

# gratitude

SEPTEMBER 2011 UGM.ca

## The Miraculous Mobile Mission



Feeding hope. Changing lives.

We thank Tech Web Direct for donating resources to print this full colour newsletter.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Our Next Amazing Season

With more than three years now under my belt as President of Union Gospel Mission, I've come to realize the significance of the season we are about to enter. It's a season that presents both challenges and opportunities as summer gives way to autumn, but for those on the streets, the looming specter of a fall and winter outdoors presents a bleak myriad of options.

At UGM we always say that miracles begin with a meal, and entering a season that will see us host both a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal, we know we have some excellent opportunities to intersect with those in need and offer a new way forward.

It is, we believe, also a great chance to share these opportunities with our faithful supporters as we invite them to help lighten the burden of those living on the margins.

As you will see in our cover story, it takes teamwork to impact change, and when we all lean in together, amazing things can happen, and that's what I'm hoping you will invest in this season: amazing things.

Our Thanksgiving meal affords everyone who attends not only a hot, delicious meal, but also provides every guest an opportunity to access the help and support they need to recognize the possibilities God has laid out for their lives.

To see that first meal blossom into conversation, to have conversation lead to help, to have help open the doors to independence, and for independence to transition into wholeness, is truly amazing, and I invite each of you to take part in this rich tradition of caring. Whether through volunteering or donating, you can make a difference.

On behalf of everyone here at UGM, I thank you for your support and commitment to helping those in need.

God bless you this Thanksgiving,

William B. Mollard



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#### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

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Union Gospel Mission was awarded a \$50,000 creative services grant from the Karo Group in 2010 which allowed UGM to undergo an exhaustive brand analysis and redesign process. Our new look became official in April, 2011 in conjunction with the expansion of our ministry and the move into our new facility which will double or triple UGM's capacity to help those in need. We are extremely thankful to the Karo Group (karo.com) for providing their expertise to UGM at no charge.



A Glowbal volunteer distributes one of the more than 6,300 meals served at Oppenheimer Park.

## Summer Recap

*No sun. No heat. No Stanley Cup. It's been a pretty dreary summer around the Lower Mainland. But sometimes, we simply have to make due with what's put in front of us and when it comes to camping and barbecues, Canadians never let little things like the cold or the rain spoil the fun!*

### Glowbal BBQ

The skies emptied and did their best to dampen the spirits of those who took part in UGM's second annual community BBQ with the Glowbal Restaurant Group, but in the end, the enthusiasm of the Glowbal volunteers was no match for the rain. By the end of the day, UGM and Glowbal served over 6,300 delicious, gourmet BBQ meals and everyone who attended the sumptuous feast at Oppenheimer Park was blessed by the experience. Guests sought out shelter and recovery opportunities through UGM Outreach Workers, and the Glowbal team loved the opportunity to meet so many people from the Downtown Eastside and was touched by the gratitude shown by those who attended.

A special thanks to Emad Yacoub, Shannon Bosa, Chef Darren Brown and all the Glowbal staff who supplied the

funds, meals, volunteer support and genuine care which makes this event so special.

### UGM Summer Camp

Thanks to your generous support, Union Gospel Mission was able to register 600 kids to one of 16 quality Christian summer camps this year. For these kids, the inclement weather wasn't going to get in the way of a summer's worth of exploring, climbing, horseback riding and learning about themselves, about Christ, and about the environment outside the city.

The experiences you provided have been so profoundly felt and appreciated that UGM is still getting notes of thanks from the kids and their parents who enjoyed the opportunity you provided through the simple, yet transformative, act of sending a child to camp. Thank you!



A young camper goes horseback riding.

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# MIRACULOUS MOBILE MISSION

THE STORY OF ARNIE

•  
THE MAN BEHIND THE WHEEL



Most nights, long after many of us have gone to bed, you can find Arnie at the wheel, combing the streets, deep into the wee hours, as the wandering spotlight of UGM's Mobile Mission van peers into the deepest corners, alleyways, and hideout spots searching for people in need.

It isn't a job for everybody. So maybe it's a good thing Arnie doesn't even really consider it a job. "It isn't work. I'd do this for free." Arnie shares.

It's that sincere and deep dedication to the Mobile Mission project that affirms for all who cross his path, Arnie was meant for this role.

The Mobile Mission travels nightly to out of the way, hard to reach areas and offers recovery opportunities for those deeply entrenched in their addictions. Not everyone immediately accepts, but over time, over hot chocolate, and dry socks, Arnie builds relationships. With those relationships comes trust, and when you earn a person's trust, miracles can happen. Arnie lays it out like this, "We say to them, 'we know you want to drink; that's your business. When you don't, that's our business.' And when they don't, they tell us". It takes patience, delicate persistence and a strength that seems to come effortlessly from Arnie, but for him, it's the breakthroughs that he loves the most, "When we see breakthroughs, that's amazing... when they say, 'Today's the day. Can you help me?' There's nothing like it."

Whether it's Arnie's own experience with addiction, his ability to relate with those who are hurting, or his deep faith that helps fuel the success



of the Mobile Mission project, he is also buoyed by the support of Polygon Homes who have not only donated the Mobile Mission, but an additional 13 vehicles as well for use in other UGM programs and facilities across Metro Vancouver and the city of Mission.

From Polygon, to our Outreach Workers, to the Alcohol & Drug Recovery Counselors, to Arnie himself, Union Gospel Mission has developed a wide safety net to help catch those who may believe they've fallen through the cracks. In the end, behind every "breakthrough" this team makes it possible, but as Arnie is quick to

IT ISN'T WORK.  
I'D DO THIS FOR FREE.

point out, the ability to empower someone to make the decision to seek out sobriety, or seek out Christ, is up to the individual. "The decision is more meaningful when it's their idea. They're more likely to see it through the tough times". As Arnie can attest, there are often tough times on this road we all travel, but each night the Mobile Mission is on the street is a new opportunity to show all who witness it, what is possible when faith in action is shared and practically demonstrated. After all, as Arnie surmises, "we are preachers of deed, not just preachers of word".



To learn more about the Mobile Mission and to watch videos of Arnie in action, please visit [ugm.ca](http://ugm.ca), click on the "Services" tab and select "Outreach".

**WITH SINCERE THANKS TO POLYGON HOMES  
FOR MAKING THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE.**

# Thanksgiving

YOU'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN

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As President Mollard shared in his opening letter, we are entering a special season at Union Gospel Mission and we're excited to host the very first Thanksgiving community meal in our new facility!

From our spacious new dining room at 601 East Hastings to our familiar dining environments in New Westminster and the city of Mission, UGM will welcome thousands of guests to break bread with us and enjoy a hearty, nutritious Thanksgiving dinner. With your generous support, it all happens on Monday October 10th and everyone who attends

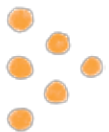


*miracles begin with a meal*



will not only enjoy a delicious turkey dinner but will also be afforded an opportunity to connect with a trained Outreach Worker to hear about UGM's life-changing programs such as emergency shelter, alcohol and drug recovery, education services, and affordable housing.

It is why we say, "miracles begin with a meal" and your support this Thanksgiving could transform the life of a person desperately in need.



Please give generously at [UGM.ca](http://UGM.ca) or return the enclosed reply envelope today. *Thank you!*

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# Stories of Hope

## Submitted by Andrea Sali, New West

*Union Gospel Mission is blessed to have a hard working team of faithful staff who set out every day to do God's work and care for those in need. Whether it's in our facilities in the city of Mission, Surrey, Vancouver or today's featured location, New Westminster, we believe it's important to share stories of hope from our staff's perspective with you.*

*Today, is a glimpse into the heart of New West as told by UGM Outreach Worker, Andrea Sali.*

God gave me a vision while I was at church last Sunday. It was of me looking at our guests in our main seating area. I could hear people sharing with each other all their hang-ups and hurt, and then God asked me, "Wouldn't it be nice if they were sharing all their victories in their lives instead?"

### **It's been easy to focus on the pain and not realize there are victories within those opportunities.**

It made me realize how amazing that would be, so I sought out opportunities to ensure we did become a community that celebrates our victories and triumphs in life.

The next day, I sat down with one of our long time guests who has walked through his wife's death and is still fighting his own battle with colon cancer. He shared with me that he had been very depressed as of late, looking back over the past several years of his life. He said with heartbreaking bluntness that he had nothing to show for his life. "Nothing to show for

it!?" I exclaimed. I reminded him that not only was he there to comfort and care for his wife as her life slipped away, his courageous battle with cancer is something I found to be very inspirational. He had befriended me, he had befriended so many others here, and he always had a kind word and encouraging way about him that inspired others, including me. I told him he had lifted my spirits many times, and that when we focus only on the negative, it's like a feeding frenzy for the enemy and despair to take hold. I told him it's time to proclaim some victories.

It was then when he replied, "I never thought of it that way. It's been easy to focus on the pain and not realize there are victories within those opportunities. Wow, these past ten years have brought growth and insight. Thank you, Andrea for helping me to see that." It was a wonderful thing to hear him say.

Today there is still so much hurt in the lives of our friends here at the Mission, but every day we are working hard with them to focus on all the good that's taking place in all our lives.

## Thank You Polygon

From the Mobile Mission you read about in Arnie's story, to maintenance trucks, to vehicles that take kids out on UGM field trips year round, Polygon Homes has donated all these vehicles and has risen to the occasion once again with a donation of \$130,650 in support of Union Gospel Mission!

**We are blessed to have the Polygon family as partners and thank them for all they do in our community.**





UGM President Bill Mollard, UGM Director of Resource Development Genesa Greening, Scotiabank Representative Michelle Cobb, and Marathon Runner Brendan.

## Scotiabank

Teamwork, perseverance, and fun – that’s what brought us together as an organization, community, and family to raise \$18,745.99 in our inaugural year as a Charity of Choice in the Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K.

With over 70 determined walkers and runners, Team UGM helped raise needed funds in support of our Women and Families Ministry. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to both Scotiabank and to all the runners and sponsors who participated on our behalf. From everyone at Union Gospel Mission, congratulations to the Scotiabank team for hosting such an exceptional event and for making a real difference in the communities they serve.



### Take a Tour of UGM

Come see the wonderful new facility you helped make a reality! UGM has more than doubled our capacity to provide daily meals, life recovery programs, emergency shelter, housing, and outreach to those in need. You’ll get to see first-hand what we do at UGM and witness the amazing difference you make in this community.

➔ To RSVP for a tour please contact our Special Giving Team at [specialgiving@ugm.ca](mailto:specialgiving@ugm.ca) or call 604.215.5440 ext. 343



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