



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

Important Upcoming Dates

November 10, 2007

Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day

November 21, 2007

Wednesday Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery

November 22, 2007

Thursday Thanksgiving Day

December 8, 2007

Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day

December 24, 2007

Monday Christmas Dinner Delivery

December 25, 2007

Tuesday Christmas Day

January 12, 2008

Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day

January 15, 2008

Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Annual Board Meeting

Election of Board Members and three officer positions.

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



INDEPENDENCE EXAMINER

THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU

Next Quarterly Board Meeting

TUESDAY
JANUARY 15, 2008
7:00 P.M.

at UPLIFT, 1516 Prospect
Kansas City, MO

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INDEPENDENCE EXAMINER



From the President

Frank Fiorini, President, Uplift Organization, Inc.

Seasons Greetings to all friends of Uplift.

Recently we held our Quarterly Board Meeting at which we discussed an array of topics. Most notable were:

Treasurer's Report: At the conclusion of nine months of this fiscal year, expenses exceeded income by \$1,407.30. Last year for the same period, income exceeded expenses by \$9,849.50. Contributing factors were a decrease in donations and an increase in costs for fundraising and public relations, purchase of food, and fleet operations.

Completed Holiday food planning for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

The officers that were present gave reports of activities.

Next meeting is Tuesday January 15, 2008 at 7 p.m. Election of Board members and three officer positions will be on the agenda.

We continue to search for two step vans and a mini-van as replacements for our aging fleet.

We have many people involved in Uplift's volunteer opportunities. Also, there are scores of generous donors who fund our mission. I know that all of these people feel a sense of pride and personal fulfillment for their use of talents and giving. I suggest we spread the well being that we have to our relatives and friends. Many more can join in volunteering and donating, so spread the word...

May God bless each of you in this holiday season and throughout the coming New Year!

From the Editor

by Jennie Wheeling

With this issue you will find an insert highlighting our Christmas Wish List. We are in special need of men's warm socks.

We are very excited to provide our readers with a way to view Uplift's volunteer activities. 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.

We want to thank Time Warner for their generosity and specifically Laura Carlson for all of her hard work!

Last but certainly not least, my personal thanks to Melissa Healer of Northeast News for her assistance in layout preparation of our Uplift Newsletter for the past couple of years. I couldn't have done my job without her.

Best wishes for the coming holiday season – my personal Merry Christmas wish to all!

And remember - Think Snow - May we never forget the flavor of snowflakes!

Uplift now has a presence on the internet! Our URL, or site address, is <http://www.uplift.org> and our e-mail address is uplift@planetkc.com

Uplift Organization, Inc.

Board of Directors

Ron Aerts
 Jeff Blackmon
 Jennifer Schmidt
 Harold Foster
 Greg Lebold, Chairman
 Kathy Smith
 Susan Beurman
 Bruce Beurman
 Carol Myers

Officers

Frank Fiorini, President
 Joe Kordalski Vice President
 Sheila Brashear, Rec. Secretary
 Jennie Wheeling, Corresponding Secretary
 Terry Connealy, Treasurer
 Leslie Greene, Development Coordinator
 Margo Yerk, Food Coordinator
 Vivian Dennison, Outreach Support
 Jo Bustamante, Volunteer Coordinator

Uplift Organization, Inc.

Second Quarter Cumulative Stats Through June 30, 2007

Number of Volunteers..... 1,378
 Number of Volunteer Hours..... 3,844
 Number of Camps Visited..... 1,860
 Number of Homeless Served..... 7,735

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS

Blankets & Sleeping Bags..... 712
 Clothing..... 7,517
 Beverages..... 40,141
 Food..... 11,245
 Misc. Items (Hygiene, Meds. etc.)... 10,474

**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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Advent Idea

Several years ago, someone in a Sunday school class handed out a paper about planning for Christmas. It involved concentrating each day on things we take for granted, and then adding something representative of the thoughts to a box for the needy. On about December 20th they took the box of things to a food bank, homeless shelter, nursing home, etc. The items were gift wrapped together or placed in one of those mesh Christmas stockings that can be picked up at the dollar store. Pick one idea for each day that pertains to something in your life - or think up ideas of your own.

I can afford the dentist...add a toothbrush and toothpaste to the box
I have clean underwear each day...add a pair of new socks
I have fruit to eat...add a can of peaches
I can afford to be picky; not everyone can... add a can of whatever you would like hand such as soup or canned meat
I have light to read by...add a flashlight with batteries
I am blessed with good vision...add a book you would love to read
I have the gift of being able to hear...add a Christmas bell
I can smell...add a pouch of potpourri
I can taste...add a small package of holiday candy or chocolate
My sense of touch is not impaired...add a soft blanket
I can read and write...add a book of poems/ short stories/inspirations/etc, some writing paper and envelopes, a pen
I can walk, jump, run, dance...add a pair of cushiony insole inserts
I have access to good medical care and insurance to pay for it...add a bottle of Tylenol, bag of cough drops, hot or cold pack, first aid kit, and Band-Aids
I am fortunate to live in a clean, safe, warm home...add a bottle of sanitizing hand wash and lotion
I have friends and family who love me...add a pin that says I am loved
I have precious memories of family members who have passed on...add a holiday candle
I can say what I want and vote for whom I want...add an American flag
I have plans, dreams, goals, and hope for the future...add a calendar for 2008
I have friends near and far...box of all occasion cards and a book of stamps
I can go to the beauty shop if I want...add a comb or brush.
I am fortunate enough to have 2 bathrooms... add a bar of soap or a roll of toilet paper
I am lucky not to have to drag my clothes to the Laundromat...add laundry detergent
I have a nice warm house...add warm gloves,

hats, scarves, etc.
I have a car in the garage and can go where I want, when I want...add bus tickets
I have animal friends to love me...add some cat or dog food.
I have a beautiful Christmas tree to celebrate Jesus' birth...add an ornament
I can afford some treats...add a box of cookies or candy.
I don't always eat grape jelly...add your favorite jelly to the box.
Jesus was a fisher of men...add some tuna or salmon cans to the box.
I can stay warm through the winter...add a coat or a blanket.
I can groom myself well...add nail clippers, deodorant, shampoo, soap etc.
I can afford to take pictures of people and places that are important to me...add a single-use camera
I am blessed with beautiful children...add a card/painting/drawing done by your kids
I have friends I can call when I need someone to talk to... add a prepaid calling card

Christmas Is For Love

Christmas is for love. It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love. I had not believed this until a small elf-like student with wide-eyed innocence and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas. Mark was an 11 year-old orphan who lived with his aunt, a bitter middle-aged woman greatly annoyed with the burden of caring for her dead sister's son. She never failed to remind young Mark, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a vagrant homeless waif. Still, with all this scolding and chilliness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child. I had not noticed Mark particularly until he began staying after class each day (at the risk of arousing his aunt's anger, I later found) to help me straighten up the classroom. We did this quietly and comfortably, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Mark spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite small when she died, he remembered a kind, gentle, loving woman, who always spent much time with him. As Christmas drew nearer, however, Mark failed to stay after school each day. I looked forward to his coming and when, as the days passed, and he continued to scamper hurriedly from the room after class, I stopped him one afternoon and asked why he no longer helped me in the room. I told him how I had missed him, and his large gray eyes lit up eagerly as he

replied, 'Did you really miss me?' I explained how he had been my best helper. 'I was making you a surprise,' he whispered confidentially. 'It's for Christmas.'

With that, he became embarrassed and dashed from the room. He didn't stay after school anymore after that. Finally came the last school day before Christmas. Mark crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. 'I have your present,' he said timidly when I looked up.

'I hope you like it.'
He held out his hands, and there lying in his small palms was a tiny wooden box. 'It's beautiful, Mark. Is there something in it?' I asked, opening the top to look inside.

'Oh you can't see what's in it,' he replied, 'and you can't touch it or taste it, or feel it. But Mother always said it makes you feel good all the time, warm on cold nights, and safe 'when you're all alone.'

I gazed into the empty box. 'What is it, Mark,' I asked gently, 'that will make me feel so good?'

'It's love,' he whispered softly, 'and Mother always said it's best when you give it away.' And he turned quietly and left the room.

So now I keep a small box made of wood on the piano in my living room and only smile as inquiring friends raise quizzical eyebrows when I explain to them that there is love in it.

Yes, Christmas is for gaiety, mirth and song, for good and wondrous gifts. But mostly, Christmas is for love.

AUTHOR: UNKNOWN

Memories

Memories are a special house
We build inside ourselves
Where love and laughter linger,
Where all our past life dwells.

On holidays like Christmas
We can draw upon the store,
Reliving happy times
And feeling all that warmth once more.

Wherever we may travel,
This house is always there
To help to blend the old and new,
To build on...grow...and share.

This house can never get too full,
Just grow from floor to floor,
Because the joy of memories
Is always making more.

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 Yerik 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

Hours of drop-off donations at 1516 Prospect Kansas City, MO:

Monday 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.... 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Winter Needs

- Men's Socks***URGENT NEED
- Men's Regular Underwear
- Flannel Long-Sleeved Shirts
- Plastic Tarps
- Blankets
- Shampoo
- Playing Cards
- Sleeping Bags
- Stocking Caps
- Warm Gloves
- Canned Fruit
- Spam
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Matches
- 5 Gallon Plastic Jugs for water
- Large Lemonade Mix
- Warm Coats & Jackets
- 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 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