



ORGANIZATION, INC.

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."

Contents

Mission Statement.....1

From the President.....2

Board of Directors.....2

Statistics.....2

Ongoing Needs.....3

Volunteer Opportunities.....3

Important Upcoming Dates.....4

Tax Information, United Way.....4

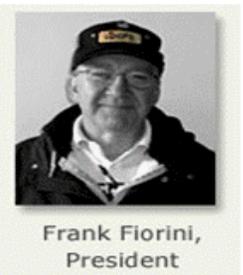
THE REWARDS OF A LIFE WELL LIVED NEVER END - BY KATHY DEAN

That is certainly true with Frank Fiorini, who passed away on March 7, 2012. We were very *blessed* as an organization to have experienced his leadership, and to witness his never ending commitment to the homeless and to all those less fortunate. He touched thousands of lives and laid the foundation for us to continue to reach out to those in need for many years to come. We loved him and miss him very much. We are going to move forward and continue taking care and compassion to the homeless in the Kansas City area, and the rewards will never end. Thank you, Frank.

THANK YOU * THANK YOU

Special Thanks to Don Smith & Associates Inc.

Uplift recently remodeled the office space in our distribution center. When the idea of changing the space was first introduced Don and Kathy Smith offered to share their time, talents and resources to assist with the project. Don has many years of experience as his background is in the design and furniture business. Don assisted in generating ideas and created a floor plan to help maximize the use of the space. He took his involvement to the next level and generously donated 100% of the furniture and chairs. It has been a huge transformation and we are so grateful for his support and generosity. Next time you're by, stop in and take a look.



Frank Fiorini,
President

For the past 4 years your Uplift organization has realized the long time leadership of Frank Fiorini would have to someday come to an end and has been preparing for that day. That day came and we as an organization were as prepared as we possibly could be.

Frank dedicated a large amount of his time in retirement to making sure Uplift fulfilled our mission of taking care and compassion to the homeless. Filling his shoes required the addition of two additional Vice Presidents and the creation of an Executive Team consisting of Joe Kordalski, Lisa Snead, Kathy Dean, Andre Logan, Dan Schipfer and Greg Lebold.

We are an all-volunteer organization. There is no paid staff and we do not seek or accept government aid. We have survived since the fall of 1990 on the good will, monetary and in-kind donations of the community.

**Board Meeting - Tuesday,
September 11, 2012**

7:00 P.M.

At Uplift, 15th & Prospect



Organization, Inc

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mailworks

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

Important Upcoming Dates

- June 9, 2012.....9:00 a.m.....Work Day
Saturday
- July 14, 2012.....9:00 a.m.....Work Day
Saturday
- August 11, 20129:00 a.m.....Work Day
Saturday
- September 8, 2012.....9:00 a.m.....Work Day
Saturday
- September 11, 2012.....7:00 p.m.....Board Meeting
Tuesday

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.

Uplift Organization, Inc.

Board of Directors

Jim Burton
 Chevy Cargol
 Kathy Dean
 Joe Kordalski
 Greg Lebold, Chairman
 Heather Rowe
 Dan Schipfer
 Jennifer Schmidt
 Jim Schmidt
 Kathy Smith
 Lisa Snead

Officers

Joe Kordalski, President
 Kathy Dean, V.P. Internal Ops
 Lisa Snead, V. P.Outreach Ops
 Dan Schipfer, V.P. Administration
 David Moody, Chief Technology
 Andre Logan, Treasurer
 Kathy Smith, Recording Sec.

Volunteer Opportunities

Outreach

Visit the homeless, Monday and Wednesday 6:00pm, 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) 516-1304

Sorting Donations

Cleaning Distribution Center
 Every second Saturday 9:00 to 11:00 am
 Excellent service project for elementary and high school students

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

News and changes of address should be sent to the editor: Jennie Wheeling Jen3x9@hotmail.com

From the President ~ Joe Kordalski

I was asked to prepare a short flyer for an Uplift event about six months ago. As I worked to hit the highlights of who we are and what it is that we do I mentioned the importance of our trucks. We often place value on "things" in our lives. If not a vehicle, it may be a home, or investment of some kind. For a moment I'd like to highlight the importance of the time that our cooks and drivers play into the function of Uplift's outreach efforts.

A hot, home cooked meal is a beautiful gift. It feeds our bodies, it shows us love, it maintains life and can create hope. Our volunteer cook spend many hours on each meal to give these gifts to others, to people who it's likely they have not met, nor would likely meet in their everyday lives. Having met cooks on Wednesday nights at Uplift for many years I was able to see the time and attention to detail that was taken to ensure the meals served were of quality. A big heartfelt thank you to our many volunteer cooks. Your time is greatly appreciated and always needed!

If our Sprinter Vans are the workhorse of the operation then the drivers must be the jockeys. Each night is not possible without the commitment of our drivers. Uplift takes great pride in our efforts to serve with a consistent track record, reliable service and thoughtful leadership on the trucks. Uplift drivers bring each of these qualities to the table and make huge contributions to each evenings outreach efforts. I find comfort in their ingenuity and perseverance to make each night happen in light of many unexpected variables. May that be inclement weather, a vehi-

cle repair, or navigating a new route they are a group of individuals who find a way to not only "make it work" but keep all volunteers in the vehicle safe. Drivers, your skills and talents are greatly appreciated.

We are experiencing a time when Uplift is in need of both volunteer positions. We have increasing numbers, which drives the need for more food and we're also experiencing the need to create more depth within our driver's positions. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about either position. For cook inquiries please contact Margo Yerk at myerk822@kc.rr.com and/or Lisa Snead at lisasnead@yahoo.com for information about becoming a driver.

Thank you for your on going support.

Uplift is in the process of gathering email addresses for those who may be interested in receiving our newsletter electronically. If you would like to receive your copy in that manner please go to the Uplift website at www.uplift.org and leave a message under comments or send an email to us at

upliftorg@att.net

Uplift Organization, Inc. -- 2012 First Quarter Stats

Number of Volunteers.....	608
Number of Volunteer Hours.....	3,040
Number of Homeless Served.....	4,706
Number of Camps Visited.....	1,170

Wolf – By Margie Burton

Uplift has provided years of gifts to the Burton's – the best kind of gifts – people – and the original gift came wrapped in layers of smelly, tattered clothes and lots of tangled, dirty hair. Our very first gift was named Wolf.

Wolf – what a descriptive name. We saw him that first night seated around a fire built in an old metal barrel on a cold loading dock in downtown KC and as I looked out the window of the van I was reminded of the beginning of a very bad novel – “it was a cold, dark, rainy night...” And it was! He was sitting with several others, all shivering in the damp cold air and huddled as close as they could get to the warmth of the fire. I wasn't sure what they were burning but the smell made my stomach turn and my imagination run wild.

As first-timers, my husband Jim and I weren't sure what to do but our driver, Jack, was a veteran. He had been homeless in this same area for years until he found a job doing maintenance for some of the apartments and lofts near the River Market and now he was serving those with whom he had once lived. He told us to treat them as we would our friends and neighbors, because that's exactly who they were. Jim went to the back of the truck with Jack to serve the food and I got out ready to hand out the other necessities we kept on board. Wolf walked toward our truck, very large, made larger by the added layers of clothes he wore to ward off the bitter cold. Between his wild, snarled hair and his long crazy beard I could hardly see his face. When he approached

me I know my eyes were wide and probably a little frightened and while my friends will find this unbelievable, I was speechless! I finally got out the words “What can I get you?”

His answer, “How about a hug?”

And this is where the real part of the gift for me came in. After a few short seconds of shock – running through what few biblical scriptures I could remember at warp speed, trying to keep in mind all that I had been taught in church and in relationships with our different groups of friends, and all the while trying to find some clean air to breathe – I looked at Wolf and I was given the gift to see him as God sees him. I saw a man who is my brother and I gained more from that knowledge than he gained from the very big hug I gave him.

I left that first night a changed person – my heart had been broken and healed, my mind opened, my preconceived stereotypes of homelessness swept away, all by my chance meeting with a man named Wolf.

Now 12 years later there have been many, many Wolfs in our lives and with each one I have learned and grown and been blessed by knowing them. They have served me well and I hope I have done the same for them. Jack was right, they are our friends and neighbors and I love being with them, I love talking to them, I love getting to know them - and each one gets a hug.

Thanks Wolf.

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 via Pay pal

We are in special need of

*Soup, Canned Meats, Pasta,
Canned Fruit, Candles*

Ongoing Needs

*Men's Socks

*Men's Regular Underwear

*Short Sleeved Shirts & Tee's

*Trousers (28 to 32 waist)

*Canned Meats, fruit and Pasta

*Shampoo, Toothpaste &
tooth brushes

*Sleeping Bags

*Canned Food

*Razors

*Deodorant

*Tennis Shoes and boots

*Candles

*Toilet Paper

*Books

*Blankets

Every second Saturday of the month is our work day. Donations may be dropped off between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Those interested in meal preparation please contact Margo Yerk at 816-516-1304 or Email myerk822@kc.rr.com 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