

NEW LIFE

SAVING LIVES / RESTORING HOPE / IMPACTING COMMUNITY

A Newsletter of Tri-City Union Gospel Mission – Holiday 2024

THANK YOU FOR
GIVING JUSTIN
a life-changing
GIFT THIS
Christmas!



CELEBRATING
65 YEARS
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

TRI-CITY
UGM
Union Gospel Mission

**DON'T
MISS...**

2 Raise Funds
When You Shop

3 "The Mission gave
me my life back."

4 Give a meal.
Spark a miracle!



*You help make
Christmas
miracles possible*

Dear Friends,

As we approach the Christmas season, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of our Mission. Your generosity has provided warmth, nourishment and hope to those in our community who need it most.

Because of you, Tri-City Union Gospel Mission remains a beacon of comfort and safety for the men, women and children in our community who have lost everything, including a place to call home. **Your donations are more than just contributions; they are lifelines that create hope for our neighbors who have become hopeless.**

Thank you for being a vital part of our ministry. May this holiday season bring you peace, joy and fulfillment as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings.



In His service,

Andrew Porter
Executive
Director

*Sign up today! Simply
scan this QR code:*



Q: How/when did you first get involved with TCUGM (the Mission)?

Mike: I've been on the Board as an officer since November 2009 and a volunteer since 2013. We donated to TCUGM for many years prior to volunteering.

Karlyn: I have donated to TCUGM practically since I graduated from college in '73. I started volunteering around 9 years ago.

Q: Is the Mission different than what you thought it would be like? How?

Mike: I was surprised that they do lots more than provide meals and housing for their clients. Because they do so much more than that, I've stuck with them.

Karlyn: I didn't know for a long time that they had a women and children's shelter. It was good to see that they cared for more than the guys on the street.

Q: What might someone be surprised to know about the Mission and the people they serve?

Mike: People would probably be surprised to know that they provide case management, counseling, medical and dental referrals, and they partner with other agencies to provide for the needs of their clients on a holistic basis. There have been people with college degrees staying at the Mission; there was a Jewish rabbi and a person with a PhD in physics staying there.

Karlyn: I agree with what Mike said, and I'll add that many people in the community would be shocked that not all clients are drunks or drug addicts.

Q: Why do you support the Mission?

Mike: They are a Christ-centered ministry, and they provide supportive services WITHOUT any government funding.

Karlyn: They are a shelter in the storms of this world. We've seen and gotten to know people whose lives are changed because Jesus is at work in and through their programs and their staff members.

Q: What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating and/or volunteering at the Mission?

Mike: Being on the Executive Board has shown me that there is a very efficient use of the funds that are donated. The lives that we see transformed through the ministry encourage my heart.

Karlyn: There is no better place to invest your funds than in a ministry that heals people's lives through Jesus. I put off volunteering for years because I don't have training in working with this population, BUT volunteering at TCUGM has been the best thing I have done this side of asking Jesus to run my life. It has changed my life.

You can support your local community as a volunteer! For more info or to sign up, visit tcugm.org/ways-to-give/volunteer

RAISE FUNDS WHEN YOU SHOP

Support Tri-City Union Gospel Mission when you shop for your everyday groceries – **at no added cost to you.** Through the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program, all you have to do is shop at Fred Meyer and swipe your Shopper's Card.



How it works:

- 1. Create a digital account.** If you already have one, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account.
- 2. Link your Card to Tri-City Union Gospel Mission.** Our Fred Meyer Organization Code is **SB456.**
- 3. Shop to support.** Any transactions using the Shopper's Card will be applied to the program. Fred Meyer will donate a percentage of your spending annually to us.

“The Mission gave me my life back.”



“The Mission has made me **MORE COMPASSIONATE AND UNDERSTANDING.**”

Justin was used to fending for himself. His dad wasn't in his life, and his mom kicked him out of the house when he was 16 years old for playing basketball with people outside of the church. “It was very hard growing up,” he shares.

Being on his own forced him to grow up fast. It also made it hard for him to ask for help. Years later, Justin experienced homelessness, which he hid from his kids until his daughter saw him at a park.

When a choking accident sent Justin to the hospital, he found out he had stage 4 cancer. “My daughter didn't want me to go back out on the streets,” he says. That's when

he came to Tri-City Union Gospel Mission.

When they arrived at the Mission, they were warmly welcomed by Chaplain Mark. Even now, Justin says, “I've never seen him without a smile on his face.”

That's one of the biggest things Justin has learned at the Mission. “You just don't know what a smile can do for somebody,” he says. **“I've learned to never judge a book by its cover because you don't know what somebody is going through.”**

Justin had shut out the Lord for many years. Since he arrived at the Mission, he says, **“I pray every day. It's more**

like giving thanks. I don't ask for anything anymore because I just want to live,” he says.

Justin is on respite care under our Case Management program for men who stay longer at our emergency shelter. “My goals every week are focusing on my health, looking for housing and getting into support groups,” he says. **“I try to be super positive and live life to the fullest.”**

This Christmas, Justin is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God's unending love! “I'm thankful for the Mission because they gave me my life back.”

Give Relief From Colder Days

Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 26° in our community – and added factors like rain and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges this winter. And we've seen an increased number of people staying in our shelter.

You can give them relief from the cold at Tri-City Union Gospel Mission:

- **Safe shelter** includes a warm bed and a roof over their heads
- **Hot food** offers comfort and nourishment to cold, weary neighbors
- **Winter clothes** like coats, warm clothing and shoes are in high demand

To see our most urgently needed items, visit tcugm.org

GENARO'S SUCCESS STORY

As highlighted in a previous newsletter, Genaro joined our New Life Program, a Bible-based approach to freedom from strongholds, in November 2021 and graduated in February 2023. Since then, he has been diligently working toward getting his high school diploma.



With hard work, patience and dedication, Genaro is just one class away from graduating! His next goal is to go to college and get a business degree.

Thanks to your care and support, Genaro's life has truly changed – he has a full-time job, an apartment close to work and he is excited about his future.

Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're homeless or hungry. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** through a simple gift that may lead someone to join our case management or long-term recovery program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal... and an opportunity for a miracle.



A HOT MEAL



CAN SPARK A MIRACLE



That leads to new life!

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!