



Newsletter

Organization, Inc.

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."



FROM THE PRESIDENT -- Frank Fiorini, Uplift Organization, Inc.

Hello to Volunteers, donors and friends.

The March Board Meeting centered upon three objectives for this year, namely;

1. Develop means to include new volunteers into evenings outreach. Action - Jo Bustamante (Volunteer Coordinator and Route Leaders are developing scheduling of regular volunteers with new volunteers.

Improve consistency among the three evenings route operation. Action - Joe Kordalski (Vice President) has conducted meetings with Route Leaders and drivers to prepare signage of duties for volunteers to review in preparing and helping for outreach. These duties will be placed on the website for future volunteer information.

3. There is a need to increase Uplift's exposure to the community. Action - Media contacts are being made by various board members.

Another area of concern is our use of plastic bottles and Styrofoam plates and the impact on the environment. Action: Larry Otto and Tom Griswold

(board members) are establishing a task force to study these issues and make recommendations for improvement.

Our Chief Technology Officer, James Hendrix is constantly making improvements to the website -- all are urged to review at www.uplift.org

Recent notable donations are: Swiss Re Corporation - \$5,000.00; Cargill Corporation - \$10,000.00; Mr. & Mrs. John Strong - 2001 Pontiac Aztec; St. Ann's Catholic School - clothing and canned food collection; and, St. Andrew's Christian Church - Canned goods collection. Uplift extends our gratitude to all.

Our financial position for the first quarter was enhanced by \$21,771.00 from the aforementioned donations, and lower operating costs from the reduction of fuel usage and cost.

Please keep the homeless in your thoughts, the numbers are increasing.

Our sincere thanks to all volunteers, donors and friends for all that you do for Uplift's friends.


Contents	
Mission Statement	1
From the President	1
Board of Directors	2
Statistics	2
Ongoing Needs	3
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Important Upcoming	4
Tax Information, and	4
United Way	

**Special Thanks to Missouri Poster & Banner, Inc.
1331 Erie, K. C., Mo.
816-474-6140**

**Next Quarterly Board Meeting Tuesday, October 13, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.

At Uplift, 15th & Prospect
Kansas City, Missouri**

**Printing By
Center for Spiritual Living**



In Loving Memory of "Richard", aka Jerry Allan Smith, homeless friend of Uplift - passed away April 3, 2009.

Rest In Peace

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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8806 James A. Reed Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64138
Email: Jen3x9@hotmail.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

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Outreach

Visit the homeless, Monday and
 Wednesday 5:00pm, 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 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

Sorting Donations

Cleaning Distribution Center

Every second Saturday 9:00 to 11:00
 am
 Excellent service project for elemen-
 tary and high school students
 *Appointment not necessary

Developing Information

Recently, many of you may have read an article published in "The Kansas City Star" titled "A Homeless Woman Becomes Part of Community" written by Lee Kavanaugh.

It is the story of a woman named Lorna who had found refuge in a close knit community in Kansas City after having lost her job and her apartment.

After having been in that location for a while, someone filed a complaint – "no homeless people allowed here" so Lorna packed up her possessions and moved on.

Just a couple of days after the article introducing Lorna to us was published, another was written, again by Lee Hill Kavanaugh describing how Lorna had been harassed and shot several times with a BB gun by some young men riding in a car in the area she had moved to as she sat on the curb reading.

According to the article, police took her to Truman Medical Center, where doctors dug out the pieces of metal, except for a piece in her right cheek, lodged near her eye.

After reading this second article I began to research some websites to find information on how to help the homeless and discovered the following information excerpted from the National Coalition for the Homeless website.

Hate Crimes and Violence against People Experiencing Homelessness

Over the past nine years, advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the

country have received news reports of men, women and even children being harassed, kicked, beaten and more.

What is a Hate Crime?

The term "hate crime" conjures up horrific images of various types. The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, enacted as a section of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, defines hate crimes as "a crime in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime, the property that is the object of the crime, because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person." This measure only applies to attacks and vandalism that occur in national parks and on federal property.

Who Commits Hate Crimes and Violence against People who are Homeless?

Most hate crimes/violent acts are committed not by organized hate groups, but by individual citizens who harbor a strong resentment against a certain group of people. Some are "mission offenders," who believe they are on a mission to cleanse the world of a particular evil. Others are "scapegoat offenders," who violently act out their resentment toward the perceived growing economic power of a particular racial or ethnic group. Still others are "thrill seekers," those who take advantage of a vulnerable and disadvantaged

Uplift Organization, Inc. -- First Quarter Stats 2009

2009	2008
Number of Volunteers.....627532
Number of Volunteer Hours.....2,2682,298
Number of Camps Visited.....673591
Numbers of Homeless Served.....2,9482,442
Distributed items	
Blankets & Sleeping Bags.....475669
Clothing.....3,7683,596
Beverages.....12,78211,948
Food.....6,0405,172
Misc. Items (Hygiene, Meds, etc.).....4,2853,822

group in order to satisfy their own pleasures. Thrill seekers, primarily in their teens, are the most common perpetrators of violence against people who are homeless.

For more on this article and the status of any recommendations or changes that may have been made in this legislation, please contact your local or state representatives.

National Coalition for the Homeless
2201 P. St. NW
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 462-4822 _ Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: info@nationalhomeless.org
Web page:
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>

WAYS TO TRULY HELP THE HOMELESS

1. Never give cash to a homeless person. Too often, well intended gifts are converted to drugs or alcohol - even though the stories they tell may be true. If the person is hungry, buy them a sandwich and a beverage.
2. Talk to the person with respect. Taking time to talk to a homeless person in a friendly, respectful manner may give them a sense of civility and dignity. Sometimes, it gives the person a weapon to fight the isolation, depression and paranoia that many homeless people

face.

3. Recognize that homeless people (and their problems) are not all the same. The homeless are as diverse as the colors of a rainbow. The person you meet may be a battered women, an addicted veteran, someone who is lacking job skills...the list goes on.
4. Pray for the homeless. Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose all drain years from a person's life.
5. Take precautions for your own safety. Some living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent while talking with street people. Stay in areas where other people can see you. Don't take unnecessary chances.

UPLIFT PRESENTATIONS

One of our most effective tools is a presentation by Uplift staff available to organizations and schools. In this format, we provide step by step information on what we do to achieve our goals.

To schedule an Uplift presentation for your school or organization, please contact us at 816-241-0060.

Help Us Help Others

Uplift is in the process of updating our list of resources for homeless individuals. As soon as this information is available, it will be published in our newsletter as well as being made available by our volunteers.

Uplift is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt homeless outreach program. Monetary and in-kind donations are wel-

World of Goodness

*"Someone must have loved us," I say when I
see
The bloom of the rose and the green of the
tree,
The flash of the wing of a bird flitting by,
The gold of the grain and the blue of the sky,
The clover below and the tall pines above.
There's something about us that Someone
must love.
"Someone must have loved us," I say when I
stand
Where the waves of the water, like an army,
flood the land.
With the gulls riding high on the crest of the
breeze
And the ducks flying north in their echelon of
V's,
With the sun slipping down into liquefied gold,
It's then the great love of the Lord I behold.*

By Kevin L. - Courtesy of The Homeless Coalition

**Monetary Donations
Are always welcomed:**

**By Mail at
Uplift Organization, Inc.
P. O. Box 270175
Kansas City, Mo. 64127-0175**

**Or
From our website at
www.uplift.org
Click on Donations**

***We are in special needs of
canned goods, toilet paper, and
clean 12oz, 16 oz, & 24 oz
plastic Bottles - No milk
containers please***

Ongoing Needs

- *Socks
- *Men's Regular Underwear
- *Shirts & Tee's
- *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 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 used for meal preparation.

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

May 9, 2009
Saturday.....9:00 am.....Work Day

June 13, 2009
Saturday.....9:00 am.....Work Day

July 11, 2009
Saturday.....9:00 am.....Work Day

August 8, 2009
Saturday.....9:00 am.....Work Day

September 12, 2009
Saturday.....9:00 am.....Work Day

October 10, 2009
Saturday.....9:00 am.....Work Day

October 13, 2009
Tuesday.....7:00 pm.....Annual 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.



Organization, Inc

P. O. Box 270175
1516 Prospect
Kansas City, Missouri 64127-0175
www.uplift.org