

Bright Horizons

March 2018



Rev. Ashley Steele, Executive Director

Vanessa Slappy, Newsletter Editor

“Before & After” - Stories of Transformation

Dear friends of the Urban Mission,

For the past few years, I've become a big fan of those home renovation shows on television. You know the ones – an old, dilapidated house, someone willing to take a chance and put some sweat equity and love into it, thirty minutes later, a beautiful house is revealed. One of my favorite moments during the big reveal is when they show the “before” and “after” photos. I always find myself amazed at the transformation, and motivated to begin work on my own house as I realize there is great potential in the unknown.

In a sense, we've been doing our own version of “Fixer Upper” lately at the Urban Mission. Check out these photos from some of our latest work:



But as I reflect a little deeper, I realize that God has been in the transformation business a lot longer than us. In fact, on a daily basis, we get to see God's handiwork through the people we serve. Not only do we get to experience the “before and after” shots, but sometimes we get to see the “big reveals” as God changes our lives as well as the lives of those around us.

We consider ourselves fortunate to play a role in this change and want you to know that you play a role as well.

As Joshua 3:5 says, *"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."* This spring, we launch a campaign to highlight what God's been up to in our midst. We want you to see how your support transforms lives from the inside out. We'll be sharing stories through television, social media, and in personalized mailings to you. We'll also be asking you to participate as well. We think you'll be amazed at the amazing things taking place right here in the Ohio Valley.

With thankfulness & expectation,

Rev. Ashley Steele
Executive Director

What's happening in March?

March 3rd – Cecil Alliance Church
Volunteer Day at Urban Mission

March 10th – Strongsville UMC
Volunteer Day at Urban Mission

March 11th – 17th – Franciscan
University Mission Trip

March 22nd – Tour of Urban
Mission for Grace Lutheran
Church

March 26th – 27th – Canal Fulton
UMC Volunteer Trip to Urban
Mission

March 29th – Foot Washing Event
& Easter Basket Giveaway at
Urban Mission

March 30th – Offices Closed for
Good Friday; Rev. Ashley to
speak at 7 Last Words Good
Friday service (12noon)

We'd love to hear from you!

We are constantly seeking new ways to better serve our donors, volunteers and clients. Your opinion is important to us and we'd love to hear from you! We invite you to take a few minutes to complete an online survey. You can access the survey at www.urbanmission.org. A special drawing for an Urban Mission t-shirt will be held for all who complete the survey.

“Amazing Things Among You” Spring Fundraiser

With God, life transformation happens every day. We see it at the Urban Mission, in our shelters and food pantry and our kitchen. We also see it all around us – in our communities, schools, churches and neighborhoods.

We want to celebrate these amazing things and also continue to create opportunities for more amazing things to happen.

**This spring, we invite you to do something
AMAZING with us.**

In March we launch our “Amazing Things Among You” campaign. Not only is this an opportunity to raise funds for our new endeavors at the Urban Mission, but it is also a chance for you to share a story about how someone you know has done something amazing as well.

We want to hear from you! Included in this newsletter is a nomination form. In a page or less, we’d like to learn about someone in your life who is doing amazing things for God and for others.

Throughout March & April we’ll be sharing these amazing stories about amazing people on social media with hopes to publish a locally produced book with all the stories we’ve collected.

On May 1st, we’ll culminate the campaign with the Amazing Raise – a day long giving opportunity done entirely online. (More about that in April!)

We’re also planning a celebration now that will take place in May highlighting all the amazing things that have taken place!

We can’t wait for you to join us!

Foot Washing & Toiletry Distribution March 29th

Matthew 20:27-28 says, “Whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the willing servant of all-like the Son of man; He did not come to be served, but to serve many...” What better way to put this scripture into practice than by carrying out this sacred act just as Christ did for His disciples?

Join us on Thursday, March 29th (10am – 2pm) as we wash feet and distribute toiletries to our community members. This year we’ll be distributing Easter baskets for children as well.

If you’d like to participate this year, please call 740.282.8010 and ask to leave a message for Emily.

We Love Our Community! Event



Valentine’s Day was extra special around the Urban Mission this year as we held our first ever “We Love Our Community” event outside the former City Rescue Mission thrift store. It was a day full of love as we distributed clothes, household items, and furniture free of charge to more than 200 families.

A survey completed during the event revealed to us that more than half of the individuals who visited our event are also interested in volunteering at the Urban Mission.

We also inquired with those in attendance regarding what types of services or classes they would be interested in attending.

We learned that the top six were “Job Training,” “Preparing Healthy Meals on a Budget,” “Budgeting Money for the Future,” “Growing Closer to God,” “Completing Small Home Repairs,” and “How to Keep Up the Maintenance On My Car.”

In response to these results, we’ll be creating a series of classes open to the community. If you’d be interesting in helping to design these classes, we invite you to contact Ms. Cynthia Lytle, our Program Director and Community Developer, at 740.282.8010.

Thrift Store UPDATE

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 thrift store throughout the years and get them ready to be sold at very low cost to the community once again.

We haven’t revealed the new name of the store... until now... drum roll please... “Urban Thrift & Opportunity Center.” Using “Urban” connects the store to the Urban Mission, using “Thrift” lets the community know we will still offer the service of low cost items to the community, and “Opportunity Center” allows us to be open to God to see how this store can be used for good in many different ways.

Although it will serve as a place to train and employ community members who need a second chance at life, we also want it to be a place where people can gain access to the services and programming offered by the Urban Mission throughout the year.

In order to set a firm open date, we are in need of volunteers who might help throughout the month of March re-stocking inventory, building shelves, and painting. We are also putting together a schedule for all furniture and household item pick-ups. Thank you for your patience as we journey through uncharted but exciting waters.

For more information, please call Kelly at 740.282.4851.

Urban Mission to speak at Ohio's State Housing Conference



We have exciting news to share! Our Housing Services staff found out this past week that they are invited to present at the Coalition on Homelessness & Housing's annual conference held in Columbus every April. Our

staff will be highlighting the process in which the Urban Mission used to transition out shelters to become "low barrier" shelters. We are grateful to God for this opportunity!

Welcome Jodie, our new Client Engagement Director!

Hello everyone! My name is Jodie Feezle and I am the new Client Engagement Director at the Urban Mission. As a Licensed Social Worker, my passion is to advocate on behalf of the homeless and disenfranchised. My goal through this position is to break down the barriers that oftentimes keep people stuck in poverty and to be able to positively impact the individuals served by the Urban Mission. I am so blessed to be able to be part of such a great team!



JOSHUA Home Owner Applications Available

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

On the hunt for more Jelly Beans

We're nearing our goal of 1200 bags of jelly beans, but just need a few more to ensure everyone gets this special treat. The deadline for having the jellybeans to the Urban Mission Warehouse is Wed., March 28, 2018.

War Memorial Renovations Continue

Progress continues as we move closer to opening our new women's shelter in downtown Steubenville.



It's been a tough winter with pipes freezing and the boiler on the fritz, but God is good and has allowed the next phase of renovation to begin.

If you'd like to help in the transformation of this space, please join us by lending a hand in the renovations or giving a donation to the Urban Mission in care of our "Homeless & Housing Services."



Minority Health Month 2018 theme announced...

"Better Health, Better Living, Better You!"

The Community Development Center of the Urban Mission is proud to announce the calendar of events for April's Minority Health Month 2018.

4th Annual "Stop the Violence" 5K Walk/Run Saturday, April 7, 2018

11:00 am – 1:00 pm
5K & Sidewalk Health Fair

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Community Health Luncheon
Steubenville Municipal Building

Dance for Life Workshop

Friday, April 13, 2018
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Martin Luther King Center

Women's Mammogram Screening & Health Fair

Saturday, April 21, 2018
10:30 am – 2:30 pm
YWCA of Steubenville
*Pre-registration required

Men's Free Prostate Screenings

Tuesday, April 24, 2018
4:30 pm -6:30 pm
Tony Teramana Cancer Center
*Pre-registration required

All Minority Health Month events are sponsored by the Community Development Program of the Urban Mission and funded by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. ***Events are free and open to the public.***

Interested in volunteering for Minority Health Month?
Contact Cynthia Lytle at 740.282.8010, ext. 210.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

March 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 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm | 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 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm | 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 Unity Kitchen open 12-1pm | 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 | 29 Food Pick-up Group S-Z 8:00am-2:30pm Foot Washing Event 10 - 2pm | 30 | 31 Mission Rejoice 5pm |