



University Community News

Volume 9

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 3

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2013 RESTORING HOPE BANQUET

Please join us for an evening of discovery as we provide opportunities to support the community and highlight success stories that promote dignity, independence, literacy and self-fulfillment in the lives of the homeless, the elderly, children and their families in the Northeast Tampa area.



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

We guarantee a wonderful evening along with an opportunity to support the valuable work of UCM, Inc. and we would be honored if you would join us.

UCM will be holding its annual Restoring Hope Banquet on Thursday, September 26, 2013 beginning at 6:30PM at the Embassy Suites Tampa USF located at 3702 Spectrum Boulevard in Tampa, Florida.

We sure do hope you will join us!

If you have any questions or are interested in attending the banquet, please RSVP by Friday, September 20, 2013 to America Van Gorp at 813-390-0271 or Jerome Van Gorp at 813-334-3709.

Looking forward to seeing and fellowshiping with you at the banquet!

The UCM Board

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FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE (Senior Adult Connection)

Back to Friendship Bridge By Molly Cox

You are hearing a lot about "Back to School Events"...."Back to Church Events".....this is a call to a **BACK TO A FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE EVENT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st AT 12 NOON AT citylife church!**



This is a *call back* to fun, information, fellowship and great food. This is the beginning of a new year of lunches, inspirational speakers, singing of old and new hymns (with a few oldie/goldies show tunes), guests from various agencies to assist us in living a full life. At this initial meeting we will give you a three month overview of what will be taking place for October, November and December. We will give you an opportunity to share your thoughts on some of the events you would like to take place.



Friendship Bridge is about making new friends, interacting with people from different walks of life, hearing the stories of family, life's special events while sitting around the table with great food and just enjoying life.



If you are 60 plus and you want to get involved in Friendship Bridge, don't stay home, this is a great time to begin because we are *beginning again* and you can be a part of all that's happening.

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

HARD TO SAY GOODBYE

By Brigid Q. Morgan

It seems just like yesterday when a group of likeminded individuals sat together one day and talked about the homeless situation in Tampa.

That is how operation jumpstart began – A passion to reach the hungry, hurting and lost. I was humbled to be invited into that group of forward thinking individuals who birthed this ministry to share the Good News of Jesus while also feeding their physical needs.

It has been such a privilege and honor to be part of a team who routinely steps out of their comfort zone to reach those on the street – whether they are mentally ill, drug/alcohol dependent or just plain unlovable, the team continues to serve each of these people with unconditional love.

I credit the Operation Jumpstart team with impacting my daughter Sarah, who at a young age took an active part in participating with the team. That passion and burden for the hurting continues in her heart to this very day. She currently takes an active part in local ministry in Texas, where she now lives.

As I close this chapter and leave Operation Jumpstart of any accolade that may come my way, being part of Operation Jumpstart will always be endearing to me. Thank you for the privilege to serve with you.

Brigid



From all of us here at UCM, we wish you every success and blessing as you head

in to your new "mission field" in Montana. Brigid, you will most certainly be missed!

Our prayer to you . . . "The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." We love you, Brigid!

FAREWELL WISHES

By Mary Bruder

Hard to believe that it has been almost five years since Joel Gay joined UCM as a Board Member. Sadly we must say "Farewell" and "Best Wishes". Joel has recently relocated to California along with his wife and best friend, Tracy.



Joel generously gave of his time and talents by renovating the Benevolence House that was located on citylife's property off of Fowler Avenue. He also gave of his architectural experience by providing drawings on what can be done with the House of Hope on Mitchell Avenue in making it more suitable for assisting and serving our homeless clients here in Tampa.

Joel, you will be dearly missed by all of us! We wish you and Tracy much prosperity in your new endeavors.

"May you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God".



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

**UCM/Operation Jumpstart
Family Fun Day
By Jerome Van Gorp**



On Saturday August 10, 2013 University Community Ministries (UCM) held their first "Family Fun Day" at the UCM House of Hope on 8512 N Mitchell Ave. Even though it felt like the hottest day of summer, the event was amazingly successful and a fun day for all who attended. The day started very early with approximately 23 UCM volunteers setting up tents, tables, games, BBQ grill and putting out clothes to be given away. Starting at 11:00AM, about 84 of the surrounding Sulphur Springs neighbors and families entered the Family Fun Day registration tent where they were warmly welcomed to the event. The registration volunteers handed out back to school back packs, food tickets, door prize tickets, and gift bags that included a water bottle, UCM Newsletter, USAmeriBank pens, coozies, and some assorted snacks.

With big smiles on their face, the kids fanned out to the various game booths and face painting table while the parents found their way over to the clothes and BBQ food tables. The children had their faces painted and then were off and running to play putt putt golf, basketball, corn hole and ball toss. Two \$25 Home Depot and Shell gift cards along with several Publix and iTunes \$15 gift cards were given away as door prizes to the



families with the winning tickets. Some of the comments heard were:

"This was a wonderful idea!"

"Thank you for putting this event on for us."

"We really needed these back packs; thank you so much."

"Will you all be doing this again next year?"



The Family Fun Day volunteers had a wonderful time serving and sharing with our homeless friends and families in the community.



We thank God for all of you who supported UCM 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 those in the Tampa Bay area.

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 does the love of God abide in him?"

The Family Fun Day Volunteers



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!



