you to join them.

To learn more about becoming a member of this extraordinary group, call Stuart Ferrell at **(316) 687-4673** or e-mail sferrell@urmwichita.org.

>>> Dennis continued

"I can't count all the ways God's been blessing me."

When he graduated from New Beginnings, Dennis was offered a job here at the Mission welcoming guests and providing security. He's also been able to get surgery on his heart to open a clogged valve.

As for the future, Dennis says, "I

We're calling the empty spaces on the North Hillside campus our Field of Dreams!

Soon, we hope it will look very different!

Thanks to a grant from Wal-Mart, the northeast corner of our campus will soon be bursting with fresh vegetables! **We're calling it God's Garden.** It should yield enough fresh produce for our kitchen and our food box program...and extra to share with other food pantries in Wichita!



Between our main shelter and North 27th Street, **we're dreaming of building supportive housing for men who have recently graduated from our program.** With 18-24 1-bedroom

apartments, recent graduates from our recovery program would have freedom to live independently, but with accountability from peers and Mission staff as they transition to life on their own.



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our recovery program would have freedom to live independently, but with accountability from peers and Mission staff as they transition to life on their own.

We also dream of converting the underused building on 27th and Hillside into a **Mission-owned social enterprise facility, providing employment, work experience and career training for men in our program!**



Help make our Field of Dreams a reality – show your support today! *For more information, see Denny's Field of Dreams video at URMWichita.org.*

URM at the movies!

A huge THANK YOU you to everyone who came to see the Wichita premier of the film *Do You Believe*, by actor/director David A.R. White.

Held at the Warren Theatre, nearly 450 friends of the Mission joined us to watch a special sneak preview of the film before it hit theaters.

What an inspiring night! We're



grateful that we had a chance to thank our supporters for all they do to help the Mission reach out to the hurting and homeless in our community.

Find out more about upcoming events by visiting URMWichita.org.

the Power of 1



How much of a difference can one gift make? Here at the Union Rescue Mission, the answer is plenty!

With more than 8,100 monthly meals to prepare and serve, 4,200 nights of shelter to provide and hundreds of hours of care and education to offer, your donations are always welcome, especially during the summer – when needs continue, but giving drops off.

Here's another example of the power of 1: One gift, your gift, will help end hunger, homelessness and

addiction for one or more people.

Every gift you give has the power to change a life. But it doesn't happen overnight.

Long-lasting, permanent change takes food, shelter, care and education to help individuals and families become self-sufficient...able to take care of themselves so they don't have to rely on us.

One gift – your gift – is vital to the continuing success of this ministry and our ability to truly make a difference in the lives of so many people.