A Note
From Jason

Dear Friend of Union Gospel Mission:

For Simon and his crew it had been a long, frustrating night of fishing on Lake Gennesaret. To no avail, their nets were empty. Jesus then commanded the men to cast their nets deeper. An incredulous Simon begrudgingly does so, and you know the rest of the story. (Luke 5: 1-11)

It’s easy to become frustrated when we cannot see or experience progress. While public policy makers are still determining a course of action to address homelessness, Union Gospel Mission continues to do something about it. Inspired by the power and love of Christ, UGM is casting our nets deeper to alleviate human suffering and restore people’s dignity.

Our “net” helped 69 women and 72 children, along with 186 men through LifeChange in the past year. During that same time, Homeless Services Outreach helped 259 individuals get off the streets and into permanent supportive housing. Additionally, through church partnerships, we provided shelter to 528 unique individuals in the Portland metro area.

Thank you to all who have supported The Mission. By equipping us with nets, we’re impacting lives.

In His Service,

Jason Christensen | Executive Director

Our Mission

Through the transformative power of Jesus Christ, we open life-changing pathways to people experiencing homelessness, hunger, addiction, and abuse.

Our Values

CHRIST-CENTERED
All our efforts reflect the love, teachings, and salvation of Jesus Christ.

COMPASSION
We love our neighbors by serving the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of those experiencing need.

DIGNITY
We work to empower those we serve, so that all may achieve their God-given potential.

JUSTICE
We defend and advocate for the most vulnerable, seeking God’s justice for all.

COLLABORATION
We achieve the most through partnering.
Homeless Services

UGM’s homeless services team connected with those experiencing homelessness by providing basic life essentials. People who are living on the streets and in camps can feel invisible. Providing a meal can provide dignity and a point of connection with our team.

This year our team provided:

214,742 meals
1,135 food boxes
425 people services through Search + Rescue
528 unique guests with winter shelter
259 people with support to get off the streets
5,156 articles of clothing
1,639 showers
219 service referrals

“They provide things like hand warmers and blankets to help me stay warm. I felt safe for the first time in a long time. I felt loved and cared for like I was family.”

- Jill, Mission Guest
LifeChange

LifeChange is a long-term addiction recovery community for men, women and children who are seeking to escape homelessness, overcome addiction, and heal from abuse and trauma.

Men and women in LifeChange receive:
• A safe home and community
• Nutritious meals
• Addiction recovery services
• Mental health counseling
• Case management
• Life skills and job training
• Education

Spent time in our LifeChange communities between the months of October 2021 through September 2022. Of these residents, 22 men and 11 women completed their recovery program and are sober, in stable housing, and employed.

Support for these men, women and children doesn’t stop after they complete their recovery program. UGM also offers transitional housing where residents continue to receive support in the form of sober housing and healthy community. The rent is affordable allowing them to save money while they work or attend school in preparation for more independence.

“This program has changed my life. I’ve learned what it means to live like Christ. I always believed in God, but now I can live the life he created me to live.”

- Duke, LifeChange Resident
The Journey Home

We have made great progress on The Journey Home Campaign since breaking ground in June of 2022. Thanks to generous donors, contractors, and foundations we are building a new home for women and their children escaping the effects of homelessness. Over this past year, the community has stepped up to see this project come to fruition and soon we will be pouring the foundation!

This new construction consists of a 53,457 square foot facility in northwest Portland that will expand LifeChange programming to a larger number of women and women with children.

This new facility will double our capacity to serve more than 2,000 women and children in the next decade as they work to end cycles of addiction, poverty, and abuse.

So far, we have raised over $15,000,000 and we are hopeful we will finish our fundraising goal of $20,875,000 by fall of 2023. We are so thankful for all of those who have contributed. We need just over $5,000,000 to complete this project.

To learn more and get updates about The Journey Home, please visit our website at www.ugmportland.org/journeyhome

“I’m able to connect with my kids in a safe environment, without fear or anxiety. I finally know who they are on a deeper personal level.”

- Hannah, LifeChange Resident
Lawrence’s Story

After losing his father at the age of four, Lawrence turned to drugs to help cope with his losses. He started smoking pot and drinking alcohol in the 2nd grade, by the 8th grade he turned to meth. Fighting loneliness with his mom away at work, Lawrence and his brother turned to the local gangs to fill the role of family.

By 18 he had already spent time in prison. After his release he tried pulling his life together and was trying to do the right thing, but soon he fell right back into the same crowd and back into addiction. “I had no sense of direction, nothing to look forward to except getting that next fix…getting high,” said Lawrence.

After three months back in addiction Lawrence decided it was time for a change. He talked with his best friend from Hermiston who was in UGM’s LifeChange for Women and Their Children and decided to give the program a try.

Now, after being in the LifeChange program for men, things are looking up for Lawrence. “Things are good now, I’m healing, I have good men in my life, I’ve been baptized, I now have the main thing that I’ve been missing all those years…Jesus!”

“While in LifeChange I found something that I’m very very good at, that’s working with the homeless,” smiles Lawrence. “In my addiction, I was a selfish man, now I’m a giver.”

Lawrence graduated from our LifeChange program and is now employed with the Oregon Washington Health Network as a Peer Mentor. He spends the day mentoring others struggling with life destructive patterns in addition to raising his two daughters. Lawrence says, “I’m so thankful for UGM, they gave me the structure and parenting skills I needed to be the father I am today.”

“In my addiction, I was a selfish man, now I’m a giver.”
- Lawrence, LifeChange Resident

Lawrence’s Graduation Ceremony
UNION GOSPEL MISSION 2021-2022

Total Revenue & Support: $7,109,865
Expenses:
Programs: $5,345,479
Fundraising: $1,333,056
Admin: $189,365
Total Expenses: $6,867,900

*Pie chart reflects expenses. Financial information reflects unaudited finances from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022. Union Gospel Mission has independent audits conducted on an annual basis which are available on request.

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for the Union Gospel Mission.