

THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN PETERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



[Mr. and Mrs. Example,] Know what I discovered? Thankfulness is contagious!

The other day, I had lunch with three of our clients at the Christ Recovery Center and I don't know who came away more thankful: them, or me.

"I've been in treatment nine times and I've never been in a place like this in my life," Bob said. "I'm so thankful for the love and care I've received here. You're the first place that's told me, 'Take your time, stay as long as you need to to become strong enough to re-enter society.'"

Mike was even more articulate.

"It's hard not to be thankful when you're staying at the Mission," he explained. "Everybody you meet is experiencing such joy from the change in their lives that it's just contagious."

And then there was Ryan.

Ryan was quiet at first, until I encouraged him to share his thoughts. "When I first came here, I had been drinking so long, I couldn't eat for two weeks. When I started eating again, the spirit of thanksgiving came back as soon as I realized I was meeting God here. I've learned humility here and it's humility that keeps you thankful."

Wow! Mike was right. Gratefulness is contagious!

Bob, Mike, and Ryan had such a glowing sense of gratitude — not only in what they said, but the

sincerity with which they expressed their feelings — that I, too, walked out of the dining room with a whole new level of joy and thankfulness ...

- To God, for the privilege of serving Him every day.
- To the Mission, for their commitment to the homeless here in the Twin Cities;
- And to YOU, our donors, who give so generously to see lives changed.

This Thanksgiving, please know how grateful I am for your partnership with this ministry. Your kindness is a big reason these three men, and so many others, have hope today.

Thank you, and God bless you!

Ken Peterson

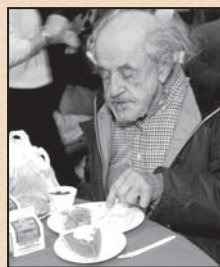
"It's hard not to be thankful when you're staying at the Mission."

Complete Thanksgiving Meal \$1.92

Thanksgiving Meal Ticket

YES, KEN! I want hungry hurting men, struggling mothers, and frightened children in the Twin Cities to have food and love this Thanksgiving and throughout the year. Here is my special holiday gift of:

- \$002or6 to provide [XX2or6] meals and other care.
- \$003or7 to provide [XX3or7] meals and other care.
- \$004or8 to provide [XX4or8] meals and other care.
- \$_____ to provide XX meals and other care for as many needy people as possible



[Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Q. Example]
[Merkle Inc.]
[701 Pike Street]
[Suite 700]
[Seattle, WA 98101-4003]
[Barcode]



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

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES!



Twin Cities

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING ISSUE

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

[Mr. and Mrs. Example,]

Stumbling economy may force Mission to make some tough decisions this Thanksgiving

For homeless people in the Twin Cities, Thanksgiving has always been a tough time. This year, they're not alone.

Record food and gas prices, a weak job market, and the mortgage meltdown are putting added pressure on many low-income families this holiday season. Some have come here admitting they need help for the very first time.

The big question: Will the Mission have enough to feed them all?

Moving into the fall, donations have struggled to keep up with the soaring need. That could mean somebody gets left out this Thanksgiving. But who? The homeless old man? The family who's lost their



Times may be tough — even for the Mission — but we don't want to turn away even one hungry person.

jobs? The single mom with two young children?

We don't want to turn away even one of them. That's why we're turning to generous people like you, [Mr. and Mrs. Example].

We know times have been tough for many of our friends. But times are even tougher for the folks who come here. They are desperate. And without the generosity of good

people like you, they will have nothing.

If God has blessed you this Thanksgiving, please be a blessing to others by sending a gift to feed and care for your hungry neighbors.

Sharing — isn't that what Thanksgiving is all about?

Thank you, and God bless you, for doing the most good with your giving.

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner — just \$1.92!

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Cold pizza out of a dumpster was how I survived

EDITOR'S NOTE: For a long time, drinking was more important to Andy than anything — even eating. Here, in his own words, is how Andy's life almost unraveled before your gifts offered him new hope.

By Andy S.

Before I came to Union Gospel Mission, I had been drinking heavily for about 10 years. I couldn't hold a job. I couldn't function. I was living in an abandoned house, rummaging through the garbage behind the local pizza joint, looking for something to eat. Sometimes, I'd find cold pizza; other times, I wouldn't find anything.

That's how I survived ... on dumpster pizza, or stealing food from the corner gas station. I'd take a handful of brats or hot dogs, eat what I needed, then sell the rest to buy alcohol. When you get down that low, it's hard to get out.

I felt so beat up. I got a girlfriend, we broke up, I went out and drank. I tried to get clean for my family, they'd tell me, "We still can't trust you," I went

out and drank. The courts told me they'd drop the felony charges off my record if I stopped drinking, but I couldn't stop. I violated probation, and ended up sitting in county jail for a year.

Finally, things got so bad, I called the Christ Recovery Center.

The Mission has been great. No matter what your background is, they don't judge you. I walked away from God.

"I know what it's like to have nothing to eat."

Now with the Mission's help, I've gotten my faith back.

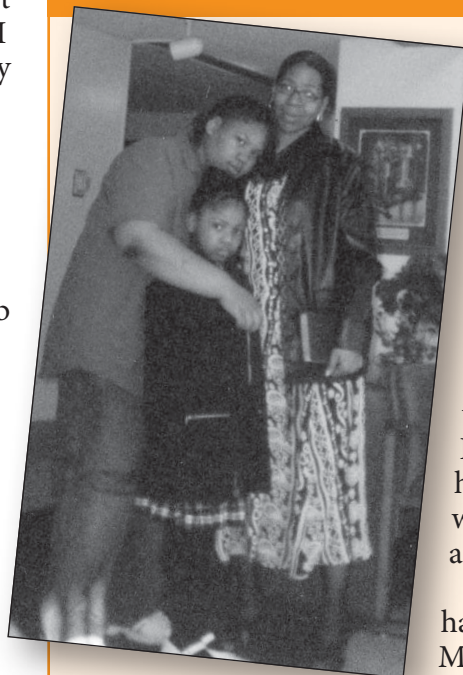
It's nice not having to worry about food, either. Now when I grab a plate, I don't waste anything. Because I know what it's like to have nothing to eat.

Your gifts make it possible for people like Andy to turn their lives around. This holiday season, his future is filled with hope. You are a big reason why. Thank you.



Andy remembers what's it like to go without eating. So now, when he sits down to dinner in the Mission dining room, he cleans every bit of food off his plate.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



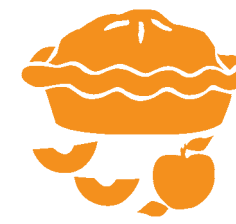
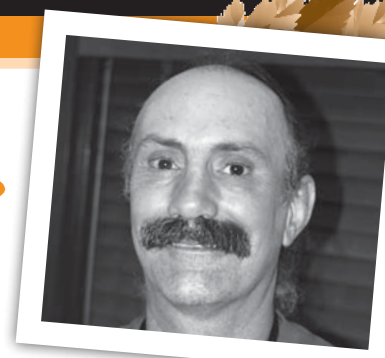
Tina says, "I thought I was going to die an addict." But she didn't. She's gotten clean and has moved into her own apartment. What made the difference? The Mission, and generous friends like you! "I thought I'd be living with a bunch of religious fanatics," she says of her two years at our Naomi Family Residence. Instead, she found herself "surrounded by people with warm hearts who believed in a God who was merciful and kind." Since graduating, Tina once again has custody of her two girls. "This Mission changes lives," she says. Her sobriety, and her growing relationship with God, are proof of that!

What are you thankful for?



"I am thankful for my home because you can play and sleep in my house. Some poor people don't have a house and that makes me feel sad."

— Kiaria, age 10, client
Child Development Center



"I thank God for bringing me to Union Gospel Mission. I found out about this place when I was in jail. Now I have a bed, classes to go to, fellowship with my brothers, and my walk with God is getting stronger."

— Steve, client, Discipleship Program



"I am thankful for my Mom and Dad. They do a lot of good stuff for our family. They also give toys away to other kids — sometimes, MY toys."

— DeMarco, age 11, client
Child Development Center



"I've got a lot to be thankful for — my health, which allows me to keep working and gives me the energy to do what I love. I am thankful because I still love my job and because I have hope."

— Becky Roe-Smith, Director
WorkNet

Yes, you CAN!

If you're planning to attend this year's Christian Community Fair at the St. Paul RiverCentre, don't forget to bring canned goods for the needy.



As part of our holiday food drive, Union Gospel Mission will be collecting canned foods and other non-perishable food items on Friday, Nov. 14 (4-8 p.m.) and Saturday, Nov. 15 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.). Simply look for collection barrels at many of the entry points.

Items needed most include canned peas, corn, green beans, yams, cranberry sauce, and boxed stuffing mix.

The St. Paul RiverCentre is located at 175 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. For more information, contact the Mission at 651-292-1721.

Visit our Web site!

For more stories like these, or specific information about our many programs, go to www.ugmtc.org. You can also use our Web site to:

- Learn about volunteer opportunities.
- Find out about upcoming events.
- Give a cash gift through our secure donation site.