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A Publication of Uplift Organization, Inc. • Volume 15, Issue 1

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- February 14, 2009**
- Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day
- March 10, 2009**
- Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Spring/Summer Planning Meeting
- March 14, 2009**
- Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day
- 12:00 P.M. Route Leader/Driver Meeting
- April 11, 2009**
- Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day
- April 14, 2009**
- Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Quarterly Board Meeting,
- May 9, 2009**
- Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day
- June 13, 2009**
- Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day
- July 11, 2009**
- Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day
- July 14, 2009**
- Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Quarterly Board Meeting,
-

A non-profit organization may elect to apply for the federal tax exemption status under 26 USC § 501(c)(3). An organization receiving a "501(c)(3) status" gains certain privileges and obligations. A 501(c)(3) organization is exempt from paying federal income taxes (but still may be required to file annual income information). Additionally, all persons and organizations that make contributions (money or property) to a 501(c)(3) organization will be able to claim deductions for their donations to the organization on their individual federal income tax (amount of deduction to the extent allowable under federal statute, 26 USC § 170(c)(2))

When making your United Way contribution, please be aware that you may designate Uplift as the recipient of your gift through the donor choice program. This program is another way you can help us to help others.



Newsletter

Mission Statement

"We, who acknowledge God's providence and fidelity to His people, especially those in poverty, do dedicate our efforts toward the support of those who are homeless. Our goal is to deliver to the homeless those basic human needs, care and compassion that is not usually received from other organizations."

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Special thanks to

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Next Quarterly Board Meeting

**TUESDAY
APRIL 14, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

**at UPLIFT, 1516 Prospect
Kansas City, MO**

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PRINT TIME

From the President

Frank Fiorini, President, Uplift Organization, Inc.

Greetings to all friends of Uplift. We concluded 2008 with operational success. We were able to perform outreach on all scheduled evenings.

We were able to purchase and outfit two used Sprinter Vehicles which are the best units we have ever used.

Our number of volunteers has increased in outreach, cooking, and second Saturday sorting/clean-up.

During the year the Board of Directors and Officers conducted meetings to examine organizational priorities and execution of same. These meetings will continue in 2009.

Duties of Route Leaders, drivers, and outreach volunteers have been issued. These will be updated and a meeting is planned to be held at noon, Saturday, March 14, 2009. All outreach volunteers are invited, those planning to attend should assure their name is on

the meeting notice list, or phone me at (816) 868-3400.

We concluded the year on a very positive financial position. After paying higher fuel costs and some supplies, our income exceeded costs by \$10,000. This is about the same as 2007 experience. A special "Thank You" to all donors!

During 2009, an emphasis will be placed on replacing the mini-van for the pick-up of donated items and supplies. Anyone interested in making a donation of a mini-van please contact me at (816) 868-3400.

The list of Board Members in this newsletter was voted upon. Also Recording Secretary and President were elected.

Thank you for the time and talents you have given to Uplift.

May you and your loved ones have a peaceful 2009.

From the Editor

by Jennie Wheeling

Of special interest in this issue are the listings of Board of Directors and Officers. One new Officer position was created and that is Chief Technology Officer.

Four quarters of newsletters have been copied and posted to our webpage at Uplift.org so downloading of each can be done by clicking on the appropriate link.

Please remember, Time Warner Cable has graciously recorded Uplift in action and linked to it on their web site. The location to view this short presentation is <http://www.kcondemand.com/Community.aspx> Click on Uplift to

watch the video.

As always Monetary donations to help the homeless can be made directly to Uplift as well as through the United Way organization. Please contact your employer for details.

We are working on setting up a link to Paypal on our web site so donations can be made in yet another way. In days ahead you will find more exciting links to our organization's activities, newsletters, and more. Please check us out at <http://www.uplift.org>. We also have a new email address, uplift@kcnet.com.

Uplift Organization, Inc.

Board of Directors

Ron Aerts
 Susan Beurman
 Bruce Beurman
 Kathy Dean
 Harold Foster
 Tom Griswold
 Jeff Jernigan
 Carol Myers
 Larry Otto
 Sandy Otto
 Jennifer Schmidt
 Jim Schmidt
 Kathy Smith
 Greg Lebold, Chairman

Officers

Frank Fiorini, President
 Joe Kordalski, Vice President
 Jim Hendrix, Chief Technology Officer
 Terry Connealy, Treasurer
 Noreen Puhala, Recording Secretary
 Jennie Wheeling, Corresponding Secretary
 Vivian Dennison, Support Coordinator
 Jo Bustamante, Volunteer Coordinator
 Margo Yerck, Food Coordinator

**We really need
 canned goods, &
 toilet paper &
 clean 12oz, 16oz & 24oz
 PLASTIC BOTTLES
 no milk containers
 PLEASE**

**Published by
 Uplift Organization, Inc.
 for its members and friends.**

*News and changes of address
 should be sent to the editor:*

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 Kansas City, MO 64138
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SOUP-ER BOWL – HUNGER AWARENESS LUNCHEON

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- A big crowd honored some wonderful people in our community at the annual Hunger Awareness luncheon earlier this month at the Downtown Marriott. I was emcee and awards presenter for this 15th annual event, a role I've had since the event was started.

These are grim times and that is why the annual Hunger Awareness luncheon, also popularly called Soup-er Bowl, is so rewarding because we honor people who are role models in the fight against hunger in our community.

Christine Pettus, 84 years young, was cited for helping the hungry through St. Thomas More Outreach, Frank Fiorini, who heads up Uplift which reaches out to the hungry on the streets, employees at Farmers Insurance in Olathe for helping Olathe Food Pantry, and Carl Labella and Domingo Mora who help people through St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Mark's in Independence.

From all of us who attended the luncheon, congratulations to these wonderful people who make a difference helping the hungry in our Kansas City community.

Soup-er Bowl Message

(Excerpted from "The Catholic Key")

Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland
 Bishop Emeritus of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Bishop Emeritus Raymond Boland presented some troubling statistics on the scope of the hunger problem that exists in our community and our nation. Missouri and Kansas, he said, amazingly have been ranked among the top 10 states in the nation with highest food insecurity, even though we are in

the nation's breadbasket.

"Something is terribly wrong," Bishop Boland said, as he outlined statistics from National Catholic Charities. "There is absolutely no hint of a silver lining for hungry people in the current economic crisis."

Of 77 percent of Catholic Charities agencies, 64 percent anticipate food to be the greatest need of their clients this holiday season. Fifty-one percent of agencies anticipate food shortages during this holiday season. Seventy five percent of Harvesters' agencies have new client seeking help for the first time and 65 percent of these are seeking help because they have lost their jobs.

I was born in a nation which suffered the loss of 25% of its people because of hunger. Over one million died in a land where there was enough food to feed them. At least a few of them were my relatives. Two were a father and his daughter found dead in their modest farm house: another daughter was found dead on the side of the road. The inquest ruled that all three had died of starvation.

Christ was very blunt when he established a litmus test for the judgment all of us must one day face. It will be a choice between commendation, "I was hungry and you gave me food," or condemnation, "I was hungry and you gave me no food." (Matt. 25:35)

We now live in a nation where according to the United States Department of Agriculture, 28 million people, 13.9 million of them children, live in households that suffer from hunger of live on the edge of hunger. Yet, far from being a third world country or an undeveloped nation, we boast that we enjoy one of the highest

Uplift Organization, Inc.

YEAR END STATS 2008

2007

Number of Volunteers.....	2,734	2,390
Number of Volunteer Hours.....	11,384	8,212
Number of Camps Visited.....	3,394	3,320
Numbers of Homeless Served.....	20,043	13,361

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS

Blankets & Sleeping Bags.....	2,283	1,513
Clothing.....	19,217	12,277
Beverages.....	76,553	65,602
Food.....	37,647	20,063
Misc. Items (Hygiene, Meds. etc.).....	24,018	17,430

standards of living since recorded time began.

Something is terribly wrong.

During 2007 among the top ten states with what sociologists call "the highest food insecurity rates," are listed to our shame, both Missouri and Kansas. And yet Kansas is part of the Grain Belt and most years leads the nation in wheat production and Missouri is one of the top food producing states of the Union.

Something is terribly wrong.

This luncheon, popularly known as the Soup-er Bowl, has been describing the dire problem of hunger in the Kansas City Metropolitan area for about fifteen years. Every year it has been a grim report: this year it is catastrophic.

There is absolutely no hint of a silver lining for hungry people in the current economic crisis, since yesterday, now officially a recession. People are losing their homes, unemployment is rising alarmingly, food prices are soaring, malnutrition is increasing, mere survival is becoming more difficult, food lines are getting longer, pantry shelves are emptying

faster, contributions are down and the despair is palpable when hungry people are greeted by shaking heads as all the goodwill in the world cannot provide what does not exist.

Something is terribly wrong.

National Catholic Charities recently took a snapshot survey of their agencies all over the USA. Here is what they found:

77 percent of agencies are seeing an increase in the need for food

64 percent of agencies anticipate food to be the greatest need of their clients this holiday season

51 percent of agencies anticipated food shortages during the holiday season...

Something is terribly wrong.

You don't have to take my word for it. Listen to what is said by those who are heroically, day after day, trying to serve the hungry in our city. I am grateful to Susan Engel of Catholic Charities who contacted many of the local food pantries on my behalf. The reports make sobering reading.

Vicki Koch at our Cathedral reports a 26.5% increase in lunches served at the Cathedral's Hospitality House.

Mary Lou Greim of the Good Samaritan Center, reports that they are spending 66% more in food than during this time last year. In 2007 they spent \$47,000. So far in 2008, \$71,000.

Something is terribly wrong.

If we are not willing to help feed our poverty-stricken neighbors because our faith prompts us to see the dignity and the face of Christ in each one of them, then, at least, we can avail ourselves of the State of Missouri's tax credit granted to those who contribute to food pantries within the state.

In summary, the problem is huge but the resources are attainable. We just need to galvanize thousands of resolute and generous people like yourselves to ensure that nobody in our communities, especially no child, goes to bed suffering and being debilitated by the pangs of hunger.

Remember Christ said, "I was hungry and you gave me food." We have no option.

Thank you

Monetary Donations are always welcomed:

Uplift Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 270175
Kansas City, Missouri
64127-0175

Volunteer Opportunities

OUTREACH

- Visit the homeless
Monday and Wednesday 6:00 PM
Saturday 5:00 PM
2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours
Call Jo Bustamante at 816-524-0024

PREPARE MEALS

- Recipes and instruction provided
- Prepare and deliver meals for 60 people to Uplift
- Call Margo Yerk at
816-246-8801 (Home) or 816-516-1304 (Cell)

OUTREACH SUPPORT

- Transporting homeless to doctor appointments
- Visiting homeless in hospitals and detox centers
- Visiting and supporting people that have moved to permanent housing
- Call Vivian Dennison 816-520-2005 (Cell)

SORTING DONATIONS

CLEANING DISTRIBUTION CENTER

- Every second Saturday 9:00-11:00 AM
- Excellent service project for elementary and high school students
- Appointments not necessary

Ongoing Needs

- Socks*
- Men's Regular Underwear*
- Shirts & Tees*
- Trousers*
- Plastic Tarps
- Blankets
- Shampoo
- Playing Cards
- Sleeping Bags
- Canned Food
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Matches
- Plastic Jugs for water
- Large Lemonade Mix
- Toilet paper
- Tennis Shoes & Boots

Every second Saturday of the month is our work day. Donations may be dropped off between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Those interested in meal preparation please contact Margo Bustamante-Yerk at (816) 246-8801 or (816) 516-1304. Our cooks are asked to prepare meals for approximately 60 homeless. Occasionally there are donated supplies at the Uplift facility such as meat and other items that can be used for meal preparation.

Any Questions, contact Uplift at (816) 241-0060