

May 2017



Bright

Rev. Ashley Steele, Executive Director

Vanessa Slappy, Editor

The Amazing Raise Ohio Valley

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

The Urban Mission is excited to, once again, participate in the “Amazing Raise Ohio Valley”.

This is a one-day only fundraising event, scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

Donations of \$10 or more made online will be eligible to be amplified through a bonus pool of dollars from the total donations received through the CFOV. You may also send a check prior to May 2nd, 2017 to the CFOV (1310 Market St # 1, Wheeling, WV 26003) and mention Urban Mission in the subject line.

**To give your gift, visit
www.urbanmission.org.**

The Amazing Raise Ohio Valley was created as a special charitable giving day initiated by the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley (CFOV). It's a day to celebrate the Ohio Valley's spirit of generosity and support the work of nonprofits.

— *Multiply* —
YOUR GIFT

In Memory of Ms. Angie Brown



A few weeks ago, the Urban Mission received some devastating news. Our own, Ms. Angela Brown, passed away at the young age of 39.

Ms. Angie had been receiving treatment for cancer in Florida when she died Thursday, April 6, 2017 at Jackson Memorial Medical Center in Miami, FL.

For more than 15 years, Ms. Angie played an integral role at the Urban Mission. Throughout her tenure as the Administrative Director, she creatively and inspiringly served the Urban Mission staff, its volunteers and donors as well as its clients by providing administrative support, communication and producing all Urban Mission marketing material. She oversaw all staff matters and was instrumental in acquiring grants and other funding for the Urban Mission. She did all of this (and so much more!) in a Christ-like, grace filled, humble way.

In her home church, Ms. Angie was a Minister spreading the Gospel. She also served as the secretary for the Ohio District Council Young Peoples' Union and an administrator for the Ohio District Council's Young People's Camp

A memorial service will be held for Ms. Angie Brown in May. For more information as to how you can honor Ms. Angie's memory please contact Rev. Ashley Steele.

Serving with Justice & Mercy

What motivates you to serve? There are many reasons people get involved with charity organizations such as the desire to give back or a personal connection to the specific cause. But a common thread that drives most service work is some level of mercy on the part of the giver. Mercy is defined as "compassion, kindness, or forgiveness shown especially to someone over whom a person has power." Most people who work or volunteer with charity organizations show mercy on a daily basis. The qualities of kindness and compassion are often what stir our hearts when we see someone hungry, thirsty, or in need of shelter and want to help. And this is a beautiful thing. After all, Jesus calls us to serve the poor to the extent that us that when we do so, we are serving Him. Here at the Urban Mission, we see God's mercy working so powerfully in those who give of their time and resources to help others.

But sometimes there is an unintended side effect that comes along with charity. When charity becomes a long-term and one-sided, it can result in dependency on the part of recipient, which can lead to a sense of entitlement on the part of the giver, despite the best of intentions. When mercy and compassion alone drive the service, it can lead to an environment that disempowers individuals rather than helping them to self-sufficiency. As we respond to Christ's call to serve those in need, we must ensure that we do not create unnecessary dependency through our service.

But when justice helps to shape the charity work, a more holistic service is provided. Justice is "fairness or reasonableness, especially in the way people are treated or decisions are made." Justice ensures that the good of the person is served, which sometimes requires ownership, responsibility, decision making, and action on the part of the recipient. Serving with justice requires a two-sided system, involving give and take for both the giver and the recipient.

As we evaluate the ways we are serving at the Urban Mission and get ready for the new opportunities we have coming up this year, we are striving in new ways to serve with both mercy and justice. Through making changes to our existing programs and developing entirely new initiatives, we are seeking ways to serve the whole individual. As we seek to serve holistically, our first priority is to recognize the dignity of each person and to empower all those we serve to live to the fullest. To learn more about mercy and justice and to gain a new perspective on charity work, check out Robert Lupton's book *Toxic Charity*.

- Calene Dougherty, Client Engagement Director

i-Serve 2017 Volunteer Day

On Saturday, May 6th, the Urban Mission will partner with The Valley Youth Workers Network to host a day of community service for local youth. The type of work will include landscaping, painting, cleaning, sorting food and clothing and much more! All participants will receive free pizza and a t-shirt. The event will run from 9:00-3:00 on Saturday May 6th at the Urban Mission. We welcome school and church youth groups as well as adult groups and individuals. It is a great way to give back to the under resourced in our community. Call us today to reserve your spot – 740.282.8010!

Americorps/VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)

We are proud to announce that the Urban Mission is serving as a first time Americorps VISTA host site. In July we will welcome our VISTA member, Ms. Deandra Goodman. Deandra will be relocating from North Carolina to serve at the Urban Mission for one year, to help us establish a food rescue system, a community food hub, and an Urban Farming System for UM food programs. We invite you to help us welcome Deandra when she arrives in July. See you soon Deandra!

We're Hiring!

If you've always wanted to work at the Urban Mission, we're looking to hire two new members to our Warehouse team. If you have experience in Warehouse management, please consider checking out our position descriptions available on our website or on Facebook.

2017 Summer Food Service Program

The Urban Mission is gearing up for its second year as a Summer Food Service Program sponsor. Beginning June 5 - August 25, the Urban Mission will serve lunches during the week at the Martin Luther King Center, Murphy's Field, Simpson United Methodist Church, and Ridgewood Apartments (Wintersville). Lunches will be served daily from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm followed by games and activities at each site.

Last year, we were privileged to serve over 2,000 summer meals, and we plan to serve more children this year. We are in need of volunteers for our Steubenville sites and donations to help us meet meal costs. A donation of \$18.00 will help feed one child for one week of the summer food program.

To find out how you can help with the 2017 Summer Food Program, contact Cynthia Lytle at 740.282.8010 or clytle@urbanmission.org.

Annual Appreciation Luncheon

The annual Urban Mission Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Lunch event was held on April 21st, 2017. This year's theme... "*Growing Possibilities.*"

If you were unable to attend, here's a short summary of the day. Starting at noon guests began to arrive at Eastern Gateway Community College's Founders Hall.



After having their picture taken at the garden themed photo booth, a booklet with distributed with engaging facts about the Urban Mission's various programs, and the "growing possibilities" for 2017 and beyond.

Guests were then invited to visit informational stations including an eight-foot tall outdoor Grow Room, a planting station, a simulated Farmers Market, and an Aquaponics exhibit. Urban Mission t-shirts were also available.

Lunch was catered by Capraro's, a Hopedale based restaurant and catering company, and deserts were prepared by Urban Mission staff. Lunch was followed by a program held in the EGCC Lecture Hall with Ms. Cynthia Lytle serving as the emcee.

During the program, a Candlelight Memorial Service was held for departed volunteers and donors, as well as our beloved, Ms. Angie Brown. Rev. Ashley Steele shared about the theme for this year and introduced an inspiring video presentation produced by EM Media. Staff members, representing various UM programs, then shared special appreciation moments expressing the impact both our volunteers and donors have, not only on our clients but our staff members as well. The afternoon ended more than 20 raffles prizes auctioned off as well as a closing blessing.

The UM thanks our donors and volunteers for making this even such a success as well as Eastern Gateway Community College for allowing us to host this event and their maintenance staff and student body for helping us set up.



For those who were unable to attend, you were missed. To all, thank you for your dedication, hard work and support.

- Vanessa Slappy, Office Manager

From the New Initiatives Desk

Spring is in full bloom here at the Urban Mission and we are enjoying the sunshine and blue skies. Thankfully many New Initiatives are in bloom as well. Our furniture program is still growing and as we grow we are learning to improve our methods for storage and distribution. This can be a challenging ministry but when we see how happy our clients are with their new furniture we know our every effort is worth it!

Some exciting news on the continuing education front is a trip to Cass Community Church in Detroit, Michigan coming up May 10th – 12th to take part in their workshop "Ministry With the Poor." We will experience some best practices in the Green Industry revolution as well as some hands on Christian Community Development strategies. We will give a full update in next month's newsletter about our trip and all that we learned! Until then.....bloom where you are planted!

- Ms. Kelly Jeffers, New Initiatives Director

JOSHUA Set to Begin



The JOSHUA summer work mission is right around the corner! Work groups are planning their trips and projects are being prepared for the summer. We are excited to see how God will

work again through the program this summer.

For over 25 years, the JOSHUA home repair program has assisted area residents with home repairs and small scale construction projects at no cost to the homeowner. Youth groups and schools take time from their summers and often travel great distances to participate in the program and volunteer their time.

This year, we have been so blessed by the response of the local churches. Churches have already volunteered to host each group by providing meals and supporting the groups through prayer. We want to thank each Host Church that has already signed up. Your support helps to connect the groups to the community and adds so much to the JOSHUA experience.

For more information about the JOSHUA program or to ask about ways you or your church can get involved, please call the main office at 740.282.8010 or email cdougherty@urbanmission.org.

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LABEL

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm Clothes Closet 10am-2pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	3 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	4 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm	5	6 i-Serve 9am Mission Rejoice 5pm
7	8 Parish Nurse 11am Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	11 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Clothes Closet 10am-2pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	12 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	13 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm	14	15 Mission Rejoice 5pm
16 	17 Parish Nurse 11am Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	18 Food Pick-up Group M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Clothes Closet 10am-2pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	19 Food Pick-up Group M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	20 Food Pick-up Group M-R 8:00am-2:30pm	21	22 Mission Rejoice 5pm
23	24 Parish Nurse 11am Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	25 Food Pick-up Group S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Clothes Closet 10am-2pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	26 Food Pick-up Group S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	27 Food Pick-up Group S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Newsletter Folding 9am Board of Director's Meeting 6pm	28	29 Mission Rejoice 5pm
30	31 Closed for Memorial Day					