

Bright Horizons

January – February 2018 Edition

Rev. Ashley Steele, Executive Director

Vanessa Slappy, Newsletter Editor

An exciting journey ahead

Have you heard the exciting news? On January 1st, 2018 the Urban Mission was gifted the City Rescue Mission, a privately run homeless shelter and thrift store located in Steubenville, just blocks away from the Urban Mission.

For more than one hundred years, the City Rescue Mission has served the needs of our community's most vulnerable. Upon the announcement of the previous owners' desire to retire, the Urban Mission began drafting a plan to ensure a smooth transition would occur.

We are happy to report that through this transition the shelter has remained opened and available to receive overnight guests – especially on the extremely cold nights we've had lately. Since January 1st, more than forty homeless individuals have found shelter at the facility and have received follow up care and services.

We have also been working on creating a plan to operate the thrift store using a new approach. As a supporter of the Urban Mission, you know that a desire of ours is to empower our community and affirm the dignity of others. It is our hope that through this thrift store we can train and employ those in our community seeking to break out of the cycle of poverty and receive a fresh start in life.

As always, we will continue to provide for the needs of our community's most vulnerable – those encountering financial hardships, those recovering from fires and natural disasters, our elderly and disabled friends and neighbors.

"Listening with Compassion and Serving with Love" continues to be our motto but restoring lives and relationships compels us to journey into new territory, taking on more responsibility.

We look forward to journeying with you this year. If you'd like to learn more about these exciting ventures, I'd love to hear from you.

God's blessings on your new year,



Rev. Ashley Steele
Executive Director

"Listening with Compassion. Serving with Love"
Serving those in need since 1959.
www.urbanmission.org

YOUR Giving Last Year Provided...

2,381 families with food

1,561 people with clothing

1,605 children with toys at Christmas

30 homeowners with repairs

\$701,831 of in-kind donations (food, furniture, clothing, etc.)

16,180 of volunteer hours

And lots of prayer!

Without the support of our generous donors and volunteers, the Urban Mission would not be able to do what we do!

Thank You for your support!

newsletter

If you prefer to receive your news about the Urban Mission by email, please let us know by sending an email to mail@urbanmission.org.

Seeking Ministry Partners & Volunteers

For all volunteer and giving opportunities, please visit us at www.urbanmission.org or call 740.282.8010.



Ending Hunger: We believe it takes a community to end hunger. Each week we depend on volunteers to staff our food pantry & Unity Kitchen. Volunteering a few hours in our warehouse or pantry will make a world of difference to us! Food & monetary donations are also appreciated as well!

Housing our Homeless: With the addition of another shelter we are in need of twin bed sheets and protective pillow cases. We are also in need of volunteers to perform a few small repairs at the shelter.



Providing Spiritual Care: The 2018 calendar is open for churches wishing to serve as hosts for our Saturday evening worship service. Worship begins at 5pm followed by a meal served in our Unity Kitchen at 6pm. Prayer for our ministries and the people we serve is always appreciated as well!

Developing our Community:

We are currently developing a series of programs to assist our neighbors in the areas of financial management, life skills, parenting, cooking, cleaning, and car repair, among other areas. If you have a gift in one of these areas that you would be willing to share, we'd love to hear from you! Financial support is appreciated too!



Repairing Homes, Rebuilding Lives: Our JOSHUA home repair ministry is revving up for another big season. If you like to use your hands and help others in need, we invite you to join us as we repair local homes for our community's elderly and vulnerable population. No tools necessary as we have all the equipment! Donations for supplies are also being accepted.

All of these volunteer opportunities are available if you, your family and/or your church would be interested in participating in a short term mission trip at the Urban Mission. Each volunteer team that visits the Urban Mission is provided a tour, conversation with Urban Mission staff, and multiple opportunities to make a tangible difference in the lives of many!

Year End Giving Statements

We are thankful for our donors and seek to show our gratitude in various ways. One effort is to send out year-end giving statements. If you do not receive your statement by January 31, 2018, please call our office or email astele@urbanmission.org and we will provide you one.

Welcome Emily!

Hi! My name is Emily Barker, and I am this semester's intern from Franciscan. Fun facts: I am an only child, have a fake tooth, love mint tea, and am not in Kansas anymore - yep, I am from the same land as Dorothy! In a few short months, I will graduate with a degree in social work. Until then, I am excited to meet, serve alongside, and learn from the Steubenville community!



Now accepting furniture & other In-kind donations

****NEW LOCATION****

We are excited to announce that starting February 5th, all furniture & household items can be dropped off at 644 Market Street in downtown Steubenville (previously known as the City Rescue Mission Thrift Store.)

If you need to have your items picked up by an Urban Mission driver, please call our newest office at 740.282.4851 to reserve a day/time. You can also fill out a form online at www.urbanmission.org to submit your request. Pick-ups will begin being scheduled on February 7th, 2018.

We are currently not taking any clothing donations but are able to receive blankets, pillows and sheets at our church location at 301 North 5th Street in Steubenville.

SAVE THE DATE! Minority Health Month 2018 4th Annual "Stop the Violence" 5K Walk/Run

When: Saturday, April 7, 2018
Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Location: Steubenville Municipal Building (5K Start Point)

This year's 5K will feature a Sidewalk Health Fair and Community Health Luncheon held at 1:00 pm.

This event is funded by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and sponsored by the Community Development Center of the Urban Mission

For more information, call 740.282.8010 or visit urbanmission.org



Want to learn more about Urban Mission?

Speaking Engagements: Interested in our staff sharing with your church or organization about poverty, hunger and ways to get involved in your community? Curious to hear the story of the Urban Mission? We can accommodate your needs. If you would like a Mission representative to speak, please call us at 740.282.8010 or email asteele@urbanmission.org.

Hands-On Learning Experience: A 2-4 hour hands-on learning experience in downtown Steubenville that involves interactive discussions about the causes, effects, and realities of homelessness and hunger, and ways to break cycles of poverty, a scavenger hunt in the downtown area, and a walking tour of some of the places downtown that are important in the lives of the un-housed community. Some places we visit include local agencies, downtown churches, redevelopment efforts and historical downtown Steubenville sites. This can be geared toward any age group. To support our work, we ask for a \$15 per person donation for immersions or an in-kind donation of supplies.

Visit Us on Social Media: To stay up to date on the latest news from Urban Mission, we invite you to visit our website at www.urbanmission.org, or stop by our pages on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. If you're able, send us a message that you're following us and how we can better serve your informational needs.

Point in Time Homeless Count

On the night of Tuesday, January 23, social 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. 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 Jefferson & Harrison counties.

Though the totals have not been calculated yet, we look forward to sharing with our observations from the night. To join 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.

It's time for Jelly Beans!

1200 bags is our goal this year, but we can't do it without you! The deadline for having the jellybeans to the Urban Mission Warehouse is Wed., March 28, 2018. If you or your group is interested in making this a fun project, please Linda Costello (Hunger Services Director) at 740-282-2911 to find out more.



Services Available to Our Community

We are happy to share that the Urban Mission's reach extends into Jefferson, Harrison, Belmont & Carroll counties in Ohio as well as Brooke & Hancock counties in West Virginia.

SHELTER: Our shelter is open 24 hours a day, and is available for men, women and children. If you or someone you know is in need of shelter, please call 740.283.1621 OR visit 142 North Sixth Street in downtown Steubenville.

SOCIAL WORKER: The Urban Mission has a full time social worker on staff to be of assistance to the community if and when a need arises. We work with numerous social service agencies and churches to provide the necessary resources for people to get back on their feet.

SPIRITUAL CARE: A pastor is always available to offer prayer in person or by phone. We are able to do hospital visits as well as funerals and weddings.

HOT MEAL: Our Unity Kitchen is currently open Monday – Thursday, serving a hot meal between noon – 1pm. Carry outs are also available.

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLIES: For assistance with food each month, our Warehouse staff is available to provide monthly food staples as well as emergency food. A photo ID and two utility bills are requested to sign up.

HOME REPAIRS: Applications for our JOSHUA Home Repair Program are available now. The JOSHUA Program assists low-income homeowners in making home repairs free of charge. Volunteers from all over Ohio and nearby states travel to Steubenville to assist families in need during the summer months. The projects volunteers complete include interior and exterior painting, landscaping, porch and stair repair and other small home improvements. Applicants must own their home in addition to other criteria. For more info or an application, please call 740.282.8010

CLOTHING: Our Clothes Closet is getting a facelift right now, but if you are in need of a warm coat, clothes, socks & shoes, please stop by our church at 301 North 5th Street and we'll do our best to find you what you need!

VISION CARE: Once again, the Urban Mission is partnering with Prevent Blindness Ohio and Dr. Volk's office to provide vouchers for those in need of new glasses or an eye doctor appointment. There are minimal barriers to accessing this service. Please call 740.282.8010 to take a short questionnaire to see if you qualify.



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 301 North 5th Street
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 Fax: 740.282.8514

Email: mail@urbanmission.org
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LABEL

February 2018 Calendar of Events

						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Mission Rejoice 5pm
4	5 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	6 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	7 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	8 Food Pick-up Group A-E 8:00am-2:30pm	9	10 Mission Rejoice 5pm
11	12 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	13 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	14 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	15 Food Pick-up Group F-L 8:00am-2:30pm	16	17 Mission Rejoice 5pm
18	19 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	20 Food Pick-up Group M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	21 Food Pick-up Group M-R 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	22 Food Pick-up Group M-R 8:00am-2:30pm UM newsletter folding 9am	23	24 Mission Rejoice 5pm
25	26 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	27 Food Pick-up Group S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm	28 Food Pick-up Group S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm			