



## GREG'S CHALLENGE: **DISCOVERING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

GREG WAS FILLED WITH SHAME, NUMBING HIS PAIN WITH ALCOHOL, WANTING ONLY TO FEEL HIS FATHER'S LOVE.

2800 N. Hillside • Wichita, KS 67219-4702 • (316) 687-4673 • [urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org)

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“**I FOUND LOVE HERE.**”



“**I FOUND MYSELF IN MOTEL ROOMS, DRUNK AND HOPELESS.**”

When Greg was young, he wanted nothing more than his father's approval. "I was always trying to get my dad to tell me I did a good job, but he never would," Greg says. "I felt like he was ashamed of me."

Greg was saved when he was nine years old, but he grew up believing God was ashamed of him, as well. Along the way, he began abusing alcohol, magnifying his sense of shame. "I tried every possible remedy I could to stop drinking – church, treatment centers, Bible studies – but nothing worked," he says. **"When you love God, but**

**you can't get rid of a sin, you live in turmoil."**

For more than a year, Greg's fiancée had been encouraging him to come to the Union Rescue Mission for help, and he finally agreed. **"I was in a motel room again with a half gallon of vodka and I knew I couldn't go on anymore,"** he says. "That day I said, 'Let's give it a shot.'"

Through our New Beginnings Program classes and staff, Greg's life began to change. **"For nine months, I sat here at God's feet and learned what He wanted to tell me – that He wasn't**

**ashamed of me.** He'd been there for me this whole time," Greg says. "My anger level started going down and my hope level started going up."

Greg has been clean and sober for more than two years now. "I know that God accepts me, and I no longer need alcohol or anything to compensate," he says. "My strength is in my relationship with Him."

Greg credits the Mission with bringing God's healing and hope to his life. **"God pursued me for 44 years to the Union Rescue Mission, where He put it all together for me,"** Greg says. "I found love here."



## THE GREATEST CHALLENGE

### How do you challenge yourself?

Maybe you've trained for a marathon or half marathon and pushed yourself to run across that finish line.

Or maybe you've been challenged by family, friends or a pastor to open your heart to someone who's very different than you... or to live out God's love in new and powerful ways.

Right now, we're in the middle of a challenge from wonderful friends of the Mission to match their generous \$24,000 gift with an additional \$24,000.

But our greatest challenge is a daily one: inspiring new hope in the lives of people struggling with an addiction or abuse, unemployment or homelessness, hunger or hopelessness.

In this issue's cover story, you'll hear Greg's testimony about how

being part of our New Beginnings Program has transformed his life.

His story is powerful because of you. You understand the challenges our neighbors in need face, and we're grateful you share the truly life-changing gifts of meals, shelter and care.

**We can meet the challenge of caring for our community's hurting because of you and your faithful support.** Thank you for giving to bring new hope to countless lives forever.



*Denny*

Dennis H. Bender, APR  
Executive Director

## Challenging?



HIS CHALLENGE



OUR CHALLENGE

1 +  $\frac{1}{2}$  = TWO!



YOUR CHALLENGE

### With your help today, we'll meet the challenge!

When you give your most generous gift to match the \$24,000 challenge grant from a wonderful group of Mission friends, you'll double the impact of your gift in the lives of our community's hungry and homeless!

- Give online at [urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org).
- Give now using the enclosed reply card + envelope.

**DEADLINE TO GIVE: MAY 31**

**Thank you for meeting the greatest challenge: inspiring new hope in hurting lives!**



You don't have to go far to find people in desperate need of help. They're right here in Wichita.

**This Memorial Day, our 97-day summer campaign to help our community's homeless and hungry begins.**



# MATCH IT BY MAY 31!



Right now, because of a generous Matching Challenge, every gift you give will have **double the impact** for those in need.

Or as we like to say,

## 1 + 1 = TWO!

**\$50 → \$100**

**\$100 → \$200**

**\$150 → \$300**

**That's how \$24,000 becomes \$48,000 when you give today!**

By giving, you'll provide hot meals for a hungry person... safe shelter for a homeless man... counsel for someone battling addiction... and training to help men prepare for employment.



**This Matching Challenge ends May 31** – so don't wait. Help turn \$24,000 into \$48,000 and double your impact by responding now.



Our New Beginnings life-change program participants thank you for your support and welcome you to take a tour and see the great work you're making possible!

TAKE OUR  
**"I DIDN'T  
KNOW THAT"**  
TOUR

Schedule a tour of the Mission... see your gifts in action!

Contact Terre

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💻 [terre@urmwichita.org](mailto:terre@urmwichita.org)

**GIVE *where you* LIVE**  
97-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN



**23,020**  
meals



**10,620**  
nights of shelter

**VISIT US ONLINE** to learn more about our outreach, read stories of hope & securely donate anytime!

💻 [urmwichita.org](http://urmwichita.org)

