

"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



Dear Volunteers and Donors,

What a whirlwind summer! As I think about life, the fun plans we make for family vacations, the time when we get to relax and enjoy time away from problems and just see the beauty of the world that God created, I can't help but think of my precious friends living on the streets of Kansas City. Unfortunately, the people we serve don't get to take a break from their struggles. Every morning they wake up with the same questions and troubles to face. Questions as basic as, "will I eat today?" and as complex as "will I survive the danger of living on the street today?"

Thankfully, because of the Grace of God and your help and support, the homeless know that they will be met every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday nights with food, clothing, over the counter medications and most important, love, care and compassion from the drivers and volunteers on the Uplift trucks.

Uplift never takes a break. We are on the street three times each week, holiday or not, bad weather or not. Our numbers continue to grow, reaching about 350 people each night. As we scramble to do the duties necessary to get the

trucks out each night, we all need to take a step back and pause to look into the faces of those we serve, to see how much they depend on us, and how grateful they are. We need to at the end of each route realize that we are, for some, the difference between life and death. We need never take lightly the impact we have on so many.

I thank God for where he has placed me, and I thank all of you for your time and support making it possible for us to continue reaching out to the homeless, giving them hope, love, care and compassion.

"Each of us may be sure that if God sends us on stony paths He will provide us with strong shoes."

—Alexander Maclaren

God bless you and everyone you love.

Kathy

Urgent Needs

As we head into fall and the winter months, our needs change from warm weather items to cold. We are in need of: crew socks, hand warmers, coats, sweatshirts and pants, scarves, stocking hats, boots, jeans 32-36, thermal underwear (men's and women's), lip balm, deodorant, tampons and pads, toothpaste and toothbrushes.



Search for **Uplift Organization Inc.** page to stay current with Uplift happenings!



BRINGING WARMTH AND LIGHT

Several years ago, Lonnie Reser heard about the Uplift Organization from some friends and wanted to get involved in their mission. One of the ways his friends were helping was by taking candles that were no longer useful and melting the wax down to pour into used cat food and tuna cans to serve as a candle for those in need. Lonnie felt this was something that he could do to help the people in need of light and warmth that were living on the streets.

One night Lonnie had the opportunity to go out on one of the trucks and he met the man who started Uplift. He was so inspired by the dedication of the organization and the fact that all of the wonderful people there were volunteers – no paid positions. That just made him more determined to help.

Lonnie started going to the Savers Stores and Hillcrest Ministries Thrift Stores north of the river and asking if they ever had any candles that they couldn't sell. They said "yes" and he started to pick them up by the tote full. He also put out a call for used cat food and tuna cans. Friends, his church members, American Legion Post #58 of Smithville and Kearney Feed Store stepped up to the plate. Thus started Lonnie's candle-making endeavor.

After the death of one friend and an out-of-state move by another, both men who helped Lonnie make the candles, he found himself making them on his own. He put out another call to a friend, John Holder, and he happily joined Lonnie in making candles. Lonnie has been filling up the back of his Ford Flex and taking the completed candles to Uplift for three years now. In the last couple of months, he and John have filled up the back of Lonnie's pickup twice and taken them to the Uplift warehouse. Lonnie and John are so thankful that they can help in some small way to bring warmth and light to those in need.

Lonnie Reser

UPLIFT COMMUNITY GARDEN, Feeding those in Need



What an exciting year we have had in the Uplift Community Garden! The weather cooperated this spring and we were able to get the garden planted right on time, in early May.

Along with the regular 200 tomato plants, summer squash, zucchini, eggplant, okra, jalapenos and so many beautiful zinnias, I was able to expand the garden this year thanks to the \$2,500 grant that Uplift was awarded from the McGowan Foundation. I planted 2 acres of sweet corn. It was quite a learning experience! Two acres of corn equals 40,000 stalks and 80,000 ears of corn.

I quickly learned that my heart was willing, but my body was not strong enough to handle so much corn. The picking window is only about 10 days once it is ready to harvest so I had to call in helpers. I called Serve KC and we picked about 1,000 pounds. I then met Beth Ann Brubaker who introduced me to her boss, Scott Burnett, Jackson County Legislature 1st District, and told me to call Emily Worm with After the Harvest. Scott worked in the field, and Emily sent crews out and we were able to pick over 6,000 pounds. Harvesters sent a large truck to pick up the corn and delivered it to their agency partners. By the end of the harvest we were able to take almost 12,000 pounds of corn out of the field.

The weather has been great for the squash this year. I have harvested 1,520 pounds and still picking. Many agencies have benefited from the delicious yellow squash and zucchini we have grown this year.





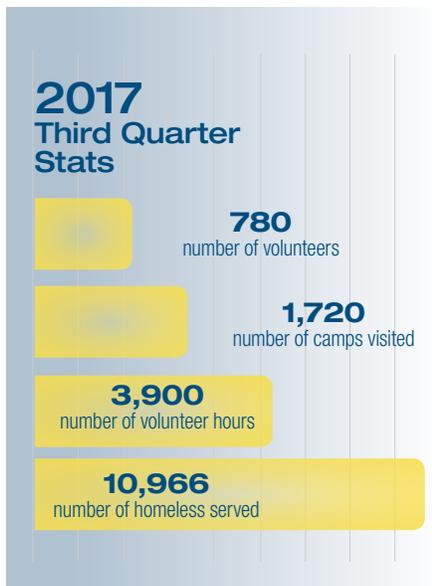
The rain and cool weather have been hard but we have harvested over 3,100 pounds and will continue picking until the first hard freeze. In years past, we have been able to purchase two new commercial freezers for the Uplift warehouse. This year's proceeds have not been earmarked for a specific item, but I will keep you posted as to what we are able to purchase to make our operation more efficient.

In August, the Uplift Community Garden was used for a photo shoot launching the new Seven products coming out next year. It was very exciting to see everyone in action.

It has been an exciting year, not just for the great produce that people have been able to enjoy, but it has been a year of new friendships. Thank you, Bill McGowan and the McGowan Foundation for your support. Thank you, Scott Burnett for all the work you did, thank you, Beth Ann Brubaker for putting me on the path to so many great helpers. Thank you, Emily Worm and After the Harvest. Thank you, Joni, Susan and all the Serve KC group. Thank you, Brayden, for taking a million steps alongside me this summer and always being my best helper. Most of all, thank you Leo for allowing me to drag you into all my crazy ideas and for all the hours you worked with me to help so many.

God willing, I will be back at it next year, so everyone rest up because I'm going to need your help!

Kathy Dean



UPLIFT DRIVER COORDINATOR

Uplift cannot function without a strong cadre of dedicated route drivers and route leaders.

As Driver Coordinator, I support the mission and operation of Uplift by managing the routes & stops, as well as our driver roster, schedule, and procedures. This includes ongoing training and communications. It also includes leading new drivers in their training and orientation.

Uplift is in immediate need of 3 or 4 additional drivers to help us cover all of the routes on all of the nights. We currently have a great group of drivers but some of them are driving too frequently.

Drivers help lead our volunteers in loading the trucks, serving at the stops, and cleaning up/restocking at the end of the night. They typically commit to one night a month to start out (for example...1st Wednesday, or 3rd Saturdays). Drivers need to be 25 years old, responsible individuals, have adequate leadership skills, and have a heart for the homeless.

If your, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about being a driver for Uplift, please have them call me at 785-551-0878 or email at ross_desert@hotmail.com.

Ross Dessert

Special Thanks

- McGowan Foundation
- Heart of Life Church
- Robert & Beth Orscheln
- Paul Brown
- Mark Whiting
- Church of the Nativity
- David & Denise Brummel
- Reese Nichols Real Estate
- Southminster Presbyterian Church



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Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday.....	October 14th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	November 11th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Tuesday.....	November 14th
7:00 p.m.....	Board Meeting
Saturday.....	November 18th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	December 9th
9:00 a.m.....	Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday.....	December 16th
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 Kellie McDermott at upliftorg@att.net

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 or pathomson43@gmail.com.

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 p.m. 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.

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)).