

gratitude

MARCH 2012 UGM.ca

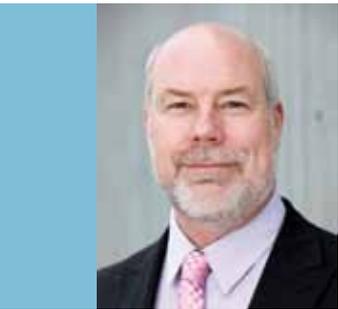
Hope and
New Life



UNION
GOSPEL
MISSION

Feeding hope. Changing lives.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring: A Season of Transformation and Rebirth

With new life springing up all around us as trees begin to bud and flowers bloom, it is hard not to be thankful for the renewal of life as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. – 1 Peter 1:3

During my years at Union Gospel Mission, I have had the privilege of hearing many stories which exemplify the restoration and rebirth possible when communities come together in support of those who need it most.

In this issue of Gratitude you will read the story of Jemal, a UGM Outreach Worker. This humble man faithfully cares for those who come through our doors seeking help. After a difficult life of addiction and homelessness he knows what it means to be on the street. Jemal found a living hope through sobriety and supportive community at UGM, which he now shares with others who are in desperate need.

That need will be clearly illustrated at our annual Easter Dinner, and UGM has already begun preparing to welcome the thousands of guests who will join us for care, support, and a nourishing meal. Trained Outreach Workers, like Jemal, will be available to make meaningful connections with guests and ensure their needs are met – whether it's providing a fresh pair of socks, or helping someone get into the Alcohol & Drug Recovery Program.

As someone who gives to Union Gospel Mission, you offer hope and help to struggling people in Metro Vancouver hundreds of times a day. Our upcoming Easter Dinner is another opportunity to reach out to the community and I would kindly ask you to once again partner with UGM to give struggling men and women a way out of poverty, addiction, and homelessness. Your gift could be the hand up someone in Metro Vancouver is praying to receive.

God Bless,

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.



Happy guests about to enjoy a delicious Christmas meal.

Help Families Start Fresh this Spring

We're expecting to serve over 3,000 meals to men, women, and families in need at our annual Easter dinner on April 7th. Hosted by trained Outreach Workers and friendly volunteers, guests can learn more about Union Gospel Mission's comprehensive range of programs like alcohol & drug recovery, education & employment services, and affordable housing. None of this would be possible without support from generous donors like you.

You brought joy this Christmas!

Looking back, UGM's 71st Christmas of serving people in need was an incredible success, thanks to you. 3,433 meals were served at our annual Christmas dinner on December

10th, 281 Christmas hampers were delivered, and toys were given out to hundreds of very excited children. Our donors gave from the heart to ensure those who might otherwise go without would have a blessed holiday season.



For just \$3.29 a meal, your donation will feed hope and change lives.

Please donate online at UGM.ca

why i give

We asked UGM donors: What inspires you to give? Here are just a few responses from our amazing community of supporters.

Denise | Union Gospel Mission has given so much to my son and I would like to start returning the blessings. UGM opened the gates to this renewal in life when he attended the Alcohol and Drug Recovery program. He has found the Lord and wants to give back.

Cameron | Just felt like doing something nice for someone else.

William | I was planning our family dinner with my wife. We both said the same thing almost at the same time. Must help.

HOPE & NEW LIFE

THE STORY OF JEMAL



Jemal has been serving as a UGM Outreach Worker for over five years. Once homeless, addicted to drugs and wrapped-up in a gang life that resulted in him being shot twice, Jemal shares his story of redemption with men and women struggling to break free from a world of drugs and violence. His daily work in Outreach at UGM allows him to provide hope, and a way out, to people who are suffering as he once was.

Having experienced horrific violence as a child in Ethiopia's civil war, Jemal turned to alcohol to cope, which led to drug addiction and drug dealing. As a result, his marriage collapsed, his business failed, and he learned what it meant to be out of control. It was the overdose of his best friend that was the tipping point for him. "I knew if I didn't make a change, I was next," Jemal shares.

Initially, Jemal came to UGM for meals and to find refuge at our emergency shelter, but over time, he started to build relationships with trained Outreach Workers and Volunteers. Hearing stories of other people's recovery inspired him to make a decision that would change his life. With the help of Bruce Curtiss, our Senior Chaplain, Jemal enrolled in UGM's

I SEE SO MANY PEOPLE STRUGGLING THE WAY I USED TO. NOW, MY HEART IS FOR HELPING OTHERS. - JEMAL

Alcohol & Drug Recovery Program, beginning what would be a difficult and life-giving journey to sobriety.

Although the pull to return to his old way of life was very strong, Jemal relied on God and fellow residents for support and completed the program. Today, he is six years sober and lives to offer others the freedom he has found in Christ. As Jemal puts it, "I lost everything like everybody else, but now I've gained everything because I have hope."

As a full time member of UGM's Outreach Staff, Jemal connects daily with our guests. He reflects,

When I was in the street, I kept hearing about the meals at UGM and how they treated people with love, with a smile, like brothers and sisters. The love and respect made everyone feel comfortable. Every year the Easter meal reminds me of God's transforming love.

Last May, after many hours spent studying the Bible and theology, Jemal became a Reverend at his church. He now enjoys leading Bible studies for guests and residents of UGM, and keeps busy speaking at UGM 2 or 3 times a week.

Known for his gentle spirit and tender heart, Jemal serves his brothers and sisters every day with humility. He is a beacon of hope to others and is a powerful example of Christ's love.



To hear more about Jemal's incredible journey, visit [UGM.ca/stories/](https://ugm.ca/stories/) and read his previous story, [Freedom on the Downtown Eastside](#).



Jemal and a UGM guest, during our annual Christmas dinner



HEARTS FOR THE CITY

Help make your gift have greater impact today by becoming a *Hearts for the City* monthly donor.

Automatic monthly giving is safe and easy. It eliminates the need to write cheques, purchase stamps, or find a mailbox. It also helps UGM reduce the mail we send, our environmental footprint, and our administrative efforts, which means more resources are available to help those in need.

Please consider joining us as a monthly donor to create lasting solutions to poverty, addiction and homelessness throughout Metro Vancouver and the City of Mission.

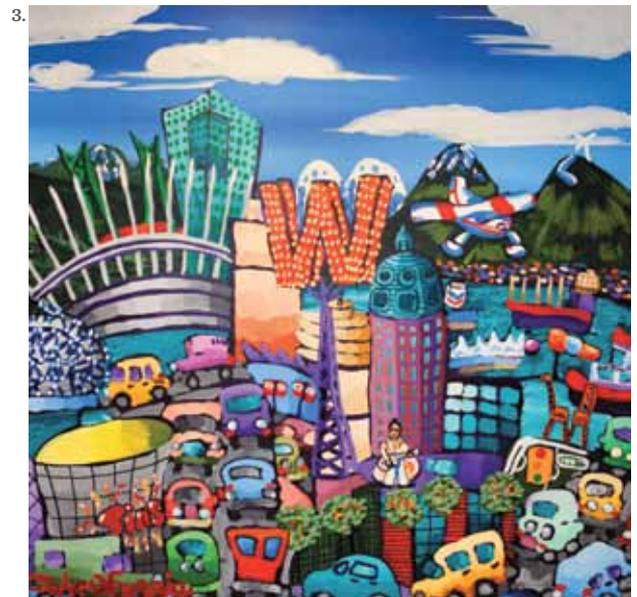
For more information, contact our Special Giving Officer, Vanessa Chase at 604.215.5440 ext 394 vchase@ugm.ca

an Atmosphere of beauty & BELONGING

Last year we moved into our new 70,000 square foot purpose-built facility at 601 East Hastings. UGM's vision is that this space becomes a warm, creative and healing environment for our guests, residents and tenants.

Yet, with so many empty walls, the building lacked that homey-feel, so we invited local artists to submit original pieces to adorn the hallways and inspire those who call UGM home. The response was overwhelming.

1. **DIANNA BURNS**
Rev It Up
EASTSIDE CULTURE CRAWL.COM
2. **STEPH LEIGH LIMAGE**
Unity in the Community
STEPHLEIGHLIMAGE.COM
3. **JOHN FERRIE**
The Big W
JOHNFERRIE.COM
4. **CARLA TAK**
Untitled 07-2012
CARLATAK.COM
5. **KELLY CAIRNS**
Sundown
KFMO.ETSY.COM
6. **ELIZABETH TOPHAM**
Desire: The Magnificent Obsession, Study #2
ELIZABETHTOPHAM.COM
7. **DAVE DENSON**
Reflections in the Rain
DAVEDENSON.COM
8. **VALERIE & ARNT ARNTZEN**
Cross of Strathcona
VALERIEARNTZEN.COM
ARNTARNTZEN.COM
9. **JOHN STEIL**
Like a tree with 3 Black Birds
JOHNSTEIL.COM
10. **DAVE STEVENS**
Arbutus Portal IV
DAVIDSTEVENS.CA
11. **JEANNE KRABBENDAM**
Prayers Take Wing
JEANNEKRABBENDAM.COM
12. **PENNY COUPLAND**
Siwash Rock, 2011
FLICKR.COM/LIKENESS_OF_HOME
13. **TARALEE GUILD**
Ovaltine Cafe at Night
TARALEEGUILD.COM
14. **KARIN VENGSHOEL**
Morgensolen, 2011
VENGSHOEL.COM
15. **JANET CUMMINGS**
The Spirit and the Bride Say Come
JANETCUMMINGS.CA



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.





TELUS Board of Directors bring enthusiasm as they serve lunch to people in need alongside UGM President, Bill Mollard.

Thanks to the TELUS team for their active compassion

Over the last 22 years the TELUS team has blessed Union Gospel Mission with heartfelt generosity and compassionate service. Their volunteers have impacted our community by serving in UGM's kitchen at 601 East Hastings on a weekly basis, volunteering at the Thrift Store, gardening at The Orchard Townhouse Complex, and so much more. It is a blessing to partner with such dedicated donors and volunteers.

This year we received an encouraging letter from TELUS President and Chief Executive Officer, Darren Entwistle and we wanted to share it with you,

The TELUS team deeply respects and admires the important efforts of Union Gospel Mission to help provide effective programs and services to the men, women and children in need throughout the Lower Mainland. We believe in our hearts and minds that in order to do well in business, we must also do

good in the communities where we live, work and serve. Each year my family and I join local team members at Union Gospel Mission for our annual TELUS Day of Giving activities, serving meals and handing out kits for less fortunate children. While volunteering last May, my family and I had the opportunity to meet several families who benefitted from the meals and services offered at UGM. Many shared their truly inspirational and poignant stories, and for that I am sincerely grateful. These stories are the reason the TELUS team believes unequivocally in our commitment to give back to the communities where we live, work and serve.

On behalf of the TELUS team and our retirees, thank you for your important work bridging the gap for those most in need. I wish you continued success in the future and look forward to maintaining our longstanding partnership in our shared goal to create healthier communities, one life at a time.

- Darren Entwistle

Let love be your legacy

Supporting UGM through a bequest in your will ensures that your love and compassion for those in need lives on. At UGM, we call it your legacy of hope.

YOUR GIFT COULD SAVE A LIFE.

For more information on leaving a bequest, contact Carey Bornn at 604.215.5441 ext. 328 cbornn@ugm.ca

The love I've found at UGM will stay with me for the rest of my life. - ANDRE