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## Growing Possibilities

Just like a seed that is planted and watered and grows to become a beautiful, flowering plant, the work we are called to do at the Urban Mission has the potential to be life-giving and future changing for those we serve as well.

“Growing Possibilities” is our theme for 2017 and already, God has provided some unique insight into what this might look like for the year to come.

Since January, the Urban Mission has taken some strategic steps to grow our current ministries and launch a few new programs that will have the potential to change the trajectory of the lives of hundreds of families in our community.

From improvements to our food rescue system, to launching our free store and furniture bank, to preparing to open a second shelter... we are excited about the possibilities for 2017 and beyond!

Additionally, we recently welcomed two new staff members to the Urban Mission team to assist in this work and expand our reach in the community. (You'll learn more about them inside this newsletter.)

I am excited about the possibilities for this year and know that this is just the beginning of our move towards helping others find a fresh start out of poverty.

I am also reminded that, although we might plant the seeds, and others might water them, it is God who provides the growth.

Stay tuned for how you can help plant and tend to the seeds of change and possibility in our community. May God's mercy shine upon us all as we seek to grow His kingdom on Earth as it is in heaven.

*Rev. Ashley*

Rev. Ashley  
Executive Director

## Volunteer Opportunities for February

- ♥ Client Choice Food Pantry: Monday through Friday, 8 – 2:30pm
- ♥ Unity Kitchen: Monday- Wednesday, 9am – 1pm
- ♥ Mission Rejoice Saturday Church Service: Need for churches to host a service and fellowship meal, Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- ♥ Parish Nurses: Need volunteer nurses, Monday, Tuesday, or Wed.
- ♥ Clothes Closet: Need volunteers to sort and restock, Monday – Friday; Tuesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- ♥ Newsletter Folders: Need volunteers the last Thursday of every month from 9am - Noon

WE ♥ OUR  
VOLUNTEERS

### Follow our Water Garden progress!

Speaking of growing... we are experimenting in aquaponics at the Urban Mission these days.

Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture (or fish farming), with hydroponics (or growing plants in nutrient-rich water).

We are excited for how this might help us provide healthy and affordable food to our local community.

If you'd like to find out more information or to help in this new venture, give us a call and ask for the “Fish Farmer.”



## What's Happening in February?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	2 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm	3	4 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
5	6 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	7 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet 10 to 2pm	8 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	9 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm	10	11 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
12	13 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	14 Food Pick-up Groups M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet 10 to 2pm	15 Food Pick-up Groups M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	16 Food Pick-up Groups M-R 8:00am-2:30pm	17	18 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
19	20 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	21 Food Pick-up Groups S - Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet 10 to 2pm	22 Food Pick-up Groups S - Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	23 Food Pick-up Groups S - Z 8:00am-2:30pm Newsletter Folding	24	25 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
26	27 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	28 Senior Food Boxes Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet 10 to 2pm				

## Point in Time Homeless Count 2017

On the night of Tuesday, January 24, over twenty service workers and volunteers gathered at the Beacon House in Steubenville to participate in the annual Point-In-Time Count, a state-wide event to document homelessness in all counties in Ohio. Earlier in the day, participating service agencies helped to fill out surveys with those they encountered who identified as homeless. The night count, called the Unsheltered Count, documented anyone found without shelter, perhaps staying in cars, on the street, or in abandoned buildings.

Staff and volunteers broke into groups and targeted areas throughout the county such as Wintersville, Toronto, Richmond, Bloomingdale, and Steubenville. With the assistance of local police, these groups scoured parking lots, convenient stores, parks, and buildings in search of anyone without shelter. Each group had unique experiences depending on what part of the county they surveyed. Volunteers from Franciscan reflected positively on their experience saying, *"I really enjoyed getting involved in the community in such a unique way,"* and *"Everyone we talked to was so thankful that we were taking the time to provide better services for the homeless."*

This was the first year that service providers in the county collaborated beforehand and came together to do a systematic count of the unsheltered. Though the totals have not been calculated yet, service providers who participated in the count were encouraged by the community support and the prospect of submitting more accurate numbers. Not only do accurate numbers yield more funding from the state, but data from the Point-In-Time Count helps service agencies to provide better programs for the homeless in our county.

*To join with others in the fight to end homelessness in the Ohio Valley, we invite you to **"Like"** the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Jefferson and Harrison Counties Facebook page.*



### We'd like to introduce you to...



#### Vanessa Slappy

My name is Vanessa Slappy, Office Manager at the Urban Mission. My passion is to help others achieve happiness and I believe working here will allow me to fulfill my purpose. I am very excited to be a part of a faith based nonprofit organization that provides food, clothing and shelter, not only to the local community but to the Ohio Valley. I've always admired the Urban Mission and its friendly work environment. It is an honor to be part of an amazing team!



#### Kelly Jeffers

I am so excited to be a part of the Urban Mission! As the Director of New Initiatives, I will be working on a series of new programs geared to helping our neighbors break out of the cycle of poverty. Already, 2017 is off to a great start; our focus this year is "Growing Possibilities" and my spirit is alive with creative ideas to bring about positive change in the area. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year!



#### Elizabeth Bennette

When I found out that I was placed at the Urban Mission in Steubenville for my second Social Work internship, I was delighted. I am a Steubenville native, born and raised here, and to be able to work at an agency serving my community is both an honor and a privilege. I am a Social Work and Accounting major at Franciscan University of Steubenville, scheduled to graduate in May of 2019.

My goal is to combine my accounting and social work skills to serve an agency here in Jefferson County. While placed at the Urban Mission, I hope to help better my community. I am looking forward to learning about the assets and strengths of Steubenville and Jefferson County, as well as learning the needs and how I can help address them. I will be here at the Urban Mission through May, and it is my hope that I can meet those of you whom we serve, and learn from your experiences.

## JOSHUA Program UPDATES



Do you know anyone in need of home repairs? Each summer, youth groups from throughout the country come to Steubenville to serve with our JOSHUA (Journeys of Service Helping Upper Appalachia) Program. Volunteer groups do basic home repairs for those in need in the area. Homeowner applications will be available in early February. For an application, please call Calene at 740.282.8010 or go online at [www.urbanmission.org](http://www.urbanmission.org)

We are also signing up churches willing to "host" each work group. A host church typically provides breakfast on Monday morning and dinner on Thursday for one of the summer work groups. The host church can also share in a time of fellowship and worship with the service group. For more information or if your church is interested in hosting a group, please call Calene Dougherty at 740.282.8010.

For 2017, we are also looking for a **JOSHUA Construction Director**. If you know someone with a background in construction who enjoys working with the youth and serving the community, please have them call our office at 740.282.8010 for more information regarding this summer position.

### Jellybeans

Yes, it is time to think about Jelly Beans again! When you're out shopping and see these colorful little candy eggs, could you pick up a bag or two for the Urban Mission? Our goal this year is to collect 1200 bags. The deadline for having the jellybeans to the Urban Mission is Friday, March 31, 2017.

We invite you to make this a fun project by challenging others to join in. Ask family members to help. Place a box in your office or work area and set a goal for co-workers to help obtain. Teachers, get your students to challenge each other. There are many ways to make this a fun project. If you have any questions, call Linda Costello (Hunger Services Director) at 740-282-2911.

### 5K Walk/Run to Stop the Violence

The **Neighborhood Community Development Center** of the Urban Mission is gearing up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **"Stop the Violence" 5K Walk/Run** in downtown Steubenville.

**When:** Saturday, April 1, 2017

**Time:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Cost:** FREE

**Starting Point:** 115 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Municipal Building

And new this year... Sidewalk Health Fair!

#### Ways to Get Involved:

- Participate in the 5K
- Volunteer on the day of the event
- Sponsor a water station
- Come out and cheer us on!



**Pre-registration begins Monday, February 13!**  
**Contact Cynthia Lytle for more information.**