

"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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Uplift happenings!

Uplift.org NEWS

"Taking care and compassion to the homeless."

A letter from our President



Dear Volunteers and Donors,

Thank you to everyone that helped us get through one of the most demanding summers in the 25 year history of Uplift. It was a very wet beginning but thankfully overall it was a mild summer.

Our numbers have increased to the point of looking to expand our operation to be able to meet the needs of all the people that we serve. I continue to be amazed by the fact that when things get the hardest God sends just the help we need to complete the task at hand. We received a very generous donation of a five rack convection oven from the Audrey I. Newcomer Fund, which will make preparing food so much easier. Our central and east trucks have gone from serving around 60 people to serving 90+ each. The increase in numbers has had an impact on all areas of our operation, but thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers we continue to move forward.

I hope this doesn't seem repetitive, but I don't feel like I can say it enough, if every one of you didn't do what you do, we would not be able to do what we need to do. There are no small roles

in the operation of Uplift, volunteers, donors, cooks, warehouse workers. Everyone is needed.

Jesus said in Luke 12:15, "Life is not measured by how much you own." The people we serve own nothing. We don't just give them food and clothes, we give them love, respect, self-confidence and hope to help them live the best life they can. It is amazing to see the impact of looking a man in the eye and letting him know that his life is valuable. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do that.

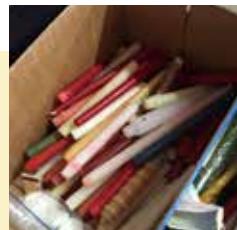
We don't know what we will face tomorrow, but we do know that with God leading us, and you standing beside us, we will be able to do anything necessary to make life a little better for our friends on the streets.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~Anne Frank

Thank you and God bless you!
Kathy Dean

Urgent Needs

CANDLES CANDLES CANDLES — As winter approaches our need for candles increases dramatically and as of this print date our supply is dwindling. The homeless that we serve use candles for light and heat and as the temperatures drop being able to offer them candles becomes much more important. Clean out your cupboards, ask your friends. You'd be amazed at how many homes have used candles that they're not going to be using again. We accept pillar candles, jar candles and tapers, too. Votive and tea candles do not work as well as they burn down too quickly. Other needs as the cold weather approaches are: blankets, warm socks, sweatshirts/pants and thermal underwear.



Monthly Uplift Workday

Rain or shine, summer or winter, volunteers of all ages descend on the Uplift warehouse at 1516 Prospect Avenue, Kansas City, MO, on the second Saturday of every month. They sort donations, clean and organize, package dog food and laundry soap, sort toiletries and much much more. This is a great opportunity for your church's youth group to acquire service hours or for a family to come together for the morning to just "help out". Our workdays start at 9:00 a.m. and finish around Noon. You can work for the whole time or just an hour. Come and join us as we continue to minister to the homeless of Kansas City.

As the holiday season approaches and our donations increase, we are adding a second workday for the months of November, December and January. Come join us either on the second or third Saturday of these three months.

If you are planning on bringing a large group, please contact us first at (816) 241-0060 or uplift.org@att.net



Special Thanks

- Audrey I. Newcomer Fund
- Heart Of Life Church
- Gary Gretzinger Memorial
- McIntosh Law Firm
- Kayley Hurley
- Andrew Fletcher

Giving the Basics A blessing for Uplift

Giving the Basics has been helping Uplift supply hygiene products to the homeless of Kansas City for a number of years. Giving the Basics was started by Teresa Hamilton and Michele Orpin, sisters-in-law, after seeing the hardship a family they knew was going through to make ends meet. The family was requesting food donations from the local pantry but their basic necessities of life like shampoo, toothpaste, laundry detergent, diapers and toilet paper were not available. These products were not covered by government assistance programs. The family was too

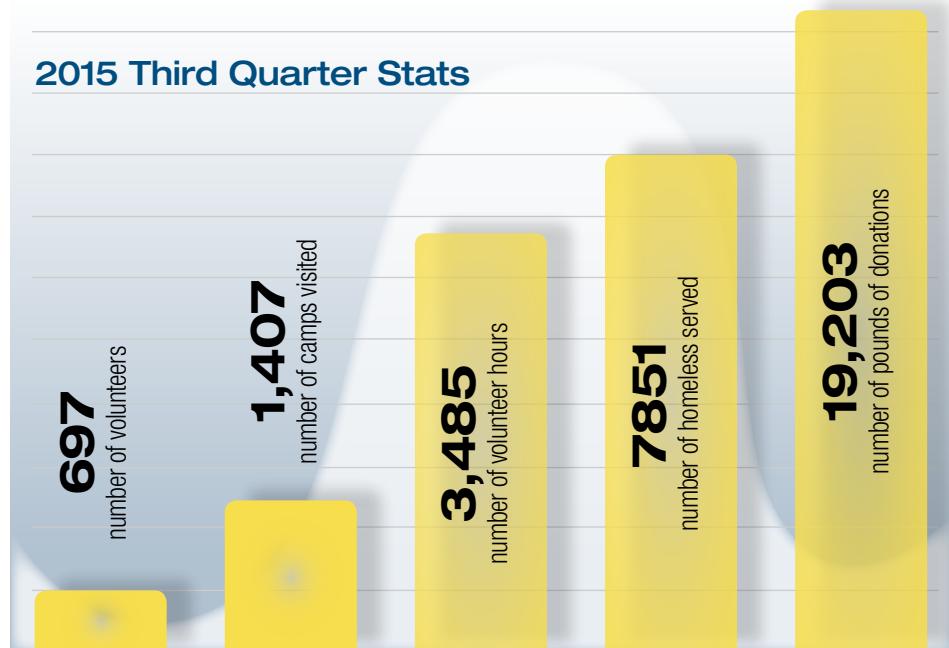
embarrassed to ask for these items from other sources, so sadly they went without. Teresa and Michele decided something needed to be done. They pooled their resources and agreed to help the family until they were able to help themselves. Thus, Giving the Basics was born

Giving the Basics is a non-profit organization formed to help people on government assistance acquire the "human dignity" products they need. Human Dignity is their mission! They work with numerous organizations in the Kansas City area along with schools and churches. Uplift has been fortunate to be one of those organizations. In 2014 Uplift received 17,957 items valued at \$22,568.08. So far in 2015 we've received 28,567 items valued at \$18,853.40. They have also donated serving bowls to us valued at \$13,00.00 and a very generous supply of Advil. In 2015 so far, we have received and taken out on the trucks: combs/brushes, cotton balls/swabs, deodorant, facial tissues, laundry soap, maxi/mini pads, razors, shaving cream, tampons, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, trash bags, wipes, zip bags and other miscellaneous products.

Uplift gives a big "shout out" and "thank you" to Giving the Basics for all they have done for us. If you would like to learn more about their organization and the work that they do you can go to their website: givingthebasics.org.

**Giving the Basics
is a non-profit
organization formed
to help people
on government
assistance acquire
the "human dignity"
products they need.
Human Dignity is
their mission!**

2015 Third Quarter Stats



What does Uplift mean to you?

We all have our idea of what Uplift means to us. As someone who has committed to donating items, cooking meals and volunteering on the trucks, I felt that I had a good understanding of what Uplift was as an organization. I would tell my friends my version of what I felt Uplift was and encouraged them to get involved. For a while, that version was basically that Uplift provides food and basic necessities for a growing homeless population in Kansas City. I thought it was a good description of what Uplift does, but after asking those who are served by Uplift what Uplift means to them, I found that my description paled in comparison to theirs.

Before getting involved with Uplift, I had a very jaded opinion about the homeless in general. I grew up in a poor family, and when I say poor I mean I remember as a small child going behind the grocery store with my dad and dumpster diving for dented cans or whatever we could find to bring home. We were poor, but the big difference is that we drove to the store and I actually had a place to call home, unlike those that Uplift serves. I knew what it was like to have less than others, but I don't know what it's like to call a spot under a bridge, "home". I had always assumed, and was taught, that if you wanted a job and a place to live you could have both if you were willing to work. I used to think that everyone who was on the street was just lazy and wanted a handout. My eyes were opened and my heart was softened the first night I went out on a truck. I found that there are a multitude of reasons and circumstances in which people become homeless, but from the conversations I have had with those I have had the pleasure to serve, it is not because they are lazy and unwilling to work. Most of them are intelligent and articulate people who for some reason or another have found themselves on the streets of Kansas City.

While volunteering on the central truck one Monday night, I got to talk with one such person. His name is Donnie. When Donnie, a tall, slender man in a ball cap and jeans was asked the question of, "What does Uplift mean to you?" he responded with something that meant the difference between life and death. You see, Donnie is a veteran who suffers from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). His condition causes him to not be able to be inside a building for any length of time. He tried to get some help at other places in the city, but any time he would go inside his condition would trigger severe panic attacks and he was unable to stay. His fear was stronger than the hunger pains in his stomach, so he was forced to

go without food for long periods of time. Since Uplift meets him where he is, he said that is the difference between eating and starving.

That same night I got to speak with Cali. He's called that by his friends because he's from California. A middle-aged man who has had many life experiences, Cali likes to talk. You can hardly get a word in edgewise, but that was okay by me. Because when asked the same question of what Uplift meant to him, he said, "Life is made of peaks and valleys. This is a valley for me and it's dark in the valley. You need a light in the darkness. That is what you guys are for us. Uplift is that light in the darkness." It probably goes without saying, but that was the

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highlight of my night.

From now on when I tell others about Uplift, my version will be much different than it used to be. Uplift is about much more than a hot meal and basic necessities. It is about extending grace and bringing hope into the lives of those who are not used to people treating them with respect. Before becoming involved with Uplift I knew there were homeless people who lived in the streets, but now I know their names and I know their stories. Donnie and Cali and others have opened my eyes to how important Uplift's mission is to those they serve. Their story has changed my story and I am humbled and yet proud to have a small part in being a light in the darkness.

By Jason Riel from Heart of Life Church



Volunteers

We have been blessed with the best volunteers at Uplift, which makes it very hard to have to say so long to any of them. Unfortunately, that time has come for five of our long time volunteers.

Kerry Luckenbill, driver, along with Roger and Brenda Claypool, driver and volunteer, and John & Catharina Jongenelen, cooks, have been volunteers for Uplift for many years and their services will be greatly missed.

We want to thank you for all the support you have given us over the years.

Workday changes

Be sure to notice the change for the

monthly workdays for the months of

November, December and January.

We will be working both the **second and third** Saturdays of each of these months.

This will allow us to handle the increase in donations due to the holidays. See the back page of newsletter for the exact dates.

Thank you for all the help that you give to Uplift.



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Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday.....	Oct 10
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Tuesday.....	Nov 10
7:00 p.m.....	Board Meeting
Saturday.....	Nov 14
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	Nov 21
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	Dec 12
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	Dec 19
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 Jennifer Schmidt at
jimschmidt29@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 4-5 hours. Please call in advance to schedule your participation. Contact: Jo Bustamante at (816) 524-0024

Prepare Meals

As warm weather approaches our numbers dramatically increase. Cooks are needed to prepare meals for 60 people. Call Margo Yerk at (816) 516-1304 for more information or go to our website at www.uplift.org.

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. We will also be working the third Saturday of the months of November, December, and January. If you are planning on bringing a large group please contact us first. (816) 241-0060 or Email: uplift.org@att.net