



University Community News

Volume 12

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 2



The Sip 'N' Shop Boutique

On Saturday, June 4, UCM and Acacia Grove Church partnered together to host the 2016 "Sip 'N' Shop Boutique" at UCM's House of Hope. We were blessed with a beautiful day where not only was the sun shining, but the "SON" was shining in the hearts of the women (and men) of UCM and Acacia Grove Church who volunteered their time and resources to come out to love on, serve and have fellowship with the women and young girls in the Sulphur Springs community.

Our goal for this event was to provide an atmosphere for the women and girls in the community to come and spend the afternoon shopping at no cost for clothes, shoes, purses and jewelry while also providing them with some cold refreshments, finger foods and sweet treats. In other words, we want them to feel "SPECIAL".

So, approximately 25 volunteers (men and women) gathered together at the House of Hope located in Sulphur Springs at 8512 N. Mitchell Avenue and set up tents with rows and rows of new and gently used clothing, racks of shoes and purses and a table of jewelry displayed beautifully in jewelry boxes and on stands. After setup, the men left and some of the ladies served the women and girls who attended our event sandwiches, sweet treats, tea and lemonade while they shopped. Mary Pass beautifully decorated the tables for the women and girls so that they could take a break from shopping to eat and have fellowship with one another. Pastor Sharon DeArmon, wife of Pastor Chip DeArmon of Acacia Grove Church, did an amazing job of setting up and decorating two private dressing rooms. Several door prizes were given throughout the afternoon. Several of the women went home with a beautiful basket put together by some of the ladies who volunteered that day and some went home with a nice gift card. Not only was this a beautiful event for the women and girls in the community, but it was an amazing opportunity for the UCM and Acacia Grove women to work and fellowship together as one body. We were reminded once again of God's goodness and how He provides for those who trust in Him.

A few highlights of the day:

- Every woman and girl who attended the event was given a nice shopping bag donated by Neiman Marcus. (THANK YOU, WINNIE!)

- Two young girls (approximately 10 years old) were trying on clothes and one of the volunteers overheard one say as she was looking in the mirror, "I feel like I am in the movies".
- I had the opportunity to speak with a young mother with three children and as a result of their conversation, the family became a part of the Acacia Grove Church.
- A lady shopping with tears in her eyes said, "This feels like Christmas."
- Every woman and girl left the event with a beautiful gift bag in their hand and a smile on their face.



There is no doubt in my mind that with the help of the Lord, we succeeded at our mission, which was:

- For the women and girls to experience the love of Jesus and feel special! Psalm 139:13-18 says, "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;"
- For the women and girls in the community to feel pampered.

As women of God, we should empower, encourage and lift our women up in Christ. We are God's children; therefore, we ARE precious in His eyes. Because God's love certainly shined through many of His vessels that day. Not only that, but He opens doors for opportunities to serve for those with an open heart. Mark 10: 43-45 says, "Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

I hope this verse is an encouragement to all God's servants because it certainly is for me!

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY! HONOR! AND PRAISE!

By Ashley Dolan

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

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Operation Jumpstart

By Dr. Natalie M. Kennedy

Being with University Community Ministries (UCM) Operation Jumpstart for a little over 4 years and I am glad to see so many smiling faces that has joined the forces with the loving men and women of UCM. Scripture tells us that it's always more blessed to give than to receive. At UCM, I have seen where the UCM volunteers (the men and women of UCM) love to give to their extended, adopted family, the homeless men and women of their communities and those in need. That is the mission and God loves a cheerful giver. The men and women of UCM are patient individuals even when knowing that when they might talk with one of our homeless neighbors in the community needing their help that there is a possibility he or she may go back to the same person, place and/or thing. The men and women of UCM love to pray for their homeless and needy friends. They approach them with compassion and a kind heart even when knowing that just five minutes ago, the man or woman just finished off a can of beer but asked for prayer with a hint that they may give their life to the Lord. Why is this done week after week? Because this is one of their family members, God's child, who needs to hear the words from a loving person that God has placed in their path to give them that spark of hope.

God has given every man and woman the opportunity to be a blessing to someone. Scripture makes it clear that when your heart is set on blessing others, God will bless you in the process. Look how many times UCM has been blessed with the renovation of the House of Hope, Bowling Fundraisers, Family Fun Day, clothing drives, and just recently The Sip-N- Shop Boutique. I know for a fact that everyone who is part of UCM loves to give a hug, a smile, a prayer, and a hand up to the men and women of their surrounding communities. Though we all have some busy lives, I am sure we are all thankful to have shook the hands of Jerome and America Van Gorp in agreement to join them to become someone's sunshine when their skies might be grey.

We are blessed because we have the heart of Jesus. The same blood that was shed for every person here on earth, no matter if you are rich or poor, black, brown or white, from the Islands or from Iran, is blessed to be loved and to receive help by another person to lessen their need and to give them joy. My take is, through time and efforts and sometimes treasure, UCM has been used to make miracles happen, have prayed for supernatural healing for others, and has seen lives changed. Psalm 41:1-3 says, "Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The LORD rescues them when they are in trouble. The LORD protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies. The LORD nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health."

My take on understanding the depth of God's love is when you see the men and women of UCM love the seemingly unlovable, that is when you see a glimpse of what God does for us every day. When some of the men stay behind and pray for a brother or brings back clothes for a family; that is when you see a glimpse of what God does for us every day. Or when you see UCM members feel a little frustrated because they have truly done all they can do and just want to say, "but God" UCM says "Yet God!" When you see the men and women of UCM love the weak and sick, that is when you see a glimpse of what God does every single moment of our lives.

My prayer is that the men and women of UCM and those who support them not grow weary in all they do for those in need in our communities, for I see a glimpse of light getting brighter in these communities that are surrounded by darkness. Although the light may take a lifetime to come into full illumination, there is always that one spark that we hope will see a brand new day and become flame in another's person life. Men and women of this ministry, we are the Lord's sheep who serve with compassion, who serve with a changed heart, who serve with simple acts of kindness and with simple acts of love. Keep doing the good works!



On Saturday, August 6, 2016 University Community Ministries (UCM), the Operation Jumpstart (OJ) team and citylife church supported by several volunteers from Acacia Grove Church, Watermark Church and Idlewild church will be hosting our 4th annual "Family Fun Day" at the UCM House of Hope located at 8512 N Mitchell Ave.

Last year many volunteers served over 180 people in the Sulphur Spring community through the giving of their prayers, contributions, time and service. We were able to supply 71 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 Spring community.

Please save the date on your calendar! If you would like to make a donation or to volunteer for

this year's "2016 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 can abide in him?"

FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE
(Senior Adult Events)Friendship Bridge Keeps Steady Beat with
Music, Warmth and Enthusiasm

By Pat Fulton



If you drop in on the monthly luncheons of Friendship Bridge, you will find that no two meetings are alike. But each of them is marked with a friendly atmosphere, programs that keep people interested and a youthful enthusiasm.

You'll find that music has an important place at each of the first-Saturday events. Ozie Brown leads the group in a variety of old favorites, including familiar hymns and secular tunes that are "golden oldies". John Maglotte is invaluable as he provides lively piano accompaniment.

One meeting brought a speaker from the Crime Prevention Task Force, who kept everyone's attention with tips on personal safety, whether at home, in the car or out in public. At another luncheon, Pat Fulton gave tips on writing one's life story to give to one's children and grandchildren. She distributed handouts showing ways to organize the biography and types of information to include in the life story.

Looking ahead, Pastor Molly Cox, who leads the meetings, has announced that book reviews may be part of programs in the fall. After the June luncheon, the group will be on hiatus until September, but the monthly newsletter will continue to be published in the summer as a way of keeping the group together.



OPERATION JUMPSTART (Homeless Community Outreach Program)



John (Dizzy) Dzialowy, Jr.

By Brent Dolan

Jonnie, or "Dizzy" as he has been known around Sulphur Springs, is no stranger to the members of University Community Ministries (UCM). He has been coming to the Operation Jumpstart breakfast for a while now.

Jonnie found himself trapped in the spice world, and we aren't talking about the early millennium British pop band. I'm talking about the illegal street drug called spice. Spice has been growing in popularity and has hit the Tampa Bay area by storm. Some call it synthetic marijuana. However, this drug is far more dangerous than marijuana and causes overdoses and deaths. This drug is consisted of dried plant materials that are sprayed with hundreds of very dangerous types of research chemicals along with synthetic cannabinoids, which are designer drugs that are chemically different from the chemicals in cannabis (Marijuana). Jonnie found himself addicted to spice and seemingly a long way from hope.

Jonnie has always been courteous and respectful, even when at his worse. He would mostly come by for breakfast and keep to himself. When he was getting high, he would still work at the furniture store to make money in efforts to better his life, but spice had a serious grip on him.

A few months back Jonnie humbled himself and decided that he wanted to change. He began seeking to gain direction of his life. Jonnie began seeking a relationship with God with Jesus as his Savior. Jonnie has stood up as a man of God and done what many have not been able to do. As it says in the book of James, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." He has resisted the devil's control over him and escaped his addiction to spice! He has not used spice since January 23, 2016.

Jonnie has been going to church and attending Bible studies regularly. He now has hope and also has a job lined up to begin at Raymond James Stadium. Jonnie's path is still not an easy one, as he would like to get out of the transitional housing facility where he lives now and into his own place. He has to deal with people who are persecuting him for trying to do well. He was recently attacked

right after church without a reason being given. This may not be a fairytale story, but isn't this the persecution that we should expect? 1 Peter says: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

He now has his faith guiding him towards his goals and the brothers and sisters of UCM are praying for him as well as helping in areas that we can. As a church with Jesus as our Messiah, let us learn from Jonnie and continue to help others like him through times of need.



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 be 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 Facebook 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!

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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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

08/06/2016 - Family Fun Day

09/22/2016 - Restoring Hope Banquet

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 _____

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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.

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