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From the Desk of...

Doug Nolte | Chief Executive Officer

Christmas at the Mission!

No one should ever be alone at Christmastime.

It's a time for family, friends, joy, and hope as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. But, so many of the men who walk in our doors have lost contact with their loved ones and struggle to find a reason to celebrate.

That is why Union Rescue Mission works hard to make the holidays special for our guests. With your help, we show them that they are not alone and that others care for them. Most of all, we share with them the saving grace that Jesus came to this earth to give us all.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

John 3:17 NIV

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter to learn how you are sharing that message at the Mission this Christmas season. With every meal, every night of shelter, every Christmas gift bag, every item of clothing, you are putting the love and compassion of Jesus into action and pointing the way to salvation.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and prayers as we prepare to meet even greater needs heading into the holidays and winter months. Together, we can rescue, recover, restore, and re-engage!

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Doug Nolte
Chief Executive Officer



The HOPE of CHRISTMAS!

Putting the Good News of the holidays into practical action for the hungry and homeless.

This Christmas, you can share the **GIFT OF A LIFETIME** with a neighbor in need—**HOPE**. It starts with a meal, a safe night of shelter, a Christmas present, or warm clothing given in love.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Mission partners with the Wichita Police Department to prepare holiday food boxes for the hungry. Last year, friends like you helped distribute 150 food boxes at Thanksgiving and 130 at Christmas.

Through your support, we'll provide Christmas dinner and gift bags for the guests. To help with these efforts, we welcome gloves, stocking caps, long underwear, hand and foot warmers, white and colored T-shirts, white socks, candy canes, candy bars, and hard candy.

Also, our pantry must be stocked with holiday dinner items. Please help us now to prepare for the thousands of meals we'll serve to our homeless and struggling neighbors throughout the Christmas season.

Please consider a generous gift today to help us feed the hungry and provide for basic needs during the holiday season. Visit urmwichita.org.

“Change takes place in the heart.”

Justin grew up right here in Wichita as a military kid. In school, he was often bullied and felt alone and isolated. As a teen, Justin dabbled in marijuana and prescription pills. **But once he moved out on his own, his life began to spiral downward due to a different kind of addiction.** During one of the many parties he hosted at his home, a friend introduced Justin to inhaling fumes from air duster cans. Justin quickly became addicted.

His addiction caused him to lose jobs and get evicted. ***“I was partying every weekend and purchasing copious amounts of alcohol and multiple cans of air duster per day,” Justin says. “I missed rent payments and was left homeless.”***

This began a cycle of getting high and staying with friends until he got kicked out. He got a DUI and was arrested for petty theft. For several years, he made bad decisions. Justin had become

estranged from his parents and ran out of friends. He had nowhere else to turn but his grandparents. Justin’s grandparents, who supported the efforts of Union Rescue Mission – Wichita, knew that was exactly what Justin needed. They drove him to the Mission, and Justin was able to enroll in the New Beginnings program.

“I was constantly learning more about myself and deepening my relationship with God as well as others around me,” he says. He was at the Mission for about 15 months. Justin admits that it was lonely being away from family at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but he didn’t feel alone at the Mission. Everyone cared and made the holidays special.

The program helped him overcome his addiction with the help of Jesus Christ. ***“I believe that change takes place in the heart; the one who changes his heart will truly become a changed person,” Justin says.*** He graduated from college and lives in Colorado Springs with his wife and five children. This is the life-changing impact you are making possible through your support of Union Rescue Mission.



Celebrate the holidays with a pledge to give monthly!

The Christmas season is the perfect time to join our Circle of Hope partners. These monthly supporters provide the funds we rely on to feed, shelter, and care for our most vulnerable neighbors. The consistent monthly giving is especially crucial as we prepare for increased numbers of guests during the holiday season.

Giving monthly is the best way to offer hungry and homeless men and needy families in our community immediate help and the chance to transform their lives. We need your help during the busy winter months more than ever.

Please prayerfully consider joining this vital group! Your monthly commitment will secure an ongoing foundation of support for struggling men who need assistance with daily essentials, as well as tools to rebuild their lives. Sign up now by completing the back of the enclosed reply form or visiting urmwichita.org.

We thank God for our Volunteers who help neighbors in need!

You can play a vital role in our goal of positively impacting the community. By volunteering, you can build encouraging relationships with our guests, clients, and staff. Through the help you provide, we're able to expand our resources and reach more people in need.

As an individual, a couple of people, or group, here are some ways you can serve:

- **In our Donation Center.** We need assistance in sorting donations, labeling, organizing, and preparing items for people in need.
- **At New Leaf Books.** Our social enterprise needs volunteers to scan books, prepare orders to be shipped out, and drive to pick up large book donations (truck provided).
- **Dining with Dignity.** Groups as little as 5 to large groups can participate. Our dining room is transformed into a restaurant; you could greet our guests, deliver meals, drinks, or desserts to their table, or just sit and visit with them.
- **Respite** needs volunteers to help with services, restocking closets, assisting our head nurse, and bringing compassion to those that are healing.
- **Admin Office** could use help with everything from data entry to stuffing envelopes, folding flyers, writing thank you notes, assisting with Grief Care, and much more.

Visit urmwichita.org/volunteer for more information

Bless future generations of hungry and homeless!

Through legacy giving, you can ensure God's work continues for people in need in Wichita long after you are gone.

Please prayerfully consider Union Rescue Mission in your will or through donor-advised funds.

To make a gift to the Union Rescue Mission through a will, bequest, or legacy giving program, call Doug Nolte at (316) 687-4673, Ext. 135, or send an e-mail to doug@urmwichita.org.



Volunteering with a smile!

There is a smile waiting for our guests wherever Richard is serving. As a volunteer at the Mission, Richard always has a heartwarming smile on his face and offers kind and encouraging words to everyone.

Richard is a retired physician who began volunteering in 2019. "I feel like serving at the Mission gives me purpose," he says.

"I enjoy visiting with the people we serve and the staff." Richard began working in the Guest Services department, greeting and conversing with guests. Today, he provides food services support, mostly in the pantry. We appreciate faithful volunteers like Richard.

Let us know if you want to join Richard as a volunteer this holiday season. Please contact Vici Myers at vici@urmwichita.org if you would like to volunteer.



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By the Numbers

Thanks to you we have provided:

From
January
to
October
2021



Meals
Served

85,424



Food
Boxes

650



Nights
of Shelter

48,640



Volunteer
Hours

2,984

Get Involved

Stay updated on all that is going on at the Mission through:



To start transforming lives immediately, scan with your smartphone or visit:
www.urwichita.org