

**Union Gospel Mission Programs**

**Men's Campus & Programs**

Bethel Hotel, Central Services, Chapel, Christ Recovery Center, Dental & Medical Clinic, Discipleship Program, Men's LifeNet Learning Center, Gateway Program  
435 University Ave. E. St. Paul, MN 55130 651-292-1721

**Women & Family Programs**

Naomi Family Residence 77 9th St. E. St. Paul, MN 55101 651-222-7962

Ober Community Center 376 Western Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103 651-209-6512, ext.101

Child Care Center 109 9th St. E. St. Paul, MN 55101 651-224-9970

Women's LifeNet Learning Center 109 9th St. E. St. Paul, MN 55101 651-225-8019

WorkNet & SuccessNet 109 9th St. E. St. Paul, MN 55101 651-222-2471 (WorkNet) 651-209-6244 (SuccessNet)

Promise Program 376 Western Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103 651-224-3024

Asian Ministries 1031 Payne Ave. St. Paul, MN 55130 651-774-5567

Gospel Hill Camp & Ministry Center 580 W. Hwy 96 Shoreview, MN 55126 651-484-2023

Children's Gospel Mission 77 9th St. E. (7th Floor) St. Paul, MN 55101 Attn: Roger Quant

**General Offices**  
77 9th St. E. St. Paul, MN 55101 651-228-1800 www.ugmtc.org

# GYM-DANDY!

Attend a Minnesota Lynx game and you could help score a new gymnasium for the Union Gospel Mission!

**Just purchase tickets to any of these Lynx home games!**

**If the Mission sells the most tickets of any community group, we win \$25,000 toward remodeling the gym at the Ober Community Center in Frogtown!**

Friday, May 25 ★ vs. Chicago

Tuesday, May 29 ★ vs. Indiana

Friday, June 1 ★ vs. New York (Union Gospel Mission Night)

Wednesday, June 13 ★ vs. Connecticut

Saturday, June 16 ★ vs. Los Angeles

Sponsored by:



**KTIS**  
98.5 FM

**Do something GREAT for at-risk kids!**

Watch the WNBA's most exciting team — *the Minnesota Lynx!* Then watch what it means to our community! *Tickets start at \$9.*

**IMPORTANT:** To qualify, tickets MUST be purchased by calling the Lynx/Timberwolves Christian Community Program at 612-673-1225, or ordering online at [KTIS.nwc.edu](http://KTIS.nwc.edu).

## "How did I get here?"

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were able to come to our Naomi Family Residence, thanks to the generosity of caring friends like you.

"Coming to the Mission felt like heaven," she remembers. "I had a real bed to sleep in, I could take a real shower, and I didn't have to worry about finding someplace to go every night."

Knowing that regular meals and childcare were readily available, Ramona began concentrating on putting her life back in order. She attended parenting classes. Brushed up on her computer skills (she already had a high school diploma.) And learned how to live on

a budget.

Most important, she said, she grew in her relationship with God. So did her soon-to-be husband, who said while he was still in jail, God

*"I feel like a butterfly coming out of a cocoon, and this is my brand-new life!"*

told him, "This is your last chance. If you don't change, you're going to go back to the streets to die."

The two of them were married the day he got out of jail — and have been going strong ever since. He pastors

a small church and she works at a local community college.

"I feel like a butterfly coming out of a cocoon," she says, "and this is my brand-new life!"

*When life becomes difficult for the poor, it's comforting to know there is someplace like the Union Gospel Mission where weary souls can find rest — and new direction.*

*Your gifts make that possible. Every time you give, you help people like Ramona gain the skills necessary to make a fresh start. Your kindness makes the difference. Thank you for helping to change lives through renewed hope.*

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES



# Twin Cities

SPRING 2007

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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.

## "How did I get here?"

One minute Ramona's having a baby. Next thing, she's living out of her car!

**Y**ou have to be mentally — and emotionally — tough to endure what Ramona has faced the past few years. Consider the following ...

At a time when neither she nor her then-future husband were working (he was laid off, she was pregnant), she went into labor. It was the day they moved into a friend's basement. (She had the baby that night!)

A couple months later, they found themselves homeless again. This time, they slept each night in the family station wagon along Highway 61, running the heater a few minutes every hour to stay warm.

Eventually, Ramona did get a decent-paying job at a big hotel in town.



Knowing that her two boys, Emmanuel and Gregory, were being well cared for gave Ramona the chance to put her own life back in order.

Then the hotel closed down — the same week her home church shut its doors.

"If it hadn't been for God's mercy, I wouldn't have made it through," Ramona admits.

"I was so confused and hurt, I kept asking myself, 'How did I get here?'"

After a long string of shocking disappointments and bitter failures —

*"If it hadn't been for God's mercy, I wouldn't have made it through."*

including her future husband's arrest on drug charges — Ramona finally got a break.

She and her children

(continued on back)

# THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN PETERSON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**When it comes to rebuilding lives, few places compare to the Mission**

At the Union Gospel Mission, we don't judge people for what they can't do. We help them discover what they *can* do to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

Mike is a good example. For months, he lived in his car parked right outside the Mission — unable to admit he had a serious drinking problem.

"As humans, we don't want to give up control of our lives," he said. But eventually, he realized the Mission might be "my last chance to get help" and joined our Discipleship Program. The day his counselor reassured him that God still loved him, his life was radically transformed.

Today, he's the Resident Manager of the program. Having reached seven years of sobriety, he says his life is the best it's ever been.

"It used to be just me and the bottle," he recalls. Now his life is filled with his children and grandchildren.

*Our success is deeply rooted in two factors: God's mercy, and the generous support of faithful friends like you.*

The Mission knows all about rebuilding broken lives. Our success is deeply rooted in two factors: God's mercy, and the generous support

of faithful friends like you. That's a powerful combination in the fight against homelessness and poverty. It's also a big reason so many people in the Twin Cities have hope today.

The choices friends like you make today really can change someone's life tomorrow — and for years to come.

Thank you for choosing Union Gospel Mission.

*Ken Peterson*

# To hell and back

Many anguished souls who come to the Mission discover the peace that passes understanding

Drugs. Chronic unemployment. Nagging poverty. These are often the agonizing circumstances surrounding homelessness in the Twin Cities. But no matter how bad things get, there's always hope ...

## Drugs almost killed Lee before he found a new life in Christ

Every time life got hard, Lee would use drugs to ease the pain. Crack. Marijuana. Anything he could find.

"Drugs were taking me down the highway to hell," he admits. "I could have died from my addiction."

But he didn't. Instead, he came to the Union Gospel Mission, where he learned how to stand strong in the face of temptation.

He would need every bit of that strength, too. Because while he was in our recovery program, his father died. Then his mother.

Then an uncle. Then a close friend who was also in recovery. "Every time I found myself joyous and free, the devil tried to knock me down," Lee says. "I

prayed God would get me back to where I belonged." It took Lee 12 months, but

*"Every time I found myself joyous and free, the devil tried to knock me down."*

## Why John gave up living like a king

John is employed as a grill cook at Bobby and Steve's Auto World in Minneapolis. A few months ago, he was "Employee of the Month." And he's been clean and sober for more than five years.

Big accomplishment for a former hardcore gang member. John once lived

*"I was hanging around the wrong people, doing the wrong things ... it was a lousy life."*

like a king with all the money, drugs, and booze he wanted. But he also served four years in prison.

"I was hanging around with the wrong people, doing the wrong things ... it was a lousy life," John says.

Lousy, that is, until John met Larry Lotzer, Director of our



Lee knows the road to recovery will be a long one. But at least he doesn't have to face it alone.

he finally earned his GED. At graduation, he received a standing ovation. People were crying, they were so proud of all Lee had achieved.

Today, he is employed at a restaurant in West St. Paul.

Lee knows there will be challenges ahead as he travels down the long road to complete recovery. He's just glad he no longer has to face these inner demons all alone.

## Once depressed, Dana found hope in the "Promise-land"

1994 didn't start out as a very good year for Dana.

Within a few months, she lost her job, found out she had diabetes, ended up on welfare, and suffered depression so severely that she tried to take her own life. More than once.

Before the year was over, though, Dana joined our Promise Program, where she came to realize, "I don't have to just wallow in misery. I can do something to get better."

A big part of her unhappiness centered

around education. She was living on her own and couldn't afford college. The Promise Program was her ticket to a higher education — through a cooperative arrangement between

*"Being at the Mission helped me recognize I'm a child of God and that makes me important."*

Union Gospel Mission and Crown College.

For the next 11 months, Dana worked hard. And studied harder. She discovered she was a gifted writer and had extraordinary

computer skills. By the time she graduated from the Promise Program in the summer of '95, she was ready



The Mission helped Dana to discover she is a gifted writer. Now she has published her first book — and is working on a sequel.

to conquer the world.

"Being at the Mission did three things for me," Dana says. "It helped me recognize I'm a child of God and that makes me important. It gave me hope for my future. And it enabled me to continue my education."

Today, she has published her first book (and is already working on a sequel), wants to go back to get her master's degree, and is currently on the Promise Program staff, teaching proofreading and advanced keyboarding.



When John was ready to give up gang life and pursue a new direction in life, the Mission was there for him — thanks to gifts from friends like you.

### ONE FINAL THOUGHT:

*Each of these stories could have ended tragically. But your compassion (and God's grace!) stepped in at just the right time. Because of you, Lee, John, and Dana — and many others at the Mission — have received a second chance. Thanks to friends like you, their lives will never be the same.*