

"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."

2018 Board of Directors

Jim Crawford
Kathy Dean
Ross Dessert
Andre Logan
Margaret Longstreet
Trinidad Molina
Rob Oyler
Dan Schipfer, Chairman
Jennifer Schmidt
Jim Schmidt
Samantha Shannon
Pat Thomson

2018 Officers

Kathy Dean, President
Samantha Shannon, VP Administration
Jennifer Schmidt, VP Internal Operations
Andre Logan, Treasurer
Margaret Longstreet, Recording Secretary



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



NEWS

"Taking care and compassion to the homeless."

A Letter from our President



Dear Donors and Volunteers,
Someone asked me "how do you guys do all that you do?" It would take a book to answer that question, but a few of the major ways would be the addition of new volunteers, and new positions for others. I am thankful to every one of them!

God's grace is the number one reason we can do what we do, along with our donors and volunteers that give so freely of their time and resources.

Kellie McDermott, works in the office and has taken such a load off my plate. She is so dependable and does such a great job, I never have to think about anything being done quickly and perfectly when she is involved! Kellie is such a blessing to me, I can't imagine how I ever made it without her!

Ross has stepped into his role as Driver Coordinator with such ease. Ross continues to bring new drivers onto our team which is crucial to keep our perfect record of never missing a night on the street.

This is no small task considering that there were 624 driver spots to fill to complete the routes for 2017.

The definition of organized and detail oriented is, Pat Thomson! Pat has done an amazing job having 3,120 volunteers at the warehouse and ready to go on the trucks in 2017. We never have to worry about our volunteers with Pat as Volunteer Coordinator!

All our drivers are amazing! I couldn't be prouder of the group of people that take time

each night to make sure that our volunteers are able to safely deliver food, clothing, care and compassion along with many other items to the homeless.

Marty Gough and Deb, have taken hundreds of miles and hours of driving off my schedule since taking over as Donation Coordinator. Marty has added people to his team allowing us to cover the city without depending on just one person!

Our cooks, under the supervision of Margaret Longstreet, step up each night to make sure that we have amazing food to deliver to the homeless. Heart of Life has been a life saver! Being able to go to the freezer and know we have food ready to put into the oven has saved hours of work and taken stress off all of us!

We have been blessed with 2 new trucks this year, which makes it safer and more efficient for us to be on the street each night. Jim Schmidt has been instrumental in making this happen.

With God leading us, I look forward to the adventures ahead in 2018!

"We can do no great things, only small things with great love. Mother Teresa"

God bless you and everyone you love!

Kathy

Urgent Needs

As we are still experiencing cold weather, hand warmers, crew socks, coats, sweatshirts/pants, scarves, stocking hats, gloves, boots, thermal underwear, lip balm, cough drops and candles are all needed. We can also always use deodorant, tampons and pads, toothpaste and toothbrushes and other small toiletries.



Volunteer Spotlight

Hello! My name is Kellie McDermott and I've been asked to share a little about my experience volunteering at Uplift.

I was introduced to Uplift a few years ago by my friend Margaret Longstreet. At the time, Margaret was leading a group of women from our church who were preparing meals for Uplift and she asked if I would be interested in helping.

After coming to the warehouse and meeting Kathy Dean, I could see any time spent volunteering here would have a direct and beneficial impact for the homeless in Kansas City.

Kathy's leadership skills, combined with her compassion for the homeless, are a driving force for change as she brings together an army of volunteers and those in the community who are in the most need of assistance.

Margaret's role at Uplift quickly grew as she took on the responsibility of organizing the cooks & Uplift Board Secretary. I wanted to continue to serve within the organization and Kathy approached me to facilitate in the office in an administrative role. This January starts my third year at the Uplift warehouse serving in the office each Wednesday tending to the tasks that any business or organization can't deny, pushing paper. I know, exciting and glamorous! Seriously, I am happy to process donations, mail, write correspondence, track stats and distribution, manage mailing lists and maintain route sheets needed to get the trucks out each night. Each

Continued on page 3

Cold Weather, Warm Hearts



Mahaffie Elementary School

The kids at Mahaffie School held a "Stuff a Sock" drive. Each sock had a can of food, a hat or gloves and a note from the kids. Then the sock was tied up with a ribbon.



Rosehill Elementary School Y-Care

Students from Y-Care (before/after school care) at Rosehill Elementary School in Lenexa made blankets for the homeless. The fabric was donated. The kids cut the fabric to size and fringed it ending with a warm soft blanket made with love.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Confirmation Class



A group of 40 plus students and parents from Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Lee's Summit who were working on their Confirmation Service Project came to the Uplift warehouse to work on our sort day. Below is the testimonial/observation of one of the students.

"When I first heard that our Confirmation Service Project was going to be at Uplift, I first wondered, "Is this one of those places that's like a puny soup kitchen, or some random small organization?" I'm not going to lie, but at first I thought that it was going to be really boring and we would just be sorting a bunch of old clothes. Well I'll tell you that Uplift is none of that, it's much better. For example, we were sorting boxes of jeans, sweatpants, necessities



Visitation Catholic Church Peace Tree Donations

Visitation Parish in Kansas City, MO, has supported Uplift each year through their Peace Tree. During the Advent season, the parishioners choose a card from the tree with a suggested donation on it. When they bring the donation back, they can take a peace ornament from the tree for their own home. The ornaments were handmade in El Salvador. Below is the Advent Peace Prayer that they pray.

Praise to you Lord our God. You loved us so much that you gave us your only son. Bless this gift that we give in His name. May your peace fill our world.

Amen



Bottles And Bags Year Round Needs

Each night that Uplift goes out to serve the homeless of Kansas City besides giving them a hot meal and a drink, we also offer them items to help keep them warm and healthy. Two items that we use all of the time are plastic bags (the kind you get from the grocery store, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.) which we use to put the items that they need in. The other item is a 2-litre type bottle with its cap (pop, tea, juice, etc. – we don't take bottles that have had milk in them). We use these bottles to give the homeless water that they can use for drinking, cooking and cleaning up. These two items can be collected from individuals, churches and other groups. It would be a great service project for churches, schools and businesses.

like soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, food and water. I got to see almost the entire warehouse and it really hit me how many people this organization helps. There are just sheer amounts of about everything you could think of. I remember that their boot section was overflowing. That tells me that so many people will have warm feet. One funny thing I remember is that their sock cabinet was at least 7 feet tall and there were so many socks we had to put some in the lower compartment. Recently, I've come across a lot of homeless people even in the Lee's Summit area, and it hit me how well Uplift can help these people. It was a life changing experience. I'll never forget when a homeless person came into the warehouse. She was so dirty, but they guided her to where she could get help. It really tells you how lucky you really are to even have heat, a house, a car, nice clothes, an education, and loving parents and friends. I highly



suggest that you check Uplift out and go volunteer."

Mason Salmond

week my responsibilities grow, shift and change based on whatever is needed.

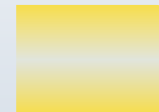
Throughout the process, I have witnessed many caring donors and volunteers serving in a multitude of ways. Some create candles for light and warmth. Others weave sleeping mats and pillows from plastic grocery bags. In addition, many more come with much needed clothing and supplies or sort donations and organize the warehouse, cook amazing meals, travel out to serve those meals or drive trucks. The dedication of these individuals paired with those grateful recipients in our community is truly inspiring and beautiful.

I hope you'll continue to get to know Uplift better. Your participation here is a blessing and a gift both to you and those you serve.

2017 Fourth Quarter Stats



771
number of volunteers



1,397
number of camps visited



3,855
number of volunteer hours



9,395
number of homeless served

Special Thanks

- Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
- David & Denise Brummel
- David L. Hough
- Jerry & Karen Meisenheimer



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage PAID
Mail Works

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

Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday..... January 13th
9:00 a.m.....Warehouse Sort Day
Tuesday..... January 16th
7:00 p.m Board Meeting
Saturday..... January 20th
9:00 a.m.....Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday..... February 10th
9:00 a.m.....Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday..... March 10th
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 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 pthomson43@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.