

URM TODAY

Summer 2018

Changing the Future of the Homeless... One Life at a Time

NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNION RESCUE MISSION



Longing for a Ray of HOPE

Jeffrey was searching for a
light at the end of the tunnel.

Your support helps light the way to brighter futures.

2800 N. Hillside • Wichita, KS 67219-4702 • (316) 687-4673 • urmwichita.org

Don't miss...

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Denny Bender

3 "The Lord led me here."

4 Share Your
Sunshine!



“

The Lord led me here.

Jeffrey grew up in a Christian home but, when he was just 14, he got drunk for the first time and alcohol took hold hard and fast, controlling his life for the next 40 years. “I believed in God, but I just drifted away,” he says. **“I was a functioning alcoholic, able to hold down jobs, but my relationships fell apart because of my drinking.”**

He spent nearly two decades as an over-the-road truck driver, a life that further isolated him from others. Then his mother fell critically ill, and he quit work to take care of her. “After she died, I hit bottom. I was constantly drunk.”

“I was basically killing myself.”

When his mother’s house was sold, Jeffrey found himself unemployed and homeless, and he came to our Emergency Shelter. “Between nights at the Mission, I’d stay out all night and drink. **I never thought I’d live on the street.** That’s when I knew I had to do something.”

It was then he joined our New Beginnings life-change program and rededicated his life to the Lord. “I had been a follower of God, but I didn’t act like it. Now I do,” he says. **“I’ve grown closer to the Lord than ever.”**

The Lord healed Jeffrey’s body through the Mission, as well. “The dentist found a tumor that had deteriorated my jawbone to paper thin. It could have broken anytime,” he says. “They put in a titanium brace to reinforce my jawbone, and the Mission paid for it.”

When Jeffrey completed the program, he spent his transition time driving fellow graduates to their local jobs. With the Mission’s help, he regained his CDL and moved up to driving long-haul freight. He kept his room at the Mission to maintain those relationships that have been so critical to his healing.

Because of your generous support, the dark times men like Jeffrey face are transformed into bright futures by God’s love. “The Lord led me here and the Mission has done wonders for me. It’s made me a better person.”

A MESSAGE FROM DENNY BENDER

Shine Brightly FOR OTHERS

Relaxing vacations and long days by the pool. Soaking up the sunshine with your toes in the sand. **Summer promises many of us a time to finally rest.**

But at the Mission, summer means rising up rather than resting... Right now, we're rallying together to make sure our homeless and hurting neighbors' most pressing needs are met.

With fewer donations coming in over the summer months, resources to help our guests can drop frighteningly low. The needs of the homeless don't rest in the summer, even though many of us do.

That's why I'm thankful for people like you, who see summer not only as a chance to soak up the sun, but to *share your sunshine* with others – the goodness in your heart to care for those in need.

Your gifts make it possible to feed them, shelter them and care for their immediate and long-term needs. And as we share God's love with them, an even brighter light starts to radiate in and through their lives.

I hope when you read Jeffrey's story (*on page 3*), you'll see how your generosity makes the Mission a beacon of hope for him and other guests like him.

Thank you for sharing your sunshine with others. Your faithful support lights the way to brighter futures for all who come to us for help.

Dennis H. Bender, APR
Executive Director



SHARE YOUR SUNSHINE!



25,840
MEALS



11,475
NIGHTS OF SHELTER

Your Invitation

Schedule a tour of the Mission...
see the impact of your gifts!

Contact us

(316) 687-4673

✉ volunteer@urmwichita.org

Please RSVP!





SHARE YOUR SUNSHINE!

97-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

— *Brighten Lives* —



Give now using the enclosed reply card + envelope.



Give securely online at urmwichita.org.

Sunny summer days are here... but many in our community still long for a light of hope to break through the dark times they're facing. **Our 97-day Summer Campaign to care for our community's homeless and hungry is under way!**

Through Labor Day, your gift will help provide more than **25,840 meals... 11,475 nights of safe shelter... and resources that tangibly share God's love and help transform lives.** Please *share your sunshine* by giving to help today!

**Thank you for sharing your sunshine
to brighten others' lives!**

VISIT US ONLINE to read stories of lives you've touched, get involved & securely donate anytime.

**EAGLES WING
GIVES
GRADUATES
THE MEANS TO**

Soar

Graduates of our New Beginnings life-change program will soon have a new place to call home as they transition from living at the Mission to living independently. **Eagles Wing, our new supportive housing facility, will give them the time, space and support they need to begin their new lives.**

"We've realized that obtaining affordable and suitable housing is one of the barriers our men face when they are about to leave our shelter. Eagles Wing will provide that bridge as our graduates transition from homelessness to contributing roles in our community," said Denny Bender, the Mission's Executive Director.

The 24-unit housing complex will include one-bedroom and studio apartments, administrative offices, and a community room that will double as a storm shelter. Construction is now under way on our six-acre campus on North Hillside and is scheduled for completion by May 2019.

We've raised 95 percent of the cost to complete construction through local support. **Will you consider a gift toward the remaining 5 percent?** Thank you for your generosity!

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Let's be friends!

