



Gateway

THE NEWSLETTER OF URBAN MINISTRIES OF DURHAM

Our Mission

To provide food, clothing, shelter, and supportive services to our neighbors in need.

Our Values

A welcoming, caring, and compassionate environment that affirms the dignity of our guests, volunteers, and staff.

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Our Board

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RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Alexander Herring
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT: Bryan Gilmer

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Innovation: what it looks like at UMD

Message from Patrice Nelson, Executive Director

WE WANT THE WORK of Urban Ministries of Durham to be so compelling and life-changing that our clients, donors, volunteers, and staff cannot stop talking about it—so exciting that it is the topic of conversation across town. For that to be true, we know that our services and programs must be innovative. Our mission to provide food, shelter, and clothing to anyone in need remains the same as when we began in 1983. But this year, we're doing these things in deeper, more creative, and more lasting ways than ever before in response to the changing needs of our neighbors.

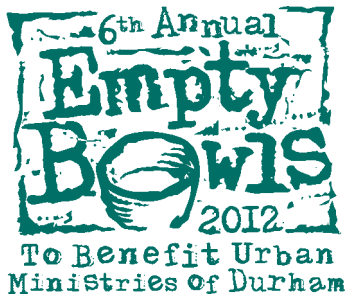


Now in its second year, our Journey Program continues to yield life-changing results. Individuals and families come to UMD when they have nowhere else to turn, and the Journey Program not only gets them back on their feet, but provides them with the life skills to be stable and independent long-term. Inside this newsletter, you will get to read the story of Thomas and Maria and how they navigated their way back from homelessness. Their story is particularly interesting because it shows the innovative ways we use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to ask for help in meeting the pressing needs of our clients. As they always have, our supporters respond quickly when they learn of a need they can help fulfill.

When helping people to make powerful and positive changes in their lives is your job, it is necessary to try new ideas. Our staff has continued to establish and maintain relationships with our community partners, rise to the challenges of our consumers—and find ways to assist people, no matter the circumstances. We will continue to flourish with the additions of our new Residential Program Director and new Director of Marketing & Development, as well as our board members who continuously support our work.

When helping people to make powerful and positive changes in their lives is your job, it is necessary to try new ideas.

On March 8, we hosted the Sixth Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser. It was a great success! The Empty Bowls committee truly did a wonderful job of not only pulling off this event, but finding ways to make it fresh and exciting. For the first time in the event's history, we hosted an after-party at Fullsteam Brewery, with local food trucks serving up special dishes. It was another innovative way to take our programs to the next level.



THANKS TO EVERYONE for helping make our Sixth Annual benefit a huge success. Empty Bowls helps our Community Café provide an average of 600 warm, nutritious meals every day to anyone in need, and this year the event raised more than \$30,000.



More than 900 tickets were purchased, making The Durham Armory a lively place to be that evening. Empty Bowls would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors, restaurants, potters, food donors, UMD Recovery program residents, plus dozens of amazing volunteers, and our hard-working Empty Bowls planning committee and staff.

Congratulations to Thrills from the Grill for winning the Judges' Choice Award for Best Soup for their Sweet Potato and Lentil Soup. Kudos also to Toast Paninoteca for winning the People's Choice Award for their Roasted Cauliflower Puree. All twelve soups were delicious!

After the winners were announced, the party moved to Fullsteam Brewery. Eight food trucks awaited our guests outside Fullsteam and Motorco with special dishes served in bowls. The trucks, as well as Fullsteam, donated a portion of their nightly proceeds to Urban Ministries.

We especially thank Frank Stasio of WUNC-Radio, our emcee for the evening, along with our panel of soup judges: Summer Bicknell, LOCOPOPS • Jennings Brody, PARKER AND OTIS • Tisha Powell, ABC 11 • Lisa Sorg, INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

RESTAURANTS

Blu Seafood & Bar
 Guglhupf Bakery and Cafe
 L'UVA
 Mad Hatter's Café and Bake Shop
 Papa Mojo's Roadhouse
 Revolution
 Saladelia Cafe
 Thrills From the Grill
 Toast Paninoteca
 Watts Grocery
 Whole Foods Market

SPONSORS

PRESENTING



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ABC-11
 Motorco
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 Robling Medical Inc.

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Diversified Information Technologies, Inc.
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 NCACPA
 Senn Dunn Insurance
 O'Brien/Atkins Associates, PA

BRONZE

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 Jessica Slice-Sadler, Urban Durham Realty
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 The Freelon Group

POTTERY

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 Durham Arts Council
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 Sergio Analco Design
 Temple Baptist Church
 Terry and Joe Chambliss
 The Carolina Inn
 The Summit Church
 West Durham Baptist Church

FOOD TRUCKS

Chirba Chirba
 Klausie's Pizza
 KoKyu BBQ
 Only Burger
 Pie Pushers
 The Parlour
 The Sausage Wagon
 Will & Pops

CLIENT STORIES

Thomas and Maria

Sometimes it takes creativity and innovation to put a family back on its feet—or in this case, wheels. UMD staff recently used **online social networks** to solve a family's transportation issue. Lacking transportation is a major barrier to employment for adults who have been homeless.

Thomas, Maria, and their toddler, Rosie, became homeless after Thomas lost his job. UMD provided them with emergency housing, and during their stay they utilized resources such as shared childcare, **Vocational Rehabilitation, Mental Health Services, the Department of Social Services, and Housing for New Hope.**

Soon Thomas got a part-time job and began saving money. Then he was hired to do assembly line work full time. The job was located 3½ miles off the bus line, but Thomas was determined to walk if need be. Instead, a UMD staff member announced through **Facebook and emails** that a client needed a used bicycle. Soon Thomas had a bicycle and could get to work much more quickly and safely.

While at UMD, the family was referred to **Housing for New Hope**, which helped them find an affordable rental property in a quiet neighborhood. Thomas, Maria, and Rosie continue to succeed and work toward long-term independence. Recently the family purchased a used vehicle, increasing Thomas' job options.



Alicia

"I have been using drugs since the age of 11, and my life has been a series of one problem after another, of my own making. When I heard about the Hope-Believe program, I made the best decision of my life, because I have been able to begin the journey to sobriety. The program has taught me so much about the disease of addiction,

about myself, and how to believe in and love myself again. I also know that today I have choices about how I live," says Alicia. "Thanks to the staff of Urban Ministries of Durham; I wish to express my gratitude for believing in and caring for me and helping me to believe in my dreams."

Alicia connected with many programs and agencies at UMD, including the **Lincoln Center's Homeless Clinic, The Durham Center, and Project Access.** She graduated from UMD's **Hope-Believe Journey Recovery Program,** was referred to **Housing for New Hope,** and moved to **Dove House,** where residents learn "Freedom Through Responsibility." Dove House emphasizes recovery from substance abuse and taking responsibility for one's own employment, health, and finances. Alicia now has a full-time job and will receive her GED from Durham Tech in the near future.

NEW UMD STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE



In February, UMD welcomed **Alexander Herring** as the Residential Program Director. Herring has held health and human services positions, has been an ordained minister for more than 16 years, and serves as Interim Pastor at Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Kittrell, North Carolina.

"I feel that this position will be one of the most challenging of my professional career; nevertheless, it has already proven to be the most rewarding," says Herring. "As the new Residential Program Director, my vision is simple: to make something great even greater!"



UMD welcomed **Bryan Gilmer** as the new Director of Marketing & Development in April. Gilmer has shared his fundraising and communications expertise with Duke University, Genesis Home, and St. Phillip's Episcopal Church.

"I'm excited about meeting all the generous people who share with their neighbors through Urban Ministries—and about inviting hundreds more to join us. It's inspiring work," Gilmer says.

Gilmer has authored three crime thriller novels, including *Felonious Jazz*, set in Raleigh. He and his wife, Kelly, have a 5-year-old son, Quinn.

Urban Ministries of Durham is pleased to welcome four new board members:

Randy Fletcher, attorney, Moore & Van Allen • Angela Holmes, community volunteer
Wayne Lee, owner, Hair By Design and Down Under Gallery • Sean Watson, President, Tech Effects

Volunteer Orientation: Something New at UMD

By Faye Morin, UMD Volunteer Coordinator

ONE DAY I was chatting with a volunteer who works in both the Community Café and the Food Pantry/Clothing Closet. She mentioned that one of the other volunteers in her Community Café group had never been inside the Food Pantry even though he's volunteered at UMD for five years. Then another volunteer said he'd never been in there either, and he's been volunteering for a little over a year.

That started those of us on the Volunteer Committee thinking about those who volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis but never see any other part of our agency—and so may not be aware of other programs or opportunities that they might enjoy getting involved in. I also realized that much of my day is spent doing the same thing over and over again, telling different people exactly the same thing: what volunteer opportunities are open to them, how they can apply to become a UMD volunteer, when we need them, etc.

All of a sudden, the answer seemed crystal clear: we needed to do a Volunteer Orientation in which prospective volunteers meet as a group, get a tour of the entire facility, and are

told about all the ongoing volunteer opportunities UMD has to offer. We will hold orientations on the first Thursday of each month and will alternate times, so that one month the orientation will be during the day and the next month in the evening. June will be daytime and July will be evening, etc.

Our first daytime Volunteer Orientation was Thursday, April 5 at 10 a.m., and was completely full! The first evening orientation will be Thursday, May 3 at 6 p.m. We welcome prospective volunteers or long-time volunteers who have never had a tour. Please check the website for more details or contact me at fmorin@umdurham.org to register, ask questions, or get more information about our orientations.

As always, thanks so much for volunteering. We couldn't do what we do without the help of our volunteers!

We will hold orientations on the first Thursday of each month and will alternate times.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS TEAM UP FOR UMD CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!

ENGAGE. CONNECT. INSPIRE. ACT.

Whether you are a small business owner or head of a large corporation, doing good is good for the soul, it's good for the community, and it's good business.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH UMD TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY:

- Sponsor special events
- Advertise in printed newsletters and e-news
- Donate professional services
- Do service projects
- Give needed items
- Visit umdurham.org for more information.

THIRD TUESDAYS TOGETHER

Special thanks to all recent Third Tuesday participants. These organizations brought the food, the volunteers, and the joy to dinner at UMD. Thank you!

October 2011:	Measurement Incorporated
November 2011:	Avaya
December 2011:	Duke NICHE
January 2012:	Maggiano's
February 2012:	SCANA/PSNC
March 2012:	Nvidia
May 2012:	Avaya
June 2012:	100 Men in Black
July 2012:	Measurement Incorporated

Email fmorin@umdurham.org to reserve your organization's space for an upcoming Third Tuesday!



DID YOU KNOW?

Urban Ministries' shelter provides nine private rooms for families. These rooms never stay vacant for longer than one week and are often occupied for months at a time.

Families living at the shelter have children ranging in age from newborn to 14 years.

Intern Insight: Little Did I Know

By Kirasten Brasfield, Johnson Intern Program

WHEN I FIRST volunteered in the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham last April, I thought to myself, “This seems like a cool place to work.” That was before I had turned in my application to the Johnson Intern Program, a service internship under the Episcopal Service Corps. I had only been there for about two hours, but I felt right at home. Little did I know that a few months later I would begin my 11-month internship working at the front desk. Little did I know that my co-workers and the shelter residents would become my family. Little did I know how much I would learn about God’s provision in a homeless shelter.

That last statement might seem like an oxymoron to some people. Some may question, “Where is God’s hand in the midst of homelessness?” Well, I see His hand when a woman donates diapers for the babies and toddlers in Journey Family. I see His hand when a former resident tells me that he loves his new apartment. I see His hand when I see the weekly volunteers joyfully distributing food and clothing. When a child in our family program playfully flashes a snaggletooth smile at me through the window of the office, His hand is there.

My position at the shelter’s front desk gives me the privilege of conversing with the residents on a daily basis. I hear stories of trials and triumphs, and I see tears of both sorrow and joy. I am blessed to be trusted with such fragile areas of



their lives, and to be invited to rejoice with them. Just this week, I came into the office to discover that a client had moved out and had been offered a job doing something that she loves. As she smiled through tears of praise and gratitude, we both acknowledged that His hand was there. His hand is evident as it closes the door on the addictions of her past and guides her forward.

Being able to witness these victories encourages me to trust in His hand to provide for me. The woman with the new job offer had told me just two weeks before about the obstacles that she was facing regarding her health and job search. In the midst of the struggle, she was still able to believe that there was a reason for her season of waiting. You see, she trusted that His hand was there.

Some may question,
“Where is God’s
hand in the midst
of homelessness?”

clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you? (6:30).”

None of us is immune to circumstances that make it difficult to pay for food, rent, or a new winter coat. Thankfully, God uses organizations such as UMD as His hands to provide for those basic needs.

UMD has been blessed to have Kirasten, our Johnson Intern, this year. The Johnson Intern Program is based in Chapel Hill/Carrboro, NC, and recruits eight young people, ages 21-30, for 11-month, hands-on service placements, leadership training, and spiritual formation. The program is organized around the five values of Communion, Compassion, Co-creation, Collaboration, and Character.

SPENT — An Innovative, Award-Winning Game Making an Impact Around the World



Since our online game SPENT launched in February 2011, more than 1.2 million unique visitors have played a total 2.2 million times. Nearly 2,000 people play SPENT every day, with each player averaging 10.5 minutes on the website.

SPENT challenges players to make it through the month on their last \$1,000. Changes in employment, housing, medical costs, and other expenses force the SPENT player to make difficult choices that often compromise the health, safety, or integrity of their families. Unfortunately, this is the reality for many of the 6,000 people who come to UMD each year because they have simply run out of options.

Developed by McKinney, a Durham-based advertising agency, SPENT was originally created as a way to engage new donors and volunteers for UMD. However, SPENT has crossed all geographic, economic, and social boundaries. Even educators and employers are using SPENT as an interactive lesson for their students and employees about financial literacy and social responsibility.

AWARDS

Congratulations to Urban Ministries of Durham and McKinney for winning two 2012 North American Effie Awards for SPENT in the categories of Media Idea and of Media Innovation

Receiving an Effie Award signifies one of the most effective marketing efforts of last year, incorporating an insightful communications strategy, outstanding creativity, and the market results to prove it worked. Effie entries go through two rigorous rounds of judging and a small percentage of entering cases emerge as winners.

As expressed in the following comments from SPENT players, people from all over the world are finding the game to be a valuable tool for understanding how difficult and painful it is to live on the edge of losing everything:

“Thanks for drawing attention to the reality of what so many people face. There is a lot of need here too, but I hope you draw national attention to the issue of poverty and unemployment.”

– Danette, Africa

“Playing this game has shattered how I view the privilege in my life, and increased my empathy and compassion for those who do not have to play a game to understand the hardships of life.”

– Christina

“It’s one thing to feel sorry for homeless people; it’s another to be forced into their shoes.”

–The Huffington Post

PLAY SPENT AND SEE HOW THIS REVOLUTIONARY GAME CREATES A NEW, TANGIBLE AWARENESS OF THE STRUGGLES OF 14 MILLION AMERICANS.

WWW.PLAYSPENT.ORG

WHAT WE NEED MOST:

The Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, and Community Shelter would appreciate donations of the following items:

- Boxed cereals
- Canned goods
- Canned meats (Treet, Spam, stews, tuna, salmon, etc.)
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Grocery store gift cards
- Individual shampoos
- Paper towels
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Powdered milk
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Towels and washcloths, new or used
- Twin sheets

Innovation: what it looks like at UMD

Continued from page 1

UMD is always looking to engage our supporters in new and exciting ways. We hosted an event for our major donors at 8 Rivers Capital, LLC, in the old Powerhouse of Durham's West Village, to attract businesses that focus on innovation. Our partnership with the fashionable Vert & Vogue boutique yielded new wardrobes for the women of our shelter and new connections for UMD. We are in the midst of planning a dance party this summer to raise awareness and support in a fun setting. And we are partnering with Emerson Beyer and other local people and businesses to host a White Trousers Garden Party and Deviled Egg Pageant, which will raise money by judging the best deviled eggs in the Triangle. What a novel idea!

As we come to the close of this fiscal year on June 30, I am truly proud of the lives we have been able to help to improve and the fresh ways we have been able to do it. Thank you for your ideas, for your enthusiasm, for your hard work, and for your financial and moral support, which have energized these innovative approaches to our work.

Sincerely,



Patrice Nelson, Executive Director

For more info, contact Patrice Nelson, Executive Director, at pnelson@umdurham.org or (919) 682-0538, ext. 127.



Thirteen men and women graduated from the UMD Hope-Believe Recovery Journey Program in November 2011. The Program is a 6-month residential rehabilitation program.

CROP HUNGER WALK

The 38th annual Durham Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) Hunger Walk was held Sunday, April 1 at Duke Chapel. Our team raised over \$2,000.

Who benefits? 75% of the funds go toward hunger-relief efforts in 80 different countries, including the U.S. 25% of the funds go to agencies in Durham, including UMD. As many as 4,000 people from communities of faith, schools, universities, businesses, neighborhood associations, and others support CROP.

THANK YOU

to "thousands of friends just like you" who provide in-kind support to Urban Ministries. Groups named are just a few of those who donated to UMD in the last six months.





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STEWARDS FUND CHALLENGE 2012

Help Urban Ministries of Durham raise \$100,000 by May 31, 2012.

UMD has been invited to receive matching funds from the Stewards Fund, based on its 2012 Stewards Fund Challenge Grant. If UMD is able to raise \$50,000 in new or increased contributions during the challenge period of February 1 – May 31, the Stewards Fund will award us a \$50,000 matching grant.

We **must** raise \$50,000 or more, or we will not receive any match from the Stewards Fund. **Every dollar counts!**

Please send the enclosed envelope back to us or make your gift online at www.umdurham.org by clicking on "Donate Now" at the top of our home page.

"The Stewards Fund Challenge Grant allows UMD to connect and get involved with new partners, new individuals, new businesses, and new communities of faith," said UMD Executive Director Patrice Nelson. "We also strongly encourage existing supporters to enlist help from friends and co-workers to spread the word about donating. Every dollar helps support programs that make a huge difference in the lives of our residents and the challenges they face each day."

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BELOVED COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR: May 19

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME DANCE PARTY: July 13

GET HOPE IN YOUR INBOX

To receive our email newsletter, go to www.umdurham.org and click "Get Hope in Your Inbox" or send a request to devel@umdurham.org to be added to our mailing list.