



University Community News

Volume 9

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 4

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2013 UCM "RESTORING HOPE BANQUET"

On behalf of University Community Ministries, Inc. we would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of you who contributed to our seventh annual "2013 Restoring Hope Banquet" held on Thursday, September 26th at the Embassy Suites USF Hotel. This year's banquet was the most successful one yet. We could not have done it without your prayers, volunteer service and financial support.



This year's banquet started off with some delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared and served by the staff from the beautiful Embassy Suites USF Hotel. As everyone began to fill the banquet room, we were all blessed by the beautiful music provided by Kathy and Howard Helm along with Andrea Strickland. What a treat! We were also blessed this year with a silent auction that was coordinated by Mary and Paul Pass, members of our OJ team. They did a wonderful job at putting the auction together and providing the attendees the fun opportunity of bidding on the items during our time of hors devours and fellowship.

Reverend Kathy Conner from First Presbyterian Church of Tampa attended our banquet and blessed us by doing the invocation.



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

In This Issue

OCT - DEC 2013

OUTREACHES	Page
Friendship Bridge	2-3
OJ Heart of the Harvest	3
UCM	Page
Needs/Announcements	3
How You Can Help	4



This year's Operation Jumpstart (OJ) Homeless Outreach



Program "Volunteer of the Year Award" went to Joyce Griffin. Joyce is a wonderful asset to the OJ Program. Joyce gives generously of her time, prayers and financial support. Joyce helps with feeding the homeless and assists with keeping the UCM clothes closet in order. Joyce also serves as a greeter at citylife church. She is definitely a blessing to our volunteer team and is truly deserving of this award and more. Thank you Joyce for all you do for God's Kingdom.

Molly Cox, Director of the Friendship Bridge Senior Citizens Program presented two Friendship Bridge "Volunteer of the Year Awards." One went to Betty Pitts and



the other to Angel and Linda Rodriguez. Molly has a wonderful

team who work hard each month to prepare a wonderfully delicious meal and serve it to the senior citizens who attend the monthly meetings at citylife church. They are all deserving of the award and much more. Thank you all for your sacrifice of time, love and service.

Chloe Coney, Director to Congresswoman Kathy Castor, was our speaker this year. She did an



amazing job using her CDC experience to inspire the crowd of the importance of each program within UCM and their role in restoring hope to the individuals they served throughout the year. She also spoke to them about the importance of their involvement with University Community Ministries and how their financial, prayer and volunteer support was what enabled us to continue to reach out to the North Tampa community and restore hope....one life at a time. People

are still talking about her message and the passion and enthusiasm with which she spoke. Thank you Chloe for allowing God to use you to bless us with such an encouraging message that was obviously from the Lord!

We hope to see you all at next year's "2014 Restoring Hope Banquet".

In His Love and Service,

The University Community Ministries Board

James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To look after the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world".

Isaiah 58:6 "Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen; to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

**FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE
(Senior Adult Connection)**

**Now's the Time to Shine
By Molly Cox**

I just completed reading a beautiful article entitled "Reflections". It is about the many changes that take place in adults who reach that stage in life where we are over the 60 mark and our life takes on challenges that sometimes we are not ready to face.

One of the challenges we have to face may be voluntary or forced retirement. Do you remember planning for retirement when you were in your 20's or 30's? Did you think about reading all those books you never had time to read? Did you plan those world-wide trips to take with your spouse or maybe switching careers so you could work at home and keep the mind active?

How about this? You are now facing the loss of life control and personal



authority. Do you remember when people actually listened to your opinions and respected your input? How about sometimes you feel like the child and your children take on the "parent control" of your life.

Yes, we do cope with many issues, but sometimes change is really a blessing! We do have the time to bless others. We have much to offer with an encouraging word to the people God places in our lives every day. Recently my husband was in the hospital and a nurse asked me how long we had been together. When I told her we were coming up on our 60th wedding anniversary in December, she said "wow" tell me how you've made it. When she sat down in a chair, I realized she was looking for some answers. I told her that God was first place in our lives and that we prayed a lot and never forgot our commitment to each other. What an opportunity!

One of my many favorite scriptures is, "Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come." Psalm 71:18. Use your time to reach out to bless those you come in



contact with from day to day. A quote that was in the article was from Elizabeth Kubler-Ross: "People are like stained glass windows; they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is reveal only if there is a light within." Now's the time to shine!



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

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 14, 12 noon – Please call the church office (813-933-3991) for reservations.

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

**OPERATION JUMPSTART
(Homeless Community
Outreach Program)**

**2013 “Heart of the Harvest”
Thanksgiving Dinner
By Jerome Van Gorp**

It is that time of the year again when we look back over the past year and reflect on all the things we can be thankful for. We thank God that He has given us another opportunity to reach out to those in our city who may be in need of a hot meal, a warm blanket, a gentle hug and a kind word.

In 2012 we partnered with Living Scriptures Ministry for our annual Heart of the Harvest Thanksgiving Dinner which was held at Yukon Park in the Sulphur Springs area and together fed approximately 150 homeless and needy families in the North Tampa Community a full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings.



This year the UCM Operation Jumpstart (OJ) team chose to hold our 2013 “Heart of the Harvest” Thanksgiving Dinner on the grounds of the UCM’s House of Hope, 8512 Mitchell Avenue in Sulphur Springs on Saturday November 23, 2013 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

On that Saturday with the Lord’s help, a team of thirty-six volunteers and their kids put together an amazing Thanksgiving feast for approximately 120 of our



homeless friends and needy families in the

community who joined us for a hot meal and a great time of fellowship. The compliments on the meal and the event were many from our guests and volunteers.



We were blessed and encouraged by a visit from our home church (citylife) senior Pastors Tony and Kaci Stewart and their beautiful girls Bayli Grace and Hadli Hope.



As an added bonus, citylife ThanksForGiving outreach provided UCM with ten (10) Thanksgiving baskets that was given to 10 needy families in the area who were not able to afford or have a Thanksgiving meal this year.

We thank God for all of you who support UCM and the OJ Homeless outreach through your finances, giving of your time and most importantly your prayers. Without you it would be impossible for us to restore hope...one life at a time to the hurting and needy in the Tampa Bay area.



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



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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