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January 2017

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

January

Building Community theme established for 2016

February

"The Table" hosts its first Community Prayer Stations for Lent

March

Renovations begin at the War Memorial Building

April

Minority Health Month events held, including life-saving prostate & breast cancer screenings

Volunteer Luncheon held to celebrate more than 33,000 hours of volunteer service

May

Urban Mission is awarded the Jefferson County Summer Food Program from the State of Ohio

June

JOSHUA program begins – volunteers will go on to complete 96 individual projects for homeowners throughout the summer

July

Urban Mission hosts its annual summer picnic at Aracoma Park

August

Back to School Bash provides book bags and supplies to more than 1,650 school age children

September

Urban Mission hosts the "The Longest Table," an outdoor community dining experience for 300 guests

October

Urban Mission begins planning for the annual Point in Time Count with the Jefferson/Harrison County Homeless Coalition

November

1,600 families receive Thanksgiving food baskets through the generosity of Urban Mission donors

December

1,101 children provided with Christmas toys through the Urban Mission Christmas Shop

With gratitude...

As I reflect on the year 2016 and the multiple high points we experienced at the Urban Mission, I am once again overwhelmed by your support for our community's most vulnerable.

None of what you see listed here would have been possible without divine partnerships, selfless giving, and your willingness to care for others in tangible and life-changing ways.

Thank you for partnering with the Urban Mission and for working alongside us to ensure people's most basic needs are met, dignified services are provided, and God is honored in all we do.

As we begin a new year, we look forward to keeping you updated and hearing from you as to what role you will play in fighting hunger, ending homelessness and helping others break out of the cycle of poverty.

This year we believe that with God, anything is possible. May we all be "people of possibility" as we live into this reality!

God's blessings on your new year,

Rev. Ashley

Rev. Ashley

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT TABLE EVENT:

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2016



What's Happening in January?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm	4 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	5 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm	6	7 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm MLK Jr. Musical 2nd Baptist, 6pm
8	9 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	10 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	11 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	12 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm	13	14 MLK Youth Program MLK Jr. Center 9am Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
15 MLK Jr. Memorial Service First West Presbyterian 6pm	16 Reflection & March MLK Jr. Center 9am Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	17 Food Pick-up Groups M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet OPEN	18 Food Pick-up Groups M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	19 Food Pick-up Groups M-R 8:00am-2:30pm	20	21 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
22	23 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	24 Food Pick-up Groups S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet OPEN	25 Food Pick-up Groups S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	26 Food Pick-up Groups S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm	27	28 Mission Rejoice 5-7 pm
29	30 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	31 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Clothes Closet OPEN				

A Special Thank You!

From the desk of Cynthia Lytle...

I'm always amazed at how fleeting the holiday season can be. One minute you're trimming the Christmas tree and the next you're staring at the empty space where the tree used to be.

Although the celebratory nature of the holiday season may be gone, one thing remains for me: thankfulness.

Words cannot express how grateful I am for every Christmas donor, volunteer, and staff member who made our Christmas Kids Program a great success.

I'll admit, the responsibility of ensuring that more than 1,000 children were given a special Christmas made me quite nervous.

Admittedly, by the end of the first day of distribution, my nervousness and fears had subsided, and I was reminded of one simple thing: we are not in this alone.

I am thankful to say that we were able to provide Christmas gifts for over 1,101 children and teens!

To every individual, family, business, church, and organization who sponsored a child, thank you for reminding us that it is still better to give than to receive.

To every volunteer who played an elf for the day, thank you for reminding us that giving is a way of living.

To every Urban Mission staff member, thank you for having faith in me and reminding me that together we can do great things! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

- Cynthia (Smith) Lytle,
Community Development Director



The Table - March 2nd

We're excited to share the news that the Urban Mission will host its first Table gathering for 2017 on Thursday, March 2nd. On this night, we'll reveal the 2017 Prayer Stations for Lent, but this time... with a twist!

If you've never attended a Table gathering, we invite you to come to our March 2nd gathering. Prepare to spend an hour or more, sharing a simple meal around the table and hearing how God is still speaking words of hope and possibility into our communities.

For more information or to reserve your spot, call us at 740.282.8010 or email: asteele@urbanmission.org.

A New Year, New Volunteering Opportunities

This year, we are excited to offer some new and meaningful volunteering opportunities at the Urban Mission. We'd love for you to join us. Below are a few opportunities for your consideration:

Healthy food prep - Join us this year as we focus on serving healthy and hearty meals to more than 100 people every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

Gardening - Got a green thumb, or like to get your hands dirty? We're experimenting with some new gardening techniques and would love to have your expertise.

Rehab work at the War Memorial Building - If you're a General contractor, or consider yourself a handyman or handywoman, give us a call and we'll have a job for you!

Clothes Closet - As this ministry expands, volunteers are needed to help sort, wash and hang clothes.

Donation Inventory - We are creating a new system to distribute donated items to community members in need. We're looking for folks who love to organize!

Once you have found your special volunteer project, please contact Ms. Cynthia Lytle at 740.282.8010 or csmith@urbanmission.org.

Year End Statements

We are blessed to have the support of so many individuals throughout the year. If you gave financially in 2016, please check your mailbox for a Year End Giving statement. All statements will be postmarked by January 31, 2017. Thank you for your generosity!

Special Program Updates

Help us spread the word! Check out these updates regarding some of our special programs in 2017.



Clothes Closet

Beginning on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, we'll be opening back up our Clothes Closet to serve those who are in need of clothes, coats and other warm items. Our Clothes Closet will be open from 10am - 2pm every Tuesday at the War Memorial Building. Currently we are collecting coats, hats, gloves, blankets, and sweaters to best serve our customers.

Prevent Blindness

We are once again accepting applications for the Prevent Blindness Ohio program. If you or someone you know is in need of glasses or to schedule an appointment with a local eye doctor, please call our Client Engagement Director, Calene Dougherty, at 740.282.8010 to learn more.



Spiritual Care

In addition to providing food, shelter and other essential services, the Urban Mission is also called to care for the spiritual health of our community. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, prayer, or to get connected to a local church, please call us at 740.282.8010. We'd love to serve you in this way!

Furniture

The Urban Mission is blessed to receive donated furniture items from our local community. If you or someone you know is in need of furniture, please have them call our main office at 740.282.8010.



Point In Time Count

On January 24, the Urban Mission and other local service agencies will be participating in an annual event called the Point-In-Time Count. The Point-In-Time Count is a state-wide event, held every January, in which each county counts the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons living in their county.

Data from the count helps service providers, like the Urban Mission, better plan and deliver services to homeless individuals. It also helps to determine how much funding homeless organizations receive from the State. This year, many local agencies are partnering together to help conduct this count throughout Jefferson and Harrison Counties.

The Urban Mission is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping conduct surveys and organize supplies for the Point-In-Time Count on January 24.

On the day of the event, we are also looking for friends of the homeless to distribute personal care bags, toiletries and food.

If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, please contact Calene Dougherty at the Urban Mission Office at 740-282-8010.



JANUARY 24TH, 2017