



UNION GOSPEL MISSION

LIFECHANGE LETTER

Feeding the hungry, restoring the addict and loving our neighbor since 1927.

NOVEMBER 2021

Angeline

“What I’m doing here is breaking that curse, and it stops in my generation!”

Angeline refers to it as generational trauma. Her parents and her grandparents all suffered from addiction. At 10 years old she was given her first beer. At 12 years old her mother handed her and her brother over to children’s services, saying that she couldn’t handle them anymore.

Sadly, for more than 20 years Angeline endured addiction and abuse. When she had periods of sobriety she thrived, but something always drew her back into the darkness of addiction.

After spending the winter on the streets in Billings Montana, something changed. To escape

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the bad influences in Montana, Angeline enrolled in short-term recovery in NW Oregon. In that recovery center she started a relationship with Jesus.

Unfortunately, after leaving the recovery center she found herself back with the same people into the same addictive behaviors.

Then one day she heard from some friends about Union Gospel Mission's LifeChange for Women and Their Children and how it had changed their lives. LifeChange is a long term, Christ-based recovery community in Beaverton, Oregon for women and their children that offers recovery and housing for up to 18 months.

A New Beginning

Since being at UGM's LifeChange Angeline has thrived. She has been reunited with her two daughters and is getting to the root of her addictive behaviors through counseling and biblical guidance.

"It's been wonderful seeing the positive impact the program has had upon my daughters...they now have hope," said Angeline. *"The thing that I appreciate the most about LifeChange is that my children are intertwined and included in my recovery."*

Angeline explains, *"Addiction and abuse have been in my family since my great grandparents, but what I'm doing here is breaking that curse, and it stops in my generation! It's all going to pay-off when I see that my grandchildren will never have to face the fear that comes with abuse or addiction."*

"I hope to go to school for drug and alcohol counseling," said Angeline. *"So that I can take what I learned here and take it back to the people on the reservations in Montana, to let them know that someone cares."*



If you know of a woman battling addiction, homelessness, or domestic abuse and she is interested in a life change, contact LifeChange for Women and Their Children at 503-802-2271.



Loving Our Neighbors this Thanksgiving

THIS IS OUR BIGGEST THANKSGIVING EFFORT EVER!

Due to ongoing pandemic challenges, we won't be gathering our neighbors experiencing homelessness for Thanksgiving downtown at the Mission. But we will still offer a warm, traditional Thanksgiving meal to those who might go without. We plan to provide 1,000 to-go

Thanksgiving meals and 800-1,000 food baskets.

On Thanksgiving Day, we will provide to-go dinners for our neighbors downtown and we will deliver Thanksgiving dinners to camps through our Search + Rescue outreach and church partners.

Want to help? We know that many of you consider serving with UGM as one of your holiday traditions, and for that we are truly grateful. At this time, we are unable to open our dining room doors in the traditional sense to serve meals during the holidays. We will greatly miss serving alongside you this year, but here are other ways you can partner with us.

- 1. Organize a donation drive at your church, workplace or school.** Our most needed items include blankets, gloves, scarves and winter caps.
- 2. Pray.** We believe that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective, (James 5:16) and perhaps the single most effective thing you can do is pray to God for what only He can accomplish here in Portland.
- 3. Volunteer for holiday prep.** For more information, visit: <https://ugmportland.org/volunteer>
- 4. Make a donation.** We are also in need of donations of bottled water, pumpkin pies, and coffee, these can be dropped off at 3 NW Third Avenue Portland or you can make a financial donation to provide meals at ugmportland.org/donate

UGM RECEIVES DONATION OF 5-UNIT TOWNHOME COMPLEX FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Union Gospel Mission recently received a generous donation from the Crandall Group of a 5-unit townhome complex worth \$1.5 Million. This generous donation of brand-new housing will help with the growing need for affordable housing in the Beaverton area. Safe and affordable housing is a huge challenge to find in the Portland Metro area, and for single parent-families, the challenge is even greater.

"Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Crandall Group, Union Gospel Mission has a powerful tool in our toolbox to help single parents and their children transition to a life of self-reliance. These townhomes give them a running start toward independence," says Jason Christensen UGM Executive Director.



The vision for this housing complex is to support single parents by not only providing safe, affordable housing but also creating a supportive community with other families who are working to overcome the challenges they faced due to addiction, abuse, and homelessness.

UGM BY THE NUMBERS: OCTOBER 2020-AUGUST 2021



TOTAL MEALS
177,875



SEARCH+RESCUE KITS
20,380



EMERGENCY FOOD BOXES
1,334



DINNERS
8,562



SACK LUNCHES
6,000



HOT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
61,741

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

NOVEMBER 2021

THE PRODIGAL'S PATH

A Message from Union Gospel Mission
Director Jason Christensen



On Freedom and Thanksgiving

With Thanksgiving upon us, I think of that iconic presentation of the Thanksgiving turkey in Norman Rockwell's painting "Freedom from Want" and consider those who aren't so fortunate to have that experience.

As Union Gospel Mission of Portland readies for another Thanksgiving, I'm encouraged knowing UGM is doing what it can to help those in need throughout the Portland metro area. Thanks to UGM, the people we serve will experience:

- Freedom from the winter elements...
- Freedom from hunger...
- Freedom from isolation...
- Freedom from addiction...
- Freedom from shame...
- Freedom from broken relationships...

And there are many reasons for us at Union Gospel Mission to offer our Prayers of Thanksgiving for His provision! Thanks to the generosity of The Crandall Group, we just celebrated the opening of a newly constructed 5-plex unit of townhomes that will provide transitional housing for our single parents graduating from LifeChange.

Lastly, because of the success of our Thrift Store and generosity of our incredible donors and volunteers, we're able to expand our outreach efforts through Search + Rescue, which meets the homeless in the camps and on the streets to bring them essential supplies and allows us to enter into relationship with them so that they may experience the love of Christ.

Thank you all for your support of Union Gospel Mission. Wishing you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving.

Grateful to serve,

Jason Christensen

***About the Title:** In Henri Nouwen's seminal work, *The Return of The Prodigal Son*, the author explores how we experience seasons in our lives where we identify with each of the three characters in the famous parable found in the Gospel of Luke (15: 11-32). I plan to use this space to help others understand the importance of identifying with the poor and being in solidarity with those whom society has shunned. It's my prayer that when we see the beggar on the street we won't look at them through the eyes of the judgmental older brother, but through the eyes and compassionate heart of the loving father.



The Journey Home Campaign: Update

Home. One word can mean so much.

To Danielle, home is a warm and welcoming environment, surrounded by people who want to help. Home is the foundation of dreams.

To Misty, home is respect and love, hope and change. Home is reconnecting with family and making yourself proud.

To Nicole and her daughter Madi, home is a stable and safe place full of life, light, and renewed hope.

Home is what we offer at Union Gospel Mission to women like Danielle, Misty, and Nicole. Still, thousands of women and children in our community are homeless as they navigate unhealthy situations.

The Journey Home campaign will double our current capacity and provide a 50,000 square foot center that will serve more than 2,000 women and children in the next decade while they work to end cycles of addiction, poverty, and abuse.

This center will take women and children out of unhealthy situations and increase opportunities for healing by adding onsite counseling and mentoring services for all who call it home.

Operation Overcoat Update

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are overwhelmed by the continued generosity of our community. Thank you for your financial donations, volunteer efforts, and gifts of coats, hats, scarves, and so many other needed items. Through your generosity we were able to distribute 800 backpacks as part of our 2021 Operation Overcoat.

The impact it made on people's lives was significant. We heard from many folks who expressed how hard it is to live on the streets of Portland, but the life essentials provided by you, through UGM, gave them a bit of hope.

LIFECHANGE LETTER

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