

"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."



NEWS

"Taking care and compassion to the homeless."

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A Letter from our President



Thank you to every donor, volunteer, cook and anyone involved with Uplift for allowing us the honor of serving our friends on the street! With your support and generosity we have remained in service to the homeless for another quarter in 2016. If it weren't for you we would not be able to do what we do to help those in need.

A volunteer on my truck asked me, after only a couple stops, "how do you keep going back night after night? Doesn't it become overwhelming?" It caught me by surprise that I wasn't able to give her a specific answer to her question, and as we pulled up to the next stop I told her I would think about it.

When you see such pain, sadness, despair and hopelessness, at times it does feel overwhelming. I have to be honest, if I let my mind think about the numbers, and how much need there is, it becomes more than my mind and heart can handle. Our human instinct is to figure out what we can do to fix everything and make life perfect for them, however, that isn't the mission of Uplift. Our mission is to take care and compassion to them. We try to hold them up long enough for an agency that is equipped to fix their problems, to come along and help them. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen very often because the need is so great, and the resources to help are so few.

I continued to think about her question during the entire route. I thought about the number of people that I had visited with at each

stop, and of those who needed a little extra attention. Paul, one of my friends loves tomatoes, so since I have the garden I always bring him some. I helped him walk to the curb where we sat and talked while he ate the tomatoes. He smiled and was so happy telling me how funny he thought it was that I had so many tomato plants. He calls me the Crazy Tomato Lady. When it was time for me to leave we hugged and he told me how much he loved me, and I told him that I loved him. Each time I leave him I always say my goodbyes as if it might be the last time, because every week I see how he has deteriorated.

It wasn't until I pulled into the alley at the warehouse at the end of the night, that the answer came to me. I do what I do night after night, as well as all the other drivers and volunteers, because even though I can't fix all their problems, I can leave each stop knowing that I did everything possible to make that time the best it could be for them. They know that they are cared for and loved no matter what their problems are. And I believe that knowing that someone truly loves you can't hurt anyone.

"I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love." *Mother Teresa*

God Bless You
Kathy Dean

Urgent Needs

We are coming into the cold winter months when our need for blankets, candles, boots, socks, coats, sweatshirts/pants, stocking hats, warm scarves and gloves increases.



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Uplift happenings!

Looking to our Future

As we look to the future of the Uplift Organization, it is so rewarding to see so many young people positioning themselves to be such a big part of our continued success, as well as some day becoming the leaders of the organization. Below are some testimonials from young adults and stories about children of Uplift volunteers,

My grandchildren are ages 14 and 11, and my having been at Uplift for the past 13 years, helping others is all they have ever known. Hannah and Brayden have done many behind the scene tasks with me over the years, like picking up the bread and sweets from Price Chopper three times a week, as well as helping me prepare meals on days that we didn't have enough food, or picking up donations along with many other things. But, because of their ages, the one thing they have never done is go out on the truck. That is, until a few weeks ago when we were shorthanded and Hannah was finally able to ride along with me. My prayer is that I will still be healthy & strong enough to have the opportunity to have both of my grandchildren ride on the truck with me in three years when Brayden turns 14, so he can share in the joy that Hannah and I both feel when we are able to serve the precious people on the streets!

I was humbled by the Instagram that Hannah posted on the ride home from the warehouse at the end of the night. It surprised me a little because she has done so many things through the years to help me at Uplift, I thought it would just feel normal to her, but as you will read from her words below, it was far from normal.



Hey guys meet DME. Tonight I was able to meet him & 80+ people who live on the streets. Many people look at them with disgust, some people are afraid of them. Tonight was a real eye opener for me. I've never seen them as either of those things, only human beings & creations of God (must be in my blood *wink wink* @ Mamo) we all have ups and downs and even though these people have it harder than anyone can imagine, I met the kindest, most loving souls I've encountered in a while. It baffled me to see how many of them, even though they had it so bad, constantly spoke of all the love they had toward God. Tonight we encountered peo-

ple so drunk they couldn't walk, people high, we saw where these people had to live, and how bad of shape they were in. We heard their stories, we saw elders, and couples. Some people are quick to judge them, some avoid eye contact with them, but trust me, make conversation, smile at them, and look into their eyes because you will meet the most lovable people you've ever encountered. It was a long night of tears, big smiles, and hugs. I am forever changed by this experience, and even after receiving thank you after thank you, I am the one who should be truly thankful. This isn't the last time for me either, I'll see you all again soon, so much love and prayers. xx

Hannah



Who says you have to be an adult to make a difference? You better not tell that to the children of Ross Dessert, one of Uplift's drivers. His children, Francesca 12, Peter 10, Bella 8 and Eden 6, have proven that age doesn't stop them from doing their part to help make life a little better for the homeless people served by Uplift.

Several months ago they handed me a beautiful box with money inside that they had collected by sitting on the corner holding a sign that said "I have food to eat, and I slept in a bed last night, but I know people who didn't. Please help". And it didn't stop there, last month they presented me with an envelope with more money they collected. Thank you Ross for being a great dad and teaching them values. Uplift has a very bright future in these four for sure!

The Dessert children

The minute Kathy Dean stood up in church and talked about Uplift, I knew I wanted to be part of it. Our family went a couple times to the warehouse to help with the sort days, before we had a chance to go out on the truck. Going on the truck has been eye-opening



Special Thanks

The Uplift drivers are very thankful to Bill McGowan and the McGowan Foundation and Aristocrat Motors for their donations making it possible to purchase a new truck. We have been running on a wing and a prayer this past year, but with their generosity we will be safe and comfortable on the route from now on. Words cannot express our gratitude to you both!

2016 Third Quarter Stats

763
number of volunteers

1,470
number of camps visited

3,815
number of volunteer hours

9,259
number of homeless served

and his given me perspective in my own life. Thinking we have problems and things not going as planned pales in comparison. The things we take for granted like washing your hands, having enough to eat, a warm shower, and a safe place to live are only a few things that the homeless are missing. I love going on the truck with people I know and meeting new ones. Meeting and talking with people, hearing stories, giving hugs or a smile and letting them know that they matter. These people aren't so different. As you go out on the truck you tend to want to go more and more to try and make a difference.

Sarah Roth

I like Uplift because we go out on the trucks and help people with basic needs to help them survive. I also like meeting the people and helping them.

Gwyn Roth

Uplift is an organization that helps a great deal of people. Having the opportunity to go and help at Uplift is such an eye opening experience. This chance to get involved in such a wonderful system really opens your eyes to what this world has come to. The help that comes from such a variety of people goes a really long way. When you're out on the trucks you meet so many great loving people. You just want to do everything you can to help them even if that's just giving someone a hug. The experience you go through even if it's just one time is life changing and really just opens your eyes to what the world has become, so you have this new motivational drive to do everything in your ability to help make this world a better place. If everybody had that same drive to make the world that much better think of where our world could be in 10 or even 20 years. I encourage people to go and help at Uplift; help make this world better person by person.

Anna Roth

I like to go to Uplift because I can help other people in need of food and clothing and lots of other things, too. I think without Uplift people might not get what they need. Uplift also sorts things like soap, body wash and other items. One of my favorite things at Uplift is throwing socks in the sock bin. Uplift helps other people in need.

Ella – 8 years

Shawnee Mission share group

Coming back to Uplift a second time reminded me why I fell in love with this organization in the first place. Just seeing the look on all of the people's faces: the gratitude and pure happiness from receiving something as small as a toothbrush, reminded me of how blessed I am and how much I take for granted. Being able to touch the lives of complete strangers and truly make an impact has changed me and made me a better person, and I am so grateful for that.

Carolyn

Uplift is such an amazing organization where volunteers can truly see the results of their work. Uplift is an immediate relief that gives back to the community while there are a lot of organizations that are separated from directly helping their cause. I enjoy Uplift so much because I get to see the direct results of their efforts. Uplift gave me the opportunity to see the other side of KC and realize how grateful I am for the life my parents have provided for me.

Kate

Uplift was something I had never experienced before. This was my first time volunteering there and it turned my world upside down. It gave me the opportunity to help people outside our high school's usual service projects, which was refreshing. Being able to hear the gratitude in their voice and a smile on their face at each of the stops reminded me of what volunteering is all about.

Chase

Uplift has provided an opportunity for our students to experience and extend humanity in a world they most likely have never seen, but often have driven by or over. It has opened their eyes to the need to simply care for those who, for many reasons, aren't able to care for themselves. How a half-burned candle provides light, a soda pop bottle provides water, a hot meal provides comfort. And the value of a word of encouragement or a hug. It's changed their judgment about people in that position. And the Uplift drivers have been incredible mentors, modeling for the kids the work that they'll be continuing in 30 years.

Krissie Wiggins,
Volunteer Service
Coordinator, SHARE

PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY TO UPLIFT WAREHOUSE



In this Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, St. James Catholic Church and the Al-Inshirah Islamic Center, after meeting this past year to learn about each other's faith, joined together to make a pilgrimage to the Uplift warehouse to fulfill some of the Corporal Works of Mercy – to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty and to clothe the naked. They met in the St. James parking lot bringing the needed items that they collected for the homeless, prayed and then proceeded to Uplift. As they drove they prayed this prayer:

Gracious spirit of mercy, in this holy year, we make a pilgrimage together to a sacred site. As we travel, may we learn from each other stories of mercy. As we work together, may we offer mercy to the homeless receiving our efforts. As we return home, may we pray to be changed by mercy through this experience. Amen.

Upon arriving at the warehouse they were greeted by Uplift volunteers and Kathy Dean, president of Uplift. Kathy gave them an overview of how Uplift started and what its mission is to the homeless of Kansas City. Questions were asked and answered and then it was time to work....volunteers sorted donations, packaged aspirin and Q-tips and cotton balls, rolled socks, cleaned out bins of clothes and sorted hygiene items.

Also, in cooperation with St. James and the Al-Inshirah Islamic Center, on September 18th, two faith groups came together at a picnic in Lenexa to host Uplift guests and to collect needed items for Uplift. Jim and Jennifer Schmidt and Bart Farmer, volunteers for Uplift, brought the homeless guests to the park. Marty Gough greeted the group and thanked them for coming and Mary Morin asked everyone to extend their hands and bless each other. Then it was time to eat! There was pulled pork, brisket and hot wings along with the usual picnic side dishes. The faith groups collected enough needed items to fill the bed of a pickup truck. These items were brought to the warehouse on the day of the pilgrimage.



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Kansas City, Missouri 64127-0175
www.uplift.org

Important Upcoming Dates

Tuesday.....	November 8th
7:00 p.m.....	Board Meeting
Saturday.....	November 12th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	November 19th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	December 10th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	December 17th
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, pthomson43@gmail.com.
- Changes of address should be sent to Samantha Shannon at Samantha.shannon@jocogov.org

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: Pat Thomson at (913) 207-9391.

Prepare Meals

Cooks are needed to prepare hot meals for the homeless. Each cook needs to cook enough for 60 people. If you would like to help, call or email Margaret Longstreet at (816) 739-4050 or margaret-longstreet@me.com 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. As we enter into our busiest time of the year, we are adding extra sort days. In November, December and January we will be sorting on the second and third Saturdays of these months. See Important Upcoming Dates. If you are planning on bringing a large group, please contact us first. Phone: (816) 241-0060 or Email: upliftorg@att.net.