



What camp kids need this summer:

- Glue sticks
- White glue
- Markers
- Pencils
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Craft sticks
- Pipe cleaners
- Beach toys
- Children's books for ages 6-11
- Swimsuits for boys and girls, ages 6-11 (new or gently used only, please)
- Children's clothing for boys and girls, ages 6-11 (shorts, pants, sweatpants, shirts, socks, shoes — new or gently used only, please)

If you can help with any of these items, please contact Lam Ho at 651-292-1721.

Double blessing

(continued from page 1)

"And I'm not leaving the Mission until God gives me an eviction notice!" he laughs.

As Resident Manager, Brent sees broken lives come through the Mission doors every day — a steady stream of people crushed by the weight of these tough economic times.

That's what makes your gift this month so important.

Because of the matching funds we've received, we can

So many people need our help right now, even more since the recession hit.

help twice as many people like Brent find hope, and new life.

Won't you help if you are able?

Please help us take full advantage of these matching funds by sending a generous gift today.

On behalf of Brent and hundreds of others who benefit from your prayers and generous financial support, thank you!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Once waiting to die, Tom's now ready to live

Twelve years ago, Tom was immersed in his drug and alcohol addiction, "just waiting to die."

Today, he has a whole new outlook on life — along with a house, a car, a wife, and a well-paying job.

What happened?

He found God at our Christ Recovery Center, thanks to your gifts.

"That place absolutely changes lives," he says.

Though he and his wife now live near Beaver Lake, he comes back to the Mission many Wednesday nights for Sing-a-long.

"It helps me to remember what I was like, and to appreciate the things I've been given."



Tom and his wife, Karen, are grateful for the new life they've been given — thanks to friends like you.

Your gift DOUBLED – automatically!

Thanks to a generous matching grant, it's easy to DOUBLE your gift this month. Simply ...

1. Choose the amount that's right for you.
2. Write out your own personal check for the gift amount you have chosen.
3. Return your check with the meal ticket in the enclosed reply envelope.

That's all you need to do to double your gift!

MY GIFT x2! Double my gift with matching funds!

YES, KEN! I want my gift to be doubled by matching funds to provide twice as many meals and nights of shelter for homeless and hungry people in the Twin Cities. I'm enclosing:

- \$25 doubles to provide \$50 worth of life-saving care.
- \$50 doubles to provide \$100 worth of life-saving care.
- \$100 doubles to provide \$200 worth of life-saving care.
- \$_____ doubles to provide twice as much life-saving care as possible.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



THANK YOU! Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Union Gospel Mission. Mail it with this meal ticket in the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 64389, St. Paul, MN 55164-0389. Questions? Call us at 651-228-1800. www.ugmtc.org

MY E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Home Office

N519-2009

INSIDE: SPECIAL REPORT ON WHAT CRUSHES THE HUMAN SPIRIT



Twin Cities MESSENGER

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES!

MAY 2009 | Vol. 8 No. 3

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He didn't want to get used to being smelly and dirty



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77 Ninth Street East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651-228-1800
Ken Peterson,
Executive Director

For more information, visit us online at: www.ugmtc.org

Double blessing

Matching funds mean your gift goes twice as far

For months now, Union Gospel Mission has struggled to keep up with the growing number of homeless and hungry people coming here because of the recession.

So as a friend of the Mission, you may be excited to learn that we have been offered \$15,000 in matching funds.

What that means to you is that every gift is automatically doubled, up to \$15,000:

- \$25 automatically becomes \$50.
- \$50 becomes \$100.
- \$100 turns into \$200 worth of lifesaving care.

Think of how many people you can help with just one gift ...TWICE as many as would otherwise be possible!

Brent certainly appreciates such kindness. It was friends like you that made it possible for him to come to the Mission and begin a new life.



Long lines of people are a constant reminder of how great the need is right now.

But before he could do that, there were so many hurdles that he needed to overcome. Like the memories of his dad kicking him out of the house when he was just 15 years old. How he managed to survive on the streets by stealing and hustling. Or the four failed marriages he had with women "who always thought they could change me."

Think of how many people you can help with just one gift.

Real change eventually did come — but only after Brent came to Union Gospel Mission and gave his life to Christ. Today, he serves as the internship program at Christ Recovery Center.

Brent says he came here for one reason: "To take a trip from my head to my heart." Translation: From knowing about God, to experiencing the joy of Christ every day.

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YOUR GIFT ... X 2! – Details on Page 4

THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN PETERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Compassion in tough times requires listening to your heart

I believe there's something deep in the heart of every Minnesotan that longs to help whenever we see someone suffering.

The trouble is, many people don't know where to start. How about prayerfully considering Union Gospel Mission? For a limited time, special matching funds will double your gift automatically. What an incredible opportunity to feed twice as many hungry people in these tough economic times!

Not long ago, I spoke with an elderly gentleman, who I'll call Lou, right after he sent his very first gift to the Mission.

"Do you have enough money to feed everyone?" Lou asked.

I told him how much we appreciated his kindness, especially since the recession was bringing even more homeless people to our doors. Lou's response caught me off guard.

In this recession, strategic giving is so very important.

"Well, tell you what," he said without any prompting, "I'll scrounge around and see if I can find some more." And sure enough, this man sent another check — this one for three

times the amount of his first gift!

"Maybe somebody else can give and we can stretch it a little farther," he wrote in a heartfelt note.

That's exactly what matching funds do. They stretch every gift to help even more hurting people.

In this recession, strategic giving is so very important. Please listen to your heart. Then, if you sense God telling you to help a hurting neighbor, send a generous gift to Union Gospel Mission today.

Thank you. And God bless you!

Ken Peterson

YOUR GIFT ...
X2!

Chronic homelessness slowly crushes the human spirit

Lack of the basics makes some people feel less than worthy

When you're homeless, getting off the streets is tough. Staying off the streets is even tougher. That's what makes it so amazing — that something as simple as a hot meal can sometimes be the first step to a new life.

But don't take our word for it. Here's how Shaun, Dave, and Honey found hope in their darkest hour — thanks to generous friends like you.

NO FOOD

No more living off of snack cakes and potato chips

Homelessness doesn't get much worse than this.

Sharing a drafty garage with piles of garbage — and a few noisy mice. Stealing food because you can't stand the feeling of hunger anymore.

"It stinks having to live this way," Shaun says.

Can you imagine, then, what that first hot meal at Union Gospel Mission — a meal you helped provide! — must have felt like to Shaun?

"It was incredible," he remembers.

Coming to the Mission means no more living off of snack cakes and potato chips. No more stealing a supermarket apple, eating it in the bathroom, then flushing the core down the toilet, and sneaking out. No more friends asking you to stop taking food from their store because they're afraid they will lose their job.

"It stinks having to live this way."

Instead, it means meat and potatoes and vegetables and hot coffee.

"I couldn't believe it!" Shaun exclaimed.

This month, more than 700 men, women, and children will get to enjoy a hot meal at the Mission because of your kindness.

Thank you.



Fishing food out of garbage cans "stinks" when you're homeless.

NO HOT SHOWER

Dave didn't WANT to get used to being dirty and smelly

Sometimes, the simplest things we take for granted are the things that mean the most to the homeless.

Like a hot shower.

"It was wonderful," Dave remembers from that first night at the Mission. "Just to have hot water running over me, I didn't want to get out!"

And no wonder.

For days, Dave had been wandering the streets in the middle of a summer heat wave. His feet were sore, his clothes smelly from sweat and the stench of cigarettes he had been fishing out of department store ashtrays.

Live that way long enough and some people get used to walking around dirty and smelly. But Dave says, "I didn't want to get used to it. Maybe it was the way I was raised. I knew I was compromising everything."

A meal, a hot shower, a real bed — sometimes that's all it takes to begin to restore a man's dignity. And give birth to new hope.

Thank you for supporting Union Gospel Mission — and giving men like Dave a chance to regain their dignity.



Dave's not afraid to look in the mirror anymore. He's a whole new person thanks to you.

NO EDUCATION

Finishing school is helping to unlock her dreams

When her mother died unexpectedly in 1997, Honey dropped out of school — one year short of graduating. For a while, she bounced from one job to the next. But minimum-wage jobs selling vacuums over the phone didn't cut it.

So Honey made a life-changing choice and came to the Mission.

As part of her required studies, she joined our LifeNet Learning Center and is excited about getting back to her studies and finally earning her GED.

One day, she'd like to find a job in computer software. For now, though, she's content with studying right alongside her two kids.

"I come home and ask them how their day was at school, and then they ask me how my day was at school," she laughs, suddenly realizing the irony.



"I come home and my kids ask me how my day was at school."

It's amazing what a hot meal, a clean change of clothes, and a safe bed for the night can do to restore a hurting soul. For many, it can be the chance to finally put the past behind. But not everyone ends up turning their lives around. For some, the lure of drugs or alcohol is strong — so strong that the streets lure them back, whispering comfort it simply cannot deliver.

Please pray for the men and women who come through the Mission. And pray we would be able to take full advantage of this matching funds opportunity. Thank you.

YOUR GIFT ...
X2!

EXTRA EXTRA

Read all about it — on the Web

One minute, Donald was listening to the preacher tell the chapel audience, "I'm only here for one person tonight" ... and the



next minute, Donald just instinctively got up from his chair and began walking forward. As he sat down in the chair, he began weeping. "It was like somebody close to me had just died ..."



At his peak, Erik was playing lead guitar in well-known bands like Mango Jam and Super Loser. But the money he made with his

music — and his side job as a waiter — all got wasted on black tar heroin and cocaine. "My life was playing music and working and beating my head against the wall with drugs ..."

After her release from prison, Jackie spent seven months looking for a place of her own. "I couldn't even afford a two-bedroom apartment in the most rundown neighborhoods," she says. But Jackie couldn't give up — not when her kids were depending on her to be strong ...



Was God beginning to speak to Donald? Would Erik's music always be wrapped in drugs? Did Jackie have the toughness to keep pushing on? To find out, visit our Web site at www.ugmtc.org and click on "People & Stories" ...