



University Community News

Volume 11

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 2

Board of Directors

Jerome Van Gorp, President
Stan Strickland, Vice President
America Van Gorp, Secretary
Mary Bruder, Treasurer
Molly Cox, Friendship Bridge Dir.
Judy Morales
David Ogburn
Tony Stewart, citylife church Pastor

Leadership Team

Joyce Griffin
Mary Pass
Paul Pass
Betty Pitts
Alvinia Robinson
Walter Robinson
Linda Rodriguez
Carl Sanders
John Thacker
Ozie Brown
Angel Rodriguez

Funding has been provided by:

Burton Family Foundation
citylife church
Rainmaker Entertainment
The Radiant Group
USAmeriBank

Additional funding is received from
community friends and supporters

University Community Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 280024
Tampa, Florida 33682
813-935-8400 / 813-968-4140FAX
info@universitycommunityministries.org
www.universitycommunityministries.org

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES
"2015 RESTORING HOPE BANQUET"
SAVE THE DATE!

The UCM 2015 Restoring Hope Banquet will be held on Thursday, September 24 at the Embassy Suites Tampa USF located at 3705 Spectrum Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33612.



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

IN THIS ISSUE

APR – JUN 2015

OUTREACHES	Page
2015 Bowl For Hope	2
Friendship Bridge	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3

UCM	Page
Needs/Announcements	3
How You Can Help	4
Did You Know	4

Please save the date on your calendar and watch for your invitation, which will arrive at your home sometime in August. We look forward to seeing you at the banquet.

America Van Gorp, Committee Chairman of the UCM Restoring Hope Banquet and the UCM Board



2015 BOWL FOR HOPE

was hosted by



The 4th annual **2015 Bowl For Hope** fundraising event hosted by Pin Chasers Bowling Center was a tremendous success. Approximately 32 people participated in the bowl-a-thon this year. Each bowler solicited sponsors for their two games of bowling and, as of this publication, we achieved and exceeded our fundraising goal of \$10,000.00. Thanks to Pin Chasers Bowling Center, raffle prize donors, Bowl For Hope Lane and Pin Sponsors, the event raised a total of \$11,423.00 for the program and services of University Community Ministries, Inc.

Each bowler received complimentary pizza and drinks and enjoyed a wide variety of raffle prizes throughout the 2 hour event. It was a great team effort. On behalf of University Community Ministries' Board and volunteers "Thank You" for



helping make this Bowl for Hope a success. We encourage you to support and say a prayer of blessing to all

the participants, sponsors and donors for their support and financial contributions. The following companies and individuals were event and/or lane sponsors for this year's bowl-a-thon.

- James Gentile / Florida Retirement Consultants
- Anthony Passeri/Sunlight Financial USAmeriBank
- Anthony Grutto/Cigna Health Care
- Jeffrey Zyonse/Transamerica Hub International
- Craig Urquhart
- David & Becky Ogburn
- Prime Physical Therapy
- Automated Petroleum
- Academic Alliance in Dermatology
- Innovative International
- Title Agency of Florida
- Albertelli Law
- Weldon Industries, Inc.
- American Metals Supply, Inc.
- Charles Chunn
- John Connelly



Trey Traviesa/Westchase Surgery Center
citylife church
Rainmaker Music Management
Morning Star Fleet Services

Also, a special thank you is in order to Anthony Perrone from Pinchasers Bowling Center on 4847 N Armenia Ave., Tampa, FL 33603, who provided a great venue for our fundraiser. We give all praise to God for all of the success of this year's event and a big THANK YOU to our Bowl For Hope Chairman, Brent Dolan.

By Jerome Van Gulp



FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE
(Senior Adult Events)

The Friendship Bridge in My Life

When I was a child growing up in St. Petersburg, my hometown was a magnet for retirees, or as we kids called them "old people". As a sixth grader, I couldn't picture what it would be like to be a "senior".

But now I'm there. I've had enough birthdays to put me in that category unmistakably. I have walked through a door into a room with lots of other people who are seniors too. The Friendship Bridge luncheons now are more to me than just a place to eat a noon meal once a month. Let me explain:

Pastor Molly Cox, who introduced me to these luncheons, typifies the loving warmth that fills the room when a group of us, ranging in age probably from the 50s to the 90s, gather around circular tables and immediately make new friendships and renew old ones. At those tables, we understand each other: grandchildren, doctor's appointments, walking at a slower pace than we used to, rearranging the scope of our lives to fit our senior bodies and minds.

The best part of those Friendship Bridge luncheons for me is the conversations that flow so easily, even before the scheduled "program" begins. Having moved to Tampa from Miami a few months ago, I am making a new circle of friends, people I can relate to. And Pastor Molly gave me a prime opportunity to use my writing skills: the monthly newsletter that goes out to Friendship Bridge regulars is my responsibility.

At the luncheons, I take the time to interview various people there because everyone has a good story to tell. Then I create vignettes of these fascinating people for use in the newsletter. The newsletter also lets me write newsy articles that encourage readers to stay active, to see senior years as a new opportunity for personal growth.

Friendship Bridge is a good name for these monthly events. I treasure the new friendships I am making and I walk over this Bridge to new ways to serve God among His children. Yes, there is much more going on among us seniors at those luncheons than eating together. Friendship Bridge is a life-giving, energizing event for all of us at those tables.

Friendship Bridge meets monthly at citylife church, 8411 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, Florida 33614.

For additional information on Friendship Bridge/citylife Seniors, call Pastor Molly Cox at (813) 933-3991 or email at mcox@citylifechurch.cc.

By Pat Fulton



OPERATION JUMPSTART (Homeless Community Outreach Program)

Volunteer Spotlight

"The Ocean We Call Life"



Where to begin? A couple years ago, our lives (my wife Ashley and myself, Justin) were much different than they are now. We were single, both living in apartments, I was running a small

business and Ashley was an RN in the ICU. Alongside that, we were going to church and Bible studies and we both wanted to put the Lord first in our lives. Sometimes it seemed as if we were looking to fit God into our lives, instead of fitting our lives into what God wants.

When asked of the "greatest commandment", Jesus quoted the Old Testament and said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Well, throw in our human desires for a great life and this sometimes seems like a never ending battle over our actions. Jesus also tells us that "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." God makes it very clear that he wants a devoted relationship with us.

Fast forward a couple years to the present where Ash and I recently enjoyed our one year anniversary! We also bought a home and Ashley started an intense masters program at school, which leaves me working and doing the cooking, cleaning, laundry and other stuff around the house. Like it is with many other households, you could say things are pretty busy around our home. We have begun volunteering with University Community Ministries where we have met a great group of brothers and sisters in Christ. With all of the busyness and changes this world throws at us, we have learned that this world is like an ocean and it can easily consume those who allow it. Ever since Adam and Eve were deceived in the Garden of Eden, Satan has used the things of this world to distract us from God. In the Book of Mathew, Jesus said "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Through the Operation Jumpstart homeless ministry with UCM, we have seen God reveal Himself in many ways. Fellowshiping with the men and women that attend Saturday morning feedings have opened our minds and hearts on what is truly important in life. Seeking God and serving Him. Spending our time, efforts and finances in building God's kingdom. That is what matters. This ministry opens doors to discipleship, fellowship, service and loving on people in the Sulphur Springs community. UCM opens up a platform to nonbelievers with a hope that they will open their hearts to God.

The message is to rejoice! We have nothing to worry about. We must seek God first both together as His church and alone in our homes. Then, slowly the things of this world, which we called the ocean, begin to calm and all that is left is us and the Lord.

By Justin Dolan

"UCM/Operation Jumpstart Family Fun Day"



Save THE Date!

On Saturday August 8, 2015 University Community Ministries (UCM), the Operation Jumpstart (OJ) team and citylife church will be hosting our 3rd annual "Family Fun Day" at the UCM House of Hope located at 8512 N Mitchell Ave.

Last year many volunteers served over 200 people in the Sulphur Springs community through the giving of their prayers, contributions, time and service. We were able to supply 99 children in the neighborhood with back to school backpacks filled with supplies.

This year, the need will be even greater and your service will be needed to share the blessings and the love of God with the Sulphur Springs community.

Please save the date on your calendar! If you would like to volunteer for this year's "2015 Family Fun Day", please call the UCM office at 813-935-8400 or send an email to info@universitycommunityministries.org. We would be honored if you would join us for this event.

Remember: 1 John 3:17 reminds us "Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how can the love of God abide in him?"



NEEDS

UCM needs your time and talents – volunteer today! Call the UCM office at (813) 935-8400 or email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org and let us hear from you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHECK US OUT!

Visit UCM's **NEW & IMPROVED** website at www.universitycommunityministries.org for the latest news and events. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged. You can also like us on Face book at www.facebook.com/UniversityCommunityMinistries.

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) 968-8400. We would love to hear from you!

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE 800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY 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.

DID YOU KNOW

UCM served 4426 meals last year to the hungry and needy in our community. Handed out over 200 blankets to our homeless neighbors and 75 back to school backpacks with school supplies to the kids in the Sulphur Springs community.

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**

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA, FL
PERMIT NO. 1891

info@universitycommunityministries.org

P.O. Box 280024
Tampa, Florida 33682

University Community Ministries, Inc.
Restoring Hope . . . one life at a time.

