The work of ending homelessness and fighting poverty comes with a host of challenges. They include a severe lack of affordable housing, fueled by regional growth and gentrification. Untreated mental health problems and addiction. Low-wage jobs. Limited funding. And lest we forget, a global pandemic, which entered the scene nearly two years ago, making progress all the more difficult.

These are not just challenges, but enemies. They prevent thousands of our neighbors from living stable, successful lives and intrude on their ability to fully participate and enjoy the community in which they live. But hope is not lost!

Just as we witness on television or in the movies, there are always heroes in real life—even superheroes—who step forward when an enemy rises up. Individuals who are ready and eager to battle on behalf of those in need. Often, those heroes emerge from the ranks of those being held down or threatened.

It’s no wonder then that UMD is shielding—and housing—superheroes! At UMD, we witness heroism in the form of courage, self-sacrifice, and persistence in the face of great risk, from both staff and residents. Despite barriers and misfortune, our neighbors continue to bounce back with grace and determination, and go to incredible lengths to move beyond homelessness. And usually, they don’t see themselves as heroes. But the battles they fight—and win—are truly blockbuster when put into perspective.

Turn the page to read some of their stories.

I want to acknowledge these superheroes for their efforts and for not giving up on themselves. However, it is not enough to celebrate heroes. We must support them and join them in the fight. Although their actions are valiant, we must remember that they have no special powers. And too often, no access to power itself. Therefore, they need others to engage in the battle if we are going to defeat homelessness and poverty.

Let’s join our heroes in the fight for what’s right! We’re always glad to arm you with knowledge and opportunities to help join the cause. There are tangible ways to advocate for our neighbors and our community, but giving to UMD is one of the foundational steps you can take.

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Indeed, anyone can be a hero by choosing to act. We need you to act because it will take a legion of heroes to vanquish homelessness and poverty in Durham. You may not wear a cape, but you’ll be one of the good guys.

Sheldon Mitchell, Executive Director
Super extraordinary things happen at UMD every day. It’s because the people who rely on us for food, clothing, and shelter are pretty amazing. You may have even encountered some in your daily life and been unaware that there were superheroes in your midst. This has always been true, but the Covid-19 pandemic has shined a spotlight on everyday people—facing unimaginable obstacles—while playing key roles in our community.

Superhero by day, homeless at night.

That’s the story of many of our neighbors.

At UMD, we house superheroes.

While fighting homelessness, Erika has balanced working at a fast food restaurant throughout the pandemic with getting her college education. She’s set to graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree by the end of 2021! We don’t know how she did it, but we do know this: She inspires us!

Like many UMD clients, Monique has two jobs to make ends meet. And both jobs are essential work in a pandemic. She commutes to the Amazon distribution center in Durham each day helping the rest of us get the goods and services we need in a timely fashion. She also cares for the elderly and disabled at a local assisted living facility. When she’s not working, Monique leaves snacks for her fellow UMD residents — most recently it was fresh apples — and volunteers to help clean the shelter dorm rooms.

Needing help from UMD could cause anyone’s mood and self-confidence to plummet. Thomas was having a hard time connecting with his case managers, but it was clear he didn't want to be homeless. Nevertheless, he seemed disinterested in taking the steps necessary to obtain permanent housing. After a serious talk, Thomas was able to admit that he was experiencing depression. With help from UMD, he’s been confronting this challenge with incredible bravery. Now, he’s making tremendous progress, and we can’t wait to see what’s next for him!
By The Numbers

**MISSION**
Urban Ministries of Durham connects with the community to end homelessness and fight poverty by offering food, shelter and a future to neighbors in need.

**CORE VALUES**
- Respect - We believe in the inherent dignity and value of all people and believe no one’s basic human needs should go unmet.
- Collaboration - We work in concert with many other organizations to end homelessness and extreme poverty.
- Accountability - Each person owns the successes and setbacks that result from their choices.

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**By The Numbers**

- 516 homelessness men, women, and children obtained shelter at UMD
- 567 individuals received help from our workforce development team
- 511 households per month received groceries and/or clothing
- 125 people transitioned to permanent housing
- 199,375 meals were served to hungry neighbors

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**Denise**

After surviving cancer, a battle which she fought while staying at UMD, Denise got Covid-19. She was living on her own successfully with a steady job working in the housekeeping department at Duke Hospital. Getting sick and being unable to work meant she was behind on rent. We were able to help her, and now she’s back on her feet. Her toughness and determination are unmatched.

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**Gerald**

When a Chapel Hill food service manager — who is committed to UMD’s principles — contacted our Workforce Development department looking for workers, Gerald was one of the few individuals who had transportation. He was determined that he and his motor scooter were right for the job, and he landed the position! Now, each morning, Gerald leaves UMD at 5am on his scooter to make the trek to Chapel Hill. He often rides in a bright yellow rain suit purchased with special client assistance funds.

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**DONATE NOW!**

Use the envelope provided to help neighbors in need or make your gift online at tinyurl.com/helpUMD

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Continuation...
### REVENUES BY SOURCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Memorials/Honoraria</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Business, Civic &amp;</td>
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<td>Community Groups</td>
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<td>Communities of Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Donations</td>
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**Total: $3,774,222.62**

### EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

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<td>Community Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Cafe</td>
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<td>Food Pantry &amp; Clothing Closet</td>
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<td>Community Outreach &amp; Enrichment</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Development</td>
<td>$304,181.00</td>
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**Total: $3,416,998**

*Thank you to all the caring individuals and organizations that supported our work financially in FY 2020-21. Unless you asked to remain anonymous, you’ll find your name on UMD’s Donor Wall of Names at tinyurl.com/UMDgivers or scan the QR code.*