



P.O. Box 270175  
1516 Prospect  
Kansas City, MO 64127-0175

# Important Upcoming Dates

## November 27, 2008

Thursday . . . . . Thanksgiving Day

## December 13, 2008

Saturday . . . . . 9:00 A.M. . . . . Work Day

## December 25, 2008

Thursday . . . . . Christmas Day

## January 10, 2009

Saturday . . . . . 9:00 A.M. . . . . Work Day

## January 20, 2009

Tuesday . . . . . 7:00 P.M. . . . . Annual Board Meeting, Elections

**A non-profit organization may elect to apply for the federal tax exemption status under 26 USC B 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 B 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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THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU

### Special thanks to

**Eveland Bros.  
Collision Repair Center**  
7200 W. Frontage  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66230  
**913-262-6050**  
info@evelandbrothers.com

THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU

### Next Quarterly Board Meeting

**TUESDAY**  
**JANUARY 20, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**

at UPLIFT, 1516 Prospect  
Kansas City, MO

PRINTING BY:

**PRINT TIME**

## From the President

Frank Fiorini, President, Uplift Organization, Inc.

Greetings to all the friends of Uplift. I am pleased to have the assistance of Joseph Kordalski, Uplift Vice-President, in presenting this message as I am recovering from a knee replacement.

At the recent Board of Directors meeting nine months financial reports were presented. The income to date for

2008 exceeded 2007 by \$9728. The 2008 expenses exceeded those of 2007 by \$3196. Overall a favorable position of \$6532. We were fortunate to receive greater donations in a period of time of unforeseen high fuel cost.

Thanks to everyone.... now here is Joseph.

## From the Vice President

Joe Kordalski

As many of you have experienced in your daily lives, may it be with family, careers or in a different area there are times to "gear up" and prepare for things to come and times to "gear down" and reflect on the past. Fall is often a time for Uplift to do both. As we reflect back on a successful year we must also prepare for the taxing winter months ahead.

As far as reflection is concerned, it's encouraging to have seen several areas of growth for the agency in 2008. The kitchen remodel has served the building well and makes for a more efficient area to work. Increasing the cabinet sizes, counter top space, new flooring and a fresh coat of paint has brought new life to an area that is likely the most used in the building. The status of our vehicles is also looking up as we recently added the second Sprinter Van to the fleet. The vans are late model delivery style vans that suit our outreach needs well. For those of you who've made the trek out on a Monday, Wednesday or Saturday night you're likely familiar with the old cake/bread trucks. We have parted ways with both vehicles in

a tearless goodbye and we're excited to have a reliable fleet.

As the winter months approach we begin to "gear up" for the increased needs for food, clothing and blankets. Winter is typically the most susceptible time for illness and injury due to the harsh elements. Many of the homeless that Uplift serves experience addiction, mental health and various other impairments that limit their desire to seek bed space in a shelter environment. With this said, there are many opportunities during inclement weather for clothing, socks, blankets and other items to become cold, wet and unusable. We are blessed to be surrounded by a community that supports our needs during times when we are in need of additional items.

For additional information on how you can assist Uplift in "gearing up" for the winter months please visit the web site at [www.uplift.org](http://www.uplift.org). In addition to monetary and tangible donation items you can also learn what volunteer opportunities are available. Thank you for your support! Have a safe holiday season.

*Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,  
and the best of holidays to all!*

**Uplift Organization, Inc.**

**Board of Directors**

Ron Aerts  
 Jeff Blackmon  
 Larry Otto  
 Jennifer Schmidt  
 Jim Schmidt  
 Harold Foster  
 Kathy Smith  
 Susan Beurman  
 Bruce Beurman  
 Carol Myers  
 Candi Fogleman  
 Gred Lebold, Chairman

**Officers**

Frank Fiorini, President  
 Joe Kordalski, Vice President  
 Terry Connealy, Treasurer  
 Sandy Otto, Recording Secretary  
 Jennie Wheeling, Corresponding Secretary  
 Vivian Dennison, Support Coordinator  
 Jo Bustamante, Volunteer Coordinator  
 Leslie Greene, Development Coordinator  
 Margo Yerck, Food Coordinator

**We really need  
 canned goods, &  
 sleeping bags &  
 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:*

Jennie Wheeling  
 8806 James A. Reed Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64138  
 E-mail: Jen3x9@hotmail.com

**From the Editor** 

by Jennie Wheeling

“Merry Christmas” to all and thank you for helping to make my life such a joy each and every day.

I want to personally thank all of those who have made it possible for Uplift to continue its mission in 2008. Each of us has experienced difficult times but one thing that has not changed is the act of giving from the heart to our homeless community.

I want to also thank those with whom I have had the privilege of working with directly. First of all, Melissa Healer – Graphics Design Professional for all of her hard work on our newsletter throughout the year. Melissa, believe me when I say you are amazing!

I also want to thank those at Print Time for their assistance in meeting our printing needs.

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 also in the process of updating our website. We are setting up a link to Paypal 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](mailto:uplift@kcnet.com)

**Happy Birthday**

by Mary Morin

Although it might be a bit embarrassing, many admit that they like to hear their name at the end of the traditional birthday song. Perhaps even better, to be the one doing the singing.

Last Saturday friends treated me to lunch at a midtown restaurant. Having arrived early, I waited at a table where I eavesdropped on a conversation regarding the upcoming election. With my back to a party of three, I heard a discussion on Hillary Clinton, and then, Barack Obama.

“If Obama wins, then ‘those people’ will take over the inauguration,” one said.

“And Oprah will probably get

involved,” said another. Whoa! How did the conversation take this turn? To her credit, the third person responded, “What’s wrong with Oprah?”

The first woman said, “Well, she certainly doesn’t live the life she preaches.”

“I thought the Bible said not to judge. If you don’t like her, don’t watch her show. I think she does a lot of good.”

My friends arrived just then and I turned my attention to them. I shared my puzzlement as to the conversation I overheard. At the end of our meal, my birthday dessert came complete with a candle, which was lit, but the waitress

**Uplift Organization, Inc.**

**3RD QUARTER CUMULATIVE STATS 2008**

**2007**

Number of Volunteers.....	1,606	1,378
Number of Volunteer Hours.....	4,616	3,844
Number of Camps Visited.....	1,923	1,860
Numbers of Homeless Served.....	12,061	7,735

**DISTRIBUTED ITEMS**

Blankets & Sleeping Bags.....	1,278	712
Clothing.....	12,009	7,517
Beverages.....	54,372	40,141
Food.....	21,963	11,245
Misc. Items (Hygiene, Meds. etc.).....	14,895	10,474

didn't sing, fortunately.

Later that afternoon I went out on the Uplift truck on the west route. Uplift sends trucks out three nights a week to feed the homeless on the streets of Kansas City.

Loaded with food and the bare minimum of supplies, our group arrived at a stop in Kansas City, Kansas. Learning that two persons at other stops had birthdays, one member ran across the street to get a card and something in the way of a cake. She came back and learned that a man here had an August birthday too.

She whipped out a pink snowball cupcake and stuck a candle in it. As she walked around the end of the truck, we all sang, "Happy birthday to you..." The man was speechless. He expressed his thanks and then blew out his candle. I wondered what his wish was.

Later on we stopped down near Kemper Arena. One regular client thinks all of the women on the truck are "good lookin'. We laugh and roll our eyes telling him he must need glasses. This time we had a card and when he opened it, it played "Macho, macho man". He was touched as we

repeated the birthday presentation of cake and singing.

Next to our truck was an SUV. A young boy got out of the back seat and took in the whole scene while his mother stared at us. I wondered what she said to her children about "those people".

Reflecting on this in days since, I've wondered how much we are all quick to judge about the circumstances of others. Only when one puts feet into someone else's shoes, do the shoes feel way too big to fill.

So, Happy birthday, Ed!  
Happy birthday, Stubby!

I hope you remember those who thought enough to remember you with a little cake and a song. See you next month on the fourth Saturday night.

Until then, I'll pray that your wishes come true.

**"A Real Christmas Feast"**

By Mary Lynn Gilmour  
Christmas 2007

Shoulders stooped...eyes cast down  
Shoes with holes...tattered used coat  
Everything gone wrong...A broken man  
Who has lost his way...his soul without a song

He hears giggles and laughter  
People don't see him...as they rush on by  
Houses with lights on...he gazes longingly  
And thinks of his life...and wonders why

A tear trickles down...his leathery face  
As it turns to ice...another follows  
And then another  
And another

Suddenly...he feels a presence  
A small child...fur lined boots  
Fluffy thick jacket...warm hat  
Scarf wrapped snugly...around her face  
Eyes dancing...cheeks rosy  
As she moves...with grace

She takes his hand...and says,  
"Hey mister...please don't cry  
This is Christmas...a time to be happy  
My house is...right over there  
We have turkey...and apple pie"

He smiled down at her...like an angel she was  
Blue eyes widened...with excitement  
Tugging at his coat...all covered with fuzz

She didn't see the dirty coat...or the holes in it  
She saw a real person...who was broken in spirit  
She took his hand...and led him to her home  
For it was Christmas...a time of love and peace  
To fill his stomach...and his heart  
With a real Christmas east

## 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

## Monetary Donations are always welcomed:

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

## 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**