

April 2018 Newsletter

# Bright Horizons

Rev. Ashley Steele, Executive Director

Vanessa Slappy, Newsletter Editor

## Pick up your stone

In the book of Joshua, chapter 4, there is a powerful moment when God parts the water and the people miraculously cross through the Jordan River.

After making their way to the other side Joshua tells the leaders to pick up a stone and carry it with them as a sign of this great and miraculous thing that God has done in their midst. They are to stack the stones and leave them as a monument so when their children ask *"What do those stones mean to you?"* they can tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off so the people could pass by.

As a reminder of this text I leave a stone sitting on my desk at the Urban Mission. It's not a fancy stone. It isn't polished or sparkly or even colorful. In fact, it's just a stone. And... a stone from none other than our own parking lot at the Urban Mission!

It's a stone that has seen a lot. It has been walked on, driven over, kicked around, rained on, covered in snow, and blown by the wind.

To others this stone might not seem significant, but to me it represents something much more.

It represents God's faithfulness. God's power. God's miraculous work in our midst. It's a reminder of all the things God has done, is doing and will do in the future of the Urban Mission.

As you reflect on your own life, I am sure you have "stones" as well. Stones that represent times when God provided protection, guidance, power, healing, and peace. Stones that represent God's faithfulness, forgiveness, generosity, and love as well.

I have found these "stones" serve as nice reminders – especially in the difficult times - that God is faithful and that God is still in the miracle business.

In the coming months we'll be stacking more stones at the Urban Mission. Stones that represent God's miraculous work in the lives of those we serve, the buildings God has given us to steward over, and the people, like you, who God has brought alongside us to offer prayer, support and care.

In fact, we'll be celebrating these "stones" at our Volunteer & Donor Appreciation event to be held on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope you will be able to attend.

Until then, God's blessings on your Easter season,

*Rev. Ashley*  
Rev. Ashley Steele

"Listening with Compassion. Serving with Love"  
[www.urbanmission.org](http://www.urbanmission.org)

## What's happening in April?

April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday!  
Praise God for the gift of the resurrection, so we can experience renewal and reconciliation!

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Urban Thrift & Opportunity Center opens to the public

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Stop the Violence 5K Walk/Run, Steubenville

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Urban Mission at Thoburn UMC, St. Clairsville

April 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> – Urban Mission presents at Ohio Housing Conference, Columbus

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Dance for Life Workshop, MLK Center, Steubenville

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Urban Mission at Ohio Valley District Women's Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Starkdale Presbyterian at Mission Rejoice



## Amazing Things Are Among Us!

We have been overwhelmed with stories about the amazing things happening all around us. In fact, we are so excited we would like to celebrate all the good that is taking place! And... we'd like you to join us as well!

On Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we invite you to be our guest at our annual Volunteer & Donor Appreciation event. This year it will be held at a slightly different time and in an unusual, but exciting location. See below for the invitation.



## VOLUNTEER & DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

**DATE:** THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018  
**TIME:** 5PM - 7PM  
**LOCATION:** SHOPPING PLAZA, CORNER OF NORTH & 7TH STREET, STEUBENVILLE

Heavy appetizers will be served upon arrival  
Ample parking available in plaza lot  
Program will begin at 5:45pm

RSVP by April 26th to Vanessa: 740.282.8010 or [vslappy@urbanmission.org](mailto:vslappy@urbanmission.org)

## Have You Sent In Your Amazing Story?

Know someone who is doing something amazing for others? There's still time to submit your story. Send us a one page letter or email ([asteel@urbanmission.org](mailto:asteel@urbanmission.org)) telling us about someone you know doing incredible, amazing things! You can also go online at [www.urbanmission.org](http://www.urbanmission.org) to share your story. We will continue to collect these stories until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Multiply your giving - Amazing Raise!

We are excited to participate in the "Amazing Raise" online giving challenge on Tues., May 1, 2018. This is one-day only, fundraising event is sponsored by the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley. All donations of \$10 or more are eligible to be multiplied. To give, you can go to [www.urbanmission.org](http://www.urbanmission.org) on May 1<sup>st</sup> or send a check prior to May 1st to the CFOV (1310 Market St # 1, Wheeling, WV 26003) and mention Urban Mission in the subject line.

## Urban Thrift opens April 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Opening day is almost here! Our staff and volunteers have been working hard to go through the wonderful items that have been donated to the store to be sold at a very low cost to the community. Right now the store is being cleaned, painted and organized - even as you read this. We're so excited to offer this service to the community and can't wait for you to see all the changes and updates that have been made. We invite you to stop by and visit us on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Doors open at 9am. The store will then be open from 9 - 5pm, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Donations can be dropped off each day between 9-5pm, Monday - Friday.

## Introducing our Urban Thrift Staff



**Ms. Kelly Jeffers** has been serving as our Director of New Initiatives for just over a year. Now she is ready to launch our newest initiative...Urban Thrift and Opportunity Center. As our **Store Manager**, Kelly will be the face of the store and the Chief Customer Service Officer - seeking to make everyone's visit to the store a meaningful experience!

**Ms. Aimee Livingston** will be serving as the Urban Thrift and Opportunity Center's **Assistant Manager**. Aimee has a passion for service as well as the community of Steubenville. She's excited to be a part of the Urban Thrift team and brings a creative dynamic to the design and operations of the store.

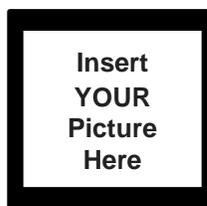


**Ms. Joey Lee Blangor** will be serving as our **Store Warehouse Supervisor**. Joey was born & raised in the City of Steubenville & has been looking for an opportunity to give back. If you have items to donate & would like to drop them off at our store, Joey is who you'll see!

**Mr. Justin Chesla** will be serving as one of the **Drivers** along with **Mr. Joe Roe**. Justin grew up in Jewett, Ohio and attended Kent State Univ. Justin is also a member of Bethel UMC in Hopedale. Justin loves helping people and looks forward to working with the community.



**We can't operate this ministry without YOU!** If you've been looking for a volunteer opportunity, Urban Thrift might be a good match for you! We're looking for customer service oriented volunteers able to work in the store, or the warehouse, or even riding with our drivers on furniture pick-ups. And there's always a need for help with maintenance and general upkeep of the store facility. If you're interested in volunteering and would like to learn more, give us a call at 740.282.8010 or email Cynthia at [clytle@urbanmission.org](mailto:clytle@urbanmission.org).



## Shelter Updates

Throughout the month of March we were blessed with volunteers from Cecil Alliance Church of Cecil, PA and Strongsville UMC in Strongsville, OH. Both groups helped tremendously in providing significant updates to shelter guest rooms in the former City Rescue Mission shelter. Check out the inside of one of our shelter rooms. What a blessing!



A big Urban Mission welcome to Mr. **Gregory Harrison**, our chef in residence at the shelter! Mr. Greg has lived in Steubenville for the past 22 years and has volunteered in the Unity Kitchen for the past 2 years. Mr. Greg is a wonderful cook and a caring individual – making more than enough food for all to enjoy. Word on the street is that he makes a delicious meatloaf. Stop in at the shelter to see Greg and enjoy great food prepared with love!

## Current Mission Needs

**Providing Personal Care products for shelters:** We are currently in need of razors, shaving cream, shampoo, soap, deodorant (men and women's), women's feminine hygiene products and socks. By donating, you help affirm the dignity of the men and women staying in our shelter.

**Donation Counters:** Do you have a finance background? A love for numbers? Urban Mission is seeking reliable & trustworthy volunteers to help us with our weekly donation counting and bank deposits. This involves sorting and counting donations, preparing documents for deposit, and taking the deposit to the bank. Time commitment depends on number of donations and will vary throughout the year – average of 1 day per week for approximately 3 hours. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please call our office at 740-282-8010 or email Amber at [awade@urbanmission.org](mailto:awade@urbanmission.org).

**Folding Team:** Each month we mail over 1,500 newsletters and hundreds of thank you notes. If you have a few hours each month you'd like to share with the Urban Mission, we invite you to join our "Folding Team." Most months this team meets on the last Thursday of the month between 9am – Noon. If that doesn't work for your schedule, we welcome you to our office any weekday between 8am – 4pm to help with daily office tasks. To learn more or sign up, please call 740-282-8010 and ask to speak with Vanessa.



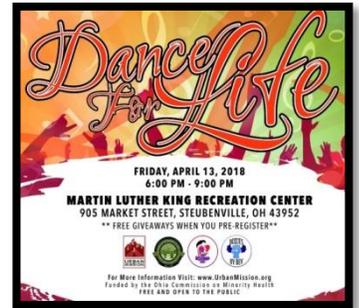
## 5K Walk/Run – Saturday, April 7th



Come and support this meaningful 5K Walk/Run in downtown Steubenville to take a stand again violence and bring a message of peace. Sign up today or just show up on the day of the event! Parking will be near the starting point. Call 740.282.8010 for details.

## Dance for Life – Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

Do you like to dance? Trying to get in shape? On April 13<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to come and Dance for Life. This year, we'll have Beverly Thomas from Bodies by Bev, Clay Morefield, personal trainer from Pittsburgh, and our local line-dancing troupe leading us in dance. Dr. Darla Timbo will also be bringing a message of health and well-being. Sign up today at [urbanmission.org](http://urbanmission.org) or sign up on site. See you there!



## Have you been screened?

We care about your health and so do our community partners.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a free Mammogram or Prostate Exam, please call us today at 740.282.8010.



All events are free and open to the public.

Help us spread the word about these lifesaving opportunities.



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# April 2018 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Easter Sunday!</b>	2 MISSION Closed for Easter Monday	3 Food Pick-up Group A-E Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	4 Food Pick-up Group A-E Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	5 Food Pick-up Group A-E Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	6	7 Minority Health Month 5K Walk/Run Race 11am Mission Rejoice 5pm
8	9 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	10 Food Pick-up Group F-L Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	11 Food Pick-up Group F-L Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	12 Food Pick-up Group F-L Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	13 Dance for Life 6:30p – 9pm MLK	14 Mission Rejoice 5pm
15 <b>Pink Ribbon Sunday</b>	16 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	17 Food Pick-up Group M-R Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	18 Food Pick-up Group M-R Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	19 Food Pick-up Group M-R Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	20	21 Women's Screening 10:30Am – 12:30pm YWCA of Steubenville
22	23 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	24 Food Pick-up Group S-Z Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm Men's Screening 4:30pm-6:30pm Teramana Cancer Center	25 Food Pick-up Group S-Z Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	26 Food Pick-up Group S-Z UM Newsletter Folding 9am Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	27	28 Mission Rejoice 5pm
29	30 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm					

