



University Community News

Volume 7

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 1

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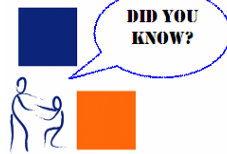
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University Community Ministries' mission is to address and meet the spiritual, social and economic needs of the north Tampa community. We communicate the message of Christ's love for all people regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin or economic status.

We provide opportunities that promote dignity, independence and self-fulfillment in the lives of the homeless, the elderly, the frail, the disadvantaged, the underserved youth and persons with disabilities.

Our vision is for all individuals who suffer spiritually, physically, mentally, financially or from some other burden in their lives to find restored hope, resiliency to cope successfully with a changing environment, and strength to live independently and come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We passionately and deliberately work to restore hope one life at a time through various program and services to strengthen, encourage, individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities.

We support other agencies and social services provided in the North Tampa community to produce positive short and long-term outcomes for individuals and families in need.

We let the light of God shine forth so that all may see His good works and give Him Glory.



LOVE

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: "Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself." All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others."

Matthew 22:37-40

UCM is all about *"Restoring hope . . . one life at a time"*.

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FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE (Senior Adult Connection)

Highlighting the Wonderful Staff That Gives of Themselves Way Beyond the Call of Duty By Molly Cox

A Team of fifteen ladies, and with the exception of three, all over 65 years of age

- Decorate tables
- Serve at the registration table
- Greet everyone with a lot of hugs who walks through the door
- Sends birthday cards to everyone throughout the year
- Assist with the games
- Takes care of the library
- Plans the menus
- Prepares the food
- Serves the tables
- Cleans the kitchen and the dining room after each event
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE



Each of the ladies listed below serve faithfully with a pure love for God and His people. They are the ones who make the senior adults who come from all over Tampa, who are from different walks of life, feel loved and needed. Some have served for over 13 years in this ministry, some are very new to the ministry, but all serve with a heart to bless others. With all of their work, all of their preparation, they are a real team who laugh together, love one another and pray for one another. These ladies are:

Charlene Dooley	Julie Fogarty
Bert Johnson	Doris Hill
Doris Bishop	Dot Frost
Nadine Lyon	Margie Marschal
Angela Washington	Lorraine Ficara
Ruth Calderon	Helen Blanco
Gladys Hernandez	Zelma Spencer
Marilou Rousseau	

For more information about Friendship Bridge, call the UCM office at (813) 949-0109 or contact the Friendship Bridge Director, Molly Cox at (813) 933-3991 ext. 227.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN ADVANCE TOGETHER (Family Literacy Program)

Family Night Christmas Party By Christene Worley

On December 9th, the Sanctuary at All Nations Outreach Center was transformed into a dinner theater. The reason – PCAT's annual Family Night Christmas Party! Round tables boasting Christmas decorations could be found throughout. Over 300 families and friends were the audience and our PCAT children were the entertainment!



The night went incredibly well! Everyone did their part. PCAT tutors filled dishes with a delicious meal. Pastor Kesha's middle school ministry teens served everyone.



Excitement grew as the evening continued. All were waiting with anticipation to see their children perform. The hours of practicing proved to be worth the effort. The children impressed everyone! The audience became immediately engaged. Some were singing, others clapping, still others dancing at their seats!



The best part of the evening came when Christmas presents were given to PCAT students and their brothers and sisters! Some of the gifts were purchased by students from the University of Tampa; others were donated by Victorious Life Church.

Everyone agreed that our Family Night Christmas Party was superexcellent!

For more information on PCAT, call the UCM office at (813) 949-0109 and ask for the PCAT Director, Christene Worley.

OPERATION JUMPSTART (Homeless Community Outreach Program)

Welcome Craig Pedersen By Jerome Van Gorp



WELCOME to our newest Operation Jumpstart Volunteer, Craig Pedersen. He came to us through the Operation Jumpstart Outreach Program. Craig has made use of the UCM OJ Program services off and on since 2006. In the last year he has been faithfully attending Citylife Church. He has decided to volunteer his time and limited resources to helping others find help in time of their need. Below is a testimony of his life written by Craig.

I have known about Jesus my whole life. My parents took me to church when I was a little boy. However, when I reached high school I began to run with the wrong crowd. I saw what it was doing to my mother so I left Chicago and moved to Florida in 1980 to live with my dad. After about a year, my father kicked me out of the house and I lost my job at which time I became homeless. Over the next 25 plus years I went from job to job and home to home. Unfortunately, I let Satan have control of my life. I became heavily addicted to drugs and alcohol.

One day at a soup line, I asked for help to get



off the streets and deal with my addiction and life problems. They made some calls and got me into a Christian mission. The mission was a three (3) month program where I stayed for almost three years. While I was there, I had a near death experience and that was when I committed my heart to Christ. While I was living at the mission I was required to study the Bible daily and really thought about going into the ministry. After a while, I gave into temptation and found myself once again allowing to control my life. I moved out of the Christian mission. I soon found a good job and met a woman there. This woman was not the answer either. After years of going back and forth (trying to serve two masters) I found myself homeless again.

In 2006 I went to the Operation Jumpstart UCM Program at Citylife Church (formerly known as University Church of God), to take showers, eat, and rest because I was homeless and hungry again. Around this time my father passed away and I found myself in another treatment program again trying to deal with my issues. I finished the program. However, I still had my issues unresolved.

A friend of mine invited me to come and stay at his apartment. He eventually left to go live with his parents and I kept the apartment. Since I was not working and could not find a job, I chose to return back to school. I needed help to pay the rent so I allowed two women to move into my apartment. They caused me nothing but trouble. The landlord went to court to get them evicted. When they left, they robbed me of everything I owned from school books to toilette paper. Because of all the trouble with these two women, my landlord would not renew my lease.

While volunteering at a soup kitchen I heard of a place to go, I went there and started to

talk to the people that ran the organization. However, when I lost my apartment I was too busy wallowing in self pity to go back to finish the conversation.

One day on the bus a man asked me if I needed a place to live. Of course I said yes and I was given the number to the same organization I was previously talking to. This organization is known as the Timothy Initiative. The Lord was looking out for me. They gave me a place to stay, helped me get my identification cards, and today I have a steady job.

Since I got my life on the right track with the help of the Lord, I have chosen to volunteer my time to help others and continue to be an active and faithful member of Citylife Church and a positive influence for change in the Tampa Bay community.

– Craig Pedersen

Expressions of help and donations for the homeless may be dropped off at University Church Benevolence House or Family Life Center. You can also call the UCM office at 813-949-0109 or contact the OJ Program Director, Jerome Van Gorp at 813-334-3709.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you prefer to receive the UCM Newsletter via email, then email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org to be placed on the emailing list and removed from our mailing list.



UCM needs your time and talents – volunteer today! Call the UCM office at (813) 949-0109 or email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org and let us hear from you!



CHECK US OUT!

Visit UCM's website at www.universitycommunityministries.org for the latest news and updates. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged.

If there is anything that you would like to see posted on the website or in the quarterly newsletter, email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org or fax to (813) 949-9159. We would love to hear from you!

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 800-435-7352. Registration does not employ endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



YOU CAN HELP

Join UCM in *Restoring hope . . . one life at a time*. As a supporter, you will receive our quarterly newsletter with important messages about our programs as well as success stories about the people we serve. UCM is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

YES, I would like to partner with UCM in *Restoring hope . . . one life at a time*. Enclosed is my gift to UCM in the amount of:

\$500 \$100 \$250 \$50 Other \$ _____
 One Time Monthly Quarterly Annually

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone/Fax _____ E-mail _____

I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

Planned Giving Options

Please consider a gift to UCM in your will or estate plan.

Please send me information about naming UCM in my will.

I have already made provisions for UCM in my estate plans.

**Thank you. Make checks payable to:
University Community Ministries, Inc., PO Box 280024, Tampa, Florida 33682.**

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Riddle Me This –

Pronounced as one letter, and written with three,
Two letters there are, and two only in me.
I'm double, I'm single, I'm black, blue, and gray,
I'm read from both ends, and the same either way.
What am I?



Go to www.universitycommunityministries.org for answer.

