COVID-19 update

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Pressing Into Change

I've had to learn to smile and be friendly through a mask. I've had to adapt to conversations at a physical distance of 6 feet. I've had to change my behavior and adopt a rigid practice of not touching my face until I have thoroughly washed my hands. COVID-19 has forced changes.

At this point in history we need to embrace change. At the same time, we must realize that which will never change.

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At UGM, we know who Jesus is and we are committed to following him. We haven’t lost hope. And we love those who you’ve enabled us to love – the abused, addicted and homeless. Thank you for the privilege. We are not backing off, we are pressing in!

Bill Russell
Executive Director

Operation Overcoat Changes Lives

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**UGM By the Numbers: October 2019-June 2020**

- **Search + Rescue Kits:** 21,218
- **Emergency Food Boxes:** 1,069
- **Volunteer Hours:** 8,060
- **Chapel Attendance/Dinners:** 16,190
- **Sack Lunches:** 6,680
- **Hot Breakfast and Lunch:** 77,182
- **Total Meals:** 209,332

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

**Heart of Hope**

During these challenging times we have seen our amazing donors step up and support us. If you support our work and would like to be a part of the Union Gospel Mission’s monthly support team, please prayerfully consider becoming a Heart of Hope partner.

**Why join Heart of Hope?**

- **Reliable Income:** Monthly giving helps provide stable support to vital Mission programs like meals, clothing, and addiction recovery. The Mission can more effectively plan with support the Mission can count on.

**Tim’s Story: Not a Typical Addict**

Tim tried drinking at the age of 12, by 21 he was experimenting with meth. Then his best friend gave him an ultimatum, “If you don’t stop, I can’t be your friend anymore,” so Tim stopped. From there, Tim got married, had a good job, was blessed with a couple of kids, and was living a good life. Six years into the marriage they got a divorce, but Tim retained his job and a good relationship with his children.

Casually, Tim started experimenting with meth with a friend. After 20 years of being clean, meth quickly sucked Tim back in. Eventually, using meth became Tim’s obsession. After several bouts of homelessness, Tim found himself living in his van during the winter snow. With no future in sight Tim contemplated suicide by cop. He decided it was time to get some help.

Now, after four months at UGM Tim can see a future for himself. He’s working in the mission kitchen and building a new life for himself. “It’s not like any place I have ever been before, everyone really cares for you and supports you,” says Tim. His parents observed religious holidays and even occasionally attended church, but it was more of a social obligation. Now Tim is finding comfort in UGM’s Christian foundation. “It’s not easy. I’ve been struggling some, but it’s worth it,” explains Tim. “I enjoy going to church… I’m learning a lot.”

“Tim doesn’t look like your typical addict, but here at UGM we get men from every walk of life,” says Lori, UGM’s food service Director. “Through the time in LifeChange they become stable, develop a relationship with Christ, and learn how to be contributors again.”

“I’m looking forward to building my life, being sober and reconnecting with my kids,” exclaims Tim. “UGM is more than just a recovery program, everyone here really cares.”

**Operation Overcoat: Ways You Can Help**

1. **Organize a donation drive at your church, workplace or school.** Our most needed items include pants, new undergarments, sleeping bags, boots and coats. Drop your items off at Union Gospel Mission at 3 NW Third Avenue by August 28th.

2. **Support Operation Overcoat financially.** It costs about $23.53 to serve each person through Operation Overcoat. Consider a special financial gift for Operation Overcoat. You can give online at ugmportland.org.

Your Gift of $23.53 provides an Operation Overcoat guest with goods and services that would cost them over $200 in a retail environment.

“IT ENJOY GOING TO CHURCH... I’M LEARNING A LOT.”

**It’s Convenient:** With the automated Heart of Hope program, you don’t have to hassle with checks, envelopes and stamps. Your gift comes automatically to the Mission each month.

By being a Heart of Hope Monthly Partner, you are taking a stand against poverty, addiction, and homelessness, joining what God is doing among our most vulnerable neighbors.

Monthly giving can be set up by calling 503-274-4483 or visiting ugmportland.org/heart-of-hope
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