“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.”

Dear Volunteers and Donors,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are ready to head into the fall season. We thank you for your support over the past three months. It is unreal to think we are starting the fourth quarter of 2014! Thankfully, it was a rather mild summer for our friends on the streets, and we pray that the winter will be a more comfortable one, as well.

Our numbers are high and our supplies are very low. We are in great need of shirts, underwear, two liter bottles and plastic bags. We continue to enjoy the efficiency of our new kitchen, which has prompted many changes in the warehouse. We had our second Saturday sort day in September and were able to add new shelves that a volunteer donated. We have moved our receiving/sort area and are making the warehouse more efficient. This will make it much easier to load the trucks and get out on the street to do what we do best — take care of those in need!

I would like to update you on the proposed new city ordinance that I have told you about for the past 18 months. In June it went for vote before the City Council; the vote was a tie, which means that the ordinance failed. Something good that came from the 18 months of meetings is the relationship that Uplift has gained with the Health Department, Homeless Task Force, and the HSCGKC.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue to serve those who have nothing and, for all you do to help us reach out to the homeless on the streets of Kansas City!

“The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.”

God Bless you all!

Kathy Dean

2014 Board of Directors
Matthew Beal
Jim Burton
Jo Bustamante
Jim Carson
Angela Cunningham
Kathy Dean
Andre Logan
Trinidad Molina
Heather Rowe
Dan Schipfer, Chairman
Jennifer Schmidt
Jim Schmidt
Samantha Shannon
Pat Thomson
Margo Yerk

2014 Officers
Kathy Dean, President
Samantha Shannon, VP Administration
Jennifer Schmidt, VP Internal Operations
Jim Schmidt, VP Outreach Operations
Andre Logan, Treasurer
Margo Yerk, Recording Secretary

Urgent Needs
- As the cold weather approaches we are in need of blankets, socks, men’s jeans sizes 30, 32, 34 and hand warmers.
- Cooks are needed to prepare meals for 60 people. Meals are distributed to Uplift for distribution three times a week. Recipes and instructions provided on our website at www.Uplift.org. Call Margo Yerk at (816)516-1304 for more information.

“Taking care and compassion to the homeless.”

Search for Uplift Organization Inc. page to stay current with Uplift happenings!
Pure Life
by Carrie

I wrote this poem on a night that was very sad. My arm had been burned, I just had a double skin graft on my wrist, I had some children that were dying and just everything was falling apart in my life. I’m homeless, I couldn’t get myself lifted up, I was just at the point of giving up and I prayed to God and said, God you have to help me I’m giving up and I know you don’t want us to give up, so if you will just please tell me what you want me to do, and he gave me this poem, and it’s called Pure Life.

“All through the night I reflect on Jesus, his pure perfect face do I see. With a humble faint cry I feel so lovingly held, by the pure life I will not deny. He’s carried me when the light seems so dim, and he accepts me in spite of my sins. There’s no other spirit so loving and true, gives pure life to whatever I do”.

And I laid my head down and I was crying and I feel asleep and I woke up in the morning feeling the joy of Christ in my heart and I knew I had to continue and go on because he had more work for me to do. I just love Jesus with all my heart and I honor God the Father with everything that I am.

They Stole our Hearts

Hi Jo and Kathy,

We volunteered last night for the first time at Uplift. We just wanted to let you know that we LOVED it!!!!! What an amazing organization you have built!!!!! My kids and I have volunteered at several places over the years and by far this was our favorite!!! I believe without a shadow of a doubt we left different people than when we arrived.

The organization of the whole place was super and how smoothly it ran was amazing. You have all done an incredible job. I could go on and on about how great the organization, the warehouse, and the vans are, but that is all just the extras. The best most amazing opportunity was being blessed to be part of the route. Our driver, Tom, was undertaking his first night as a driver. To add to his challenge he had a van full of new people. Wow, did everyone rise to the challenge!!! Tom, did amazing! That is a gift to be able to know how to get around. His side kick (shot gun driver) Bob was great too. His job was to make sure he got everyone’s name. That left the most amazing fun jobs for me and my boys.

The boys quickly learned how to be grateful for what they have when the first visitor was so grateful for the soup. My oldest, Joe D who is not very talkative, talked every second between stops! The first thing Joe D did when we got back was go over to the books in the warehouse because he wanted to put some mysteries in the vans book bucket because him and a gentleman talked about what kind of books they liked. He wanted to make sure to have them in there for him. It may sound small but the man made a huge impression on Joe D and he wanted to help.

I was the lucky person who handed out sweets, bread and any essentials they asked for. What a blessing that turned out to be. Who knew I would be the one who got to do the most talking. And talk I did. Maybe I talked a little to long, but I met some of the most amazing people. Of course Whiskey and his dog Abigail stole everyone’s heart. My boys and I loved the 15 minutes we had with them. We drove off and looked out the back window to see Whiskey in his wheel chair, his dog sitting next to him, both on the side of the highway next to a pile of dumped trash. The image will be forever etched in our minds! I also met a lovely pregnant lady and a super shy lady who had been hit over the head with a two by four and had 36 stitches. She was so thankful for the Tylenol and band aids. As you said Kathy, the hardest part of the night is saying no. Ugh. It made it worse when I had to say no to them and the people would say “oh that is ok, don’t you worry. I am so happy for.....” whatever I had given them.

Well, ladies you have heard the stories before.....

I just wanted to make sure you knew that there are people out there amazed by what you do!!! We will always be praying for you!!!

God Bless!!!!!
Sari, Joe D and Nick

Special Thanks

Cherokee Christian Church
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Klahsen
Church of the Nativity
St. Andrew Christian Church
St. Thomas Moore Parish
Southminster Presbyterian Church
National Bank of Kansas City
Foxwood Springs Bargain Barn
& Residents
**Testimonial**

Operation Uplift was a great experience! I’m really glad I did it and I would do it again, given the chance. What struck me the most about the experience was the service was based on recognizing the intrinsic dignity that everyone has. Because of their dignity and worth, we did what we could to ‘uplift’ it back to the level worthy of a human. We didn’t just mechanically give them food and other necessary items because we felt obliged too or out of pity but rather we gave it to them out of love, complete with a smile. This was done because of the example of the experienced ‘uplifters’ on our team. For example, the driver hopped out of the van as quick as he could to talk to those whom we were serving because he wanted to and enjoyed encountering them as humans. It wouldn’t be a stretch to say these people are his friends. If the ‘uplifters’ did this just as a service, they wouldn’t take special orders nor drive 15 minutes out of the way to only serve one man. They truly see Christ in those they serve.

This experience also taught me that the homeless are just normal people. They were kind, courteous, ingenuous, and intelligent. In addition, they weren’t so hardened by life’s circumstances that they coldly received our assistance. They didn’t feel entitled or coldly snatch the items from our hands but rather, they received it with a smile and a “thank-you”; reciprocating the recognition of dignity. All-in-all, they are not people to be avoided but people to engage and love!

-Todd Shepherd
Seminarian, Conception Abbey

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**Uplift Community Garden**

The Uplift Community Garden started with my desire to help my homeless friends that I feed each Monday night in downtown Kansas City. It grew into something I could have never dreamed!

I have watched seeds turn into wonderful plants that have produced more vegetables than could be possible, and continue to produce more! I have watched in amazement as the bee’s work their magic on the blooms of the plants. Have you ever wondered how they know exactly what to do? How could anyone doubt the power of GOD? I have watched the squash plants wilt and be the same as dead and then the next day there are new shoots starting. I have new plants that are producing at an astounding rate.

I sell my tomatoes for $1.00 a pound and the money goes to support Uplift. The squash, zucchini, eggplant, and okra go to ReStart Homeless shelter and the Heart N Hand food pantry. I have a table set up under a shade tree at the side of the garden with scales, bags and a mason jar for people to get what they want and leave their money in the jar. It has been very successful asking people to purchase their tomatoes on the honor system when I’m not there. I just passed 3,000 pounds of tomatoes sold and we are still going strong!

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**Antithesis of Advancing:**

I saw her, sitting begging for money
Blind, fragile, one arm
Everyone passed by her, I passed by her
Too busy with our own lives
Our tweets, updates, likes, dislikes
Self-centered
Not enough money to go around
A pitiful glance, still no action
Beyond that. We say
Humanity is advancing

We’ve come a long way since the beginning of…
Every day it seems like we are going back into the dark ages
Antithesis of advancing
No one stopped to give her a coin, a dollar
Words of hope, love, assurance
If we were advancing we would be helping

- Rachel Moreno
Senior, Shawnee Mission North High School

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**2014 Third Quarter Stats**

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<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
<th>Number of Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>Number of Homeless Served</th>
<th>Number of Camps Visited</th>
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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.
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. It is exempt from paying federal income taxes (but still may be required to file annual income information). Additionally, all people and organizations that make contributions (money or property) to a 501(c)(3) organization can claim federal income tax deductions for their donations (to the extent allowable under, 26 USC § 170(c)(2).

Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday, ............................................................ October 11, 2014
9:00 a.m ..................................................... Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday, .......................................................... November 8, 2014
9:00 a.m .................................................... Warehouse Sort Day
Tuesday, .......................................................... November 11, 2014
7:00 p.m ............................................................. Board Meeting
Saturday, ........................................................ December 13, 2014
9:00 a.m .................................................... Warehouse Sort Day

Stay Connected...

Uplift Volunteers & Donors can now:
• Visit our website at www.uplift.org
• Sign up to receive our newsletter and blog updates via email – go to our website and click on Blog to subscribe
• We hope you enjoy the new look of our newsletter. If you have articles or comments, please send them to the editor: Pat Thomson, pathomson43@gmail.com.
• Changes of address should be sent to Jennie Wheeling at jen3x9@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Outreach
Help deliver meals to the homeless. Uplift trucks “roll out” at 6 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. 5pm Saturdays. The average route takes 2-3 hours. Please call in advance to schedule your participation. Contact: Jo Bustamante at (816) 524-0024

Prepare Meals
As cold weather approaches our numbers dramatically increase. Cooks are needed to prepare meals for approximately 30 to 60 people. Meals are delivered to Uplift for distribution three times a week. Recipes and instructions provided on our website at www.Uplift.org.
Call Margo Yerk at (816) 516-1304

Warehouse Sort Day
9:00-12:00 pm. The second Saturday of every month we sort donations, stock our shelves, fold clothes, and have a good old time doing it. If you are planning on bringing a large group please contact us first. (816) 241-0060 or Email: uplift.org@att.net