



University Community News

Volume 11

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 1

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Funding has been provided by:

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Additional funding is received from
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2015 THE YEAR OF "ONE"

At the very beginning of Year 2015, Pastor Tony of citylife church declared that this would be the year of "One"; One God, One Savior, One Spirit: The year that we would UNITE – IGNITE – IMPACT: A year of connection that will bring multiplication, kingdom alignment and advancement! In order to do this we have to be connected to God and one another.

John 17:20-22 says that Jesus prayed for us that we would be one as He and the Father is one. If we ever needed to be united together as "ONE", it is now. If we are going to move forward and make a difference by restoring one life at a time, we need to be united as one; ignited by the fire of the Holy Spirit; empowered to make an impact in our city and world; and stop looking at what is behind us and look forward to what is ahead.

University Community Ministries (UCM) is accepting this word given to citylife church for 2015. We will unite as one and encourage others to connect with God and others as we walk in unity by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are determined to make an impact in the lives of those around us and throughout our city. We are only in the first quarter of 2015 and UCM has already been blessed with the opportunity to connect with several new volunteers from various churches throughout the Tampa Bay community. We are currently connected with citylife church, LifePoint Church, Idlewild Baptist Church of Odessa, Watermark Church, and Life Springs Baptist Church and together we are impacting our city with the love of God.

As we enter into the Easter season, let's not forget that over 2,000 years ago our freedom from sin and the gift of eternal life was purchased through the shedding of the precious blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and His death, burial and resurrection. It is time for the body of Christ to rise up united together as ONE and shine the light of Jesus Christ to a city and a world that is being overtaken by darkness.

How do we do this? By sharing God's love with **EVERYONE** no matter what their past might be or where they are presently in their journey; struggling to find their way; everybody needs to feel loved. By loving people and becoming their friend, we earn the right to be heard with the hope that we will be given the opportunity to share with them the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ultimately "people need the Lord".

(Matthew 5:13-16 Amplified Bible)

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste (its strength, its quality), how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck measure, but on a lamp stand and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence and your praiseworthy, noble, and good deeds and recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father Who is in heaven."

Let's UNITE-IGNITE-IMPACT together as ONE!!!

By America Van Gorp

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

IN THIS ISSUE

JAN – MAR 2015

OUTREACHES	Page
Friendship Bridge	2
Bowl For Hope	2
2015 "Serve Saturday"	3
UCM	Page
Needs/Announcements	3
How You Can Help	4
Did You Know	4



FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE (Senior Adult Events)

We're in a Growing Group!

By Pat Fulton, Editor of Senior Link –
Friendship Bridge Newsletter



Did you know that, for the first time in US history, there are now more people over 65 than under age 18?

Here are some traits of people in our group: an active lifestyle, goals to accomplish, a peak of influence, natural leaders in community life, and qualities of flexibility, caring, and giving.

Experts suggest the five stages of adulthood are: 18-30 (Emerging adults); 30-50 (Young adults); 50-70 (Middle adults); 70-80 (Senior adults); and 80+ years (Elderly adults). Experts also tell us that every seven seconds, someone turns 50! And we welcome them to our club! We have plenty to share with those up-and-coming generations.

Some of us may have physical limitations...we don't walk quite as fast...but if we still have a friendly smile and some cheerful stories to share, we will find ourselves more than useful. Think back: what do you know now that you wish you had known at age 20 or 30? Who were the people who taught you key lessons in life? What were "high points" in your past life? And looking ahead, do you have a "bucket list"...things you would like to do or places you would like to go?

We call "today" *the present* because it is a gift. Open today's gift and *enjoy!*

We welcome Patricia as Editor of Senior Link, a newsletter published every month

for senior adults who attend Friendship Bridge. Pat.... PhD in English...editor for several Tampa Bay business magazines...radio talk host five years in Tampa area...lived in Miami 12 years...moved back to Tampa to be near family and joined citylife church in 2014. Welcome to Friendship Bridge!

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 Jerome Van Gorp

The *2015 Bowl for Hope* fundraising event is going to be better than last year. The 4th annual bowl-a-thon will be hosted at Pin Chasers Bowling Center again this year on May 30, 2015 from 11:00 pm – 1:00 pm on 4847 N Armenia Ave., Tampa, FL 33603.

Each bowler is expected to solicit sponsors for their two games of bowling with the goal of raising \$10,000. Each bowler will receive complimentary food and drinks and an opportunity to win a wide variety of raffle prizes throughout the 2 hour event.

University Community Ministries (UCM) is providing volunteers and/or their guest with the opportunity to field a team of five

(5) bowlers. These bowlers and friends of UCM will solicit people to sponsor their team. The sponsor is committing to a one-time contribution. Lane sponsorships for \$250.00 per lane will also be available to community partners and businesses. No gift is too small and it will make a difference in someone's life.

The sponsorships funds will be raised through bowling as follows:

Assuming that the sponsors commit to a one time donation of \$25.00 and each bowler gets 10 sponsors willing to support them, the sponsors would pay UCM a donation of \$250.00 towards that bowler and if that team had five (5) bowlers that did the same thing, the team will have raised \$1,250.00 for UCM. The Pin Chasers Bowling Center has made eight (8) lanes available for the fundraising event. If all eight (8) bowling teams did the same thing, "The Bowl for Hope" event would have achieved their fundraising goal of \$10,000.

We would appreciate your support of this fun and worthwhile event. All proceeds will benefit the program and services of University Community Ministries, Inc. and are tax deductible.

We are expecting the Bowl for Hope to be a great team effort. If you are interested in helping or participating with this fundraising event, you can volunteer or donate on our Website:

www.UniversityCommunityMinistries.org under the "Contact" or "Donate" page. You can also contact our Bowl for Hope Chairman, Brent Dolan at 781-831-1361 or call the UCM office at 813-935-8400.



OPERATION JUMPSTART (Homeless Community Outreach Program)

citylife church Missions Department
2015 "Serve Saturday" at the
UCM House of Hope

By Jerome Van Gulp

On Saturday, January 17, 2015, a team of 50+ citylife church volunteers along with some of their kids (including several citylife church Missions Department board members), gathered together at the UCM House of Hope for the "Serve Saturday" project. They divided into five work teams made up of two painting teams, one construction team, one landscaping team and one storage cleanout team. These teams were led by Eli Brown, Bill Rousseau, Jeremiah Solberg, Jesse Clavijo, and Brent & Justin Dolan (twins from Watermark Church and members of the Operation Jumpstart Homeless Program). Projects included cleaning, painting, house repairs, landscaping, food distribution, sorting of clothes, and a whole lot more!

After introductions and a time of prayer, the teams went to work as follows:

- The painting teams painted the entire inside of the House of Hope.
- The construction crew repaired base boards, drywall holes, window frames and door jams.
- The landscaping team cut down trees, pulled up weeds, leveled ground and put down cypress mulch around the House of Hope.
- The storage cleanout teams worked on sorting clothes according to size and gender, organizing the storage sheds on the property as well as two units off-site located at Mini-Max Storage. This will give our teams quicker and better access to the clothing, household items, etc. used to help the needy and homeless.

These teams worked diligently until Noon and left a positive impact on the House of Hope and the UCM Operation Jumpstart team that served the homeless that day. Everyone worked in unity together and seemed to truly enjoy themselves.



We will be forever grateful to the men, women and kids from citylife church and the members of the Missions Department for giving us a great start on cleaning up the UCM House of Hope. Thank you citylife church!!!

Love and blessings to all of you from UCM and its Board!



SAVE THE DATE!!

5/13/2015 - Bowl for Hope
8/08/2015 - Family Fun Day
9/23/2015 - Restoring Hope Banquet



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 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.

DID YOU KNOW

UCM served 4,426 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 back packs 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.
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