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## **Urban Ministries of Durham Featured This Week on FOX 50's *Tarheel Talk***

*Durham, N.C. –December 3, 2009* –Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) will be featured on *Tarheel Talk* on Sunday, December 6 at 6:30 a.m. on FOX 50. *Tarheel Talk* is a locally produced weekly public affairs program.

On the December 6 program, *Tarheel Talk* host, Sonya William Harris, interviews UMD Executive Director Patrice Nelson, Vice Chair of UMD's Board of Directors, Susan Amey along with Jennifer Hunt, a former resident of UMD's shelter whose family was homeless for two years.

"Homelessness is everyone's problem. It directly affects thousands of people across the state daily, but its long-term effects impact us all," said Harris. "People need to know about homelessness and how they can help organizations like UMD end this crisis for men, women and children in need."

The program discusses how the recent recession has affected homelessness and how UMD and other organizations have had to adjust and work together to meet the increased needs for food, clothing, shelter and supportive services. The program also covers how the face of homelessness has changed including the misconceptions people have about homelessness. During one segment, Hunt describes her family's journey from being evicted from their apartment to living in a hotel for eight months to working with case managers at UMD to secure public housing.

"Shining a spotlight on the issue of homelessness is extremely important," said UMD Executive Director Patrice Nelson. "We appreciate the opportunity to be on *Tarheel Talk* so that people in the Triangle can understand the changing demographic of homelessness and how multiple agencies come together to help people in need find permanent housing and jobs so they can get back on their feet."

**About Urban Ministries of Durham**

Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) is a private, non-profit organization that has provided emergency services such as food, clothing, shelter and counseling to people in need in Durham since 1983. Its community kitchen serves nearly 700 meals per day. Its shelter houses 80 beds for men, 26 beds for women and nine rooms with private baths for families. In emergency situations the shelter can house up to 175 people and averages 145 a night. UMD also assists those in need through its community closet and food pantry. UMD provides additional services such as its Hope-Believe Recovery Program, a live-in drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. For more information on the many services provided by UMD, please visit [www.umdurham.org](http://www.umdurham.org).

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