

The MISSION

Stories of the Lord's provision through you in Tarrant County

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



**Moving Forward
into a Bright Future**

“A world of possibilities is ahead of me!”



You gave Victoria and her daughter “a world of possibilities”

“I’m going to be the best mom I can be!”

Victoria grew up in an unstable environment, shuttled from one family member to another. Along the way, she suffered abuse, never knowing what it felt like to be wanted and loved.

As an adult, Victoria made poor choices in her search for acceptance. She followed one boyfriend into a life of drug addiction and crime, landing in jail for three years.

Life got even tougher when Victoria was released from jail. “I was right back out there,” she recalls, “fending for myself.” She was deep into addiction, homeless and alone.

When Victoria became pregnant late in 2022, she wondered what would happen to her baby. After

two miscarriages, she feared this child would also be lost. She gave birth to L'Marie in August 2023, thankful that her daughter had survived, but knowing she had no way to care for her.

Victoria and her baby stayed with a friend for a few days. “I didn’t have anywhere to live, and I didn’t know where I was going to get my next can of formula,” she says. Then social services came to her door, and Victoria handed her precious daughter into their care.

“When they took her, it broke my heart, but I knew it was the right thing for her,” Victoria says. It was also the right thing for Victoria. She was set on a course to get her own life on track, which included Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County.

On her first day here, Victoria vowed to succeed. “I didn’t want to be on the street again. I wanted to stay clean. I wanted to do things right and get my daughter back.”

With your support, God’s grace and her own determination, Victoria regained custody of L'Marie last July.

She is working and living in UGM-TC’s Transitional Housing Program until she can afford a place of her own. “I’m going to be the best mom that I can be. I’m ready to give her the life I never had.”

Victoria tells you, “A world of possibilities is ahead of me! Thanks to everyone who loved me and supported me throughout my journey.”

Giving Is in Their DNA

When Sean Julius returned to Fort Worth from California, his mother, Trudy, was overjoyed. A volunteer at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County for 15 years, she lost little time asking her son to join her. And he said yes.

“Living in the San Francisco area, I saw a lot of homeless people,” Sean says. “It broke my heart to see people on the street, but I was so busy. Here, my schedule is lighter, so I can volunteer like I wanted to.”

Trudy and Sean currently help out in the administrative offices, but both started out working in the kitchen — and they



are open to pitching in wherever they are needed. Whatever they do, they feel blessed to be together. “We go out to eat afterwards,” Trudy says, “and spend some quality time.”

Sean’s time is still at a premium. In addition to his career in Human Resources, he is finishing a master’s degree in Christian counseling and studying for his LPCA (Licensed Professional Counselor Associate). But giving back is deeply important to him. “We’re supposed to take care of each other,” he says.

“It’s in our DNA,” Trudy explains. “We have something in us that wants to give back. We both want to make someone’s life a little better.”

BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD!

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” Boys and girls at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County have a wide variety of dreams. And thanks to you, they have the educational, emotional and spiritual support they need to work toward achieving those goals. We asked a few children here to share their dreams — here’s what they said...

“I want to be a veterinarian and take care of pets.”
—Jasmine

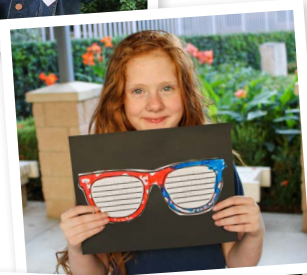


“I want to be a gymnast because I like doing lots of flips and acrobatics.”
—Ridi

“I want to be a dance teacher.”
—Antnett



“I’m going to be a cosplayer.”
—Gracie



“I see myself being a particle physicist, a scientist who studies the fundamental building blocks of matter known as ‘elementary particles.’”
—Isaiah

“I want to be a babysitter.”
—Juliana



“I want to be a football player. I’m going to have to work hard to do that.”
—Johnathan





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Teaming Up in 2025

They say two heads are better than one, and that’s certainly proven true at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. Having a new CEO and a CEO Emeritus has been a blessing for everyone over this past year ... and that teamwork will allow us to accomplish even more in 2025.

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

PROVERBS 27:17, NKJV

One takeaway from this collaboration is that we all benefit by learning from someone who has been there before us. Of course, that is really nothing new at UGM-TC, where our graduates often return to share their testimonies and inspire the men and women currently in our programs.

We also recognize the value of sharing a vision. By God’s grace, we agree that UGM-TC is all about outreach: to respect our hurting neighbors, to show them the love of Jesus Christ and to invite them to new life with Him.

Our shared goal is to have all of Tarrant County step up and say, “That is my neighbor, and I can’t just walk by them. I want to dig in deeper. I want to understand more.” With your help, more people will be redeemed and restored here, prepared to live healthy lives in our community. That includes our unhoused elderly neighbors and those with disabilities.

We are grateful to our Board for allowing us to make this transition. It has been beneficial to our residents, our staff and our community. And with you on our team, we will continue to honor and respect the history of UGM-TC as we move forward into a bright future.

May God bless you and yours in this new year!

In Christ,

