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United Ministries Newsletter

August 2009

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If I Were God...2009

From Beth Lindsay Templeton

Foreword: This summer we have five interns. Two are paid by Furman to be here full time. Sarah Ferguson and David Wantland will spend at least fifty percent of their time with program participants. Brianna Mawby and Janet Newton will work part-time. Brianna is sponsored by Aldersgate UMC and Janet by Fourth Presbyterian. Kelly Warren will intern part-time for the experience.

Each week the interns debrief their experiences. Below are a few of their responses to the open-ended sentences they struggled with;

If I were God, I'd...

Take away fear between people of different backgrounds so they could relate

The law I would create and enforce is...

Rethink welfare and entitlement programs to get the deepest impact

One thing I would eliminate is...

Complacency, apathy: "I just don't care"

One thing I would add is...

Sense of encouragement for people in hard times
Economic wisdom: I'd add budgeting for everyone
Every one has a "guiding angel"/ mentor

If I had one million dollars to spend I'd...
Provide cars with one year's gas and insurance
Pay healthcare bills for workers
Provide scholarships for those who can't go to school any other way
Provide housing for single fathers

One thing I can never ignore now is...
The realization that I stereotype people
My relative comfort
That homeless people are people, not threats
That for some kids instability and lack of basic resources are routine

One thing I'm taking away from my experience this summer...
Little things can make a big difference (knowing someone's name, for example)
Greater knowledge and respect for Greenville and its population
You can't really help someone until you know them and understand them
Greater respect for people who daily live in poverty. They have so many layers to deal with. It takes strength to get out of the situation.

[Register](#) Today!

[Check out](#) the top fundraiser prizes, awards categories & sponsors.



[Men's Wearhouse National Suit Drive](#)

We're pleased to announce that we have been chosen as the recipient agency for the 2nd annual National Suit Drive. You can help others find their strong suit by donating gently used professional attire at your nearest Men's Wearhouse during

MEN'S WEARHOUSE

NATIONAL SUIT DRIVE

help others find their strong suit™

September 1-30

September. Not only are you giving clothing, you're giving a second chance and helping at-risk men make a good first impression at job interviews.

We need you to share your story about United Ministries. Help raise our profile and give us constructive feedback about your experience with us. Please go to www.greatnonprofits.org* and review our agency.

*In affiliation with [Guidestar](http://www.guidestar.org), the industry's source for trusted non-profit information.



BI-LO Charities Sponsors United Ministries' Food Pantry

Thanks to a \$23,000 grant from BI-LO Charities and the support of churches, schools, neighborhoods and families, United Ministries fed 7,825 people last year, including pop top food for homeless people. BI-LO Charities has been an invaluable partner in the effort to eradicate hunger in our community.



Piedmont Natural Gas Share the Warmth Round Up

Round up your gas bill to the nearest dollar through September 15 and PNG will assist neighbors in your community who need help paying their home energy bills -no matter is natural gas, propane, electricity, coal, kerosene or wood.



Hollingsworth Funds, Inc. Supports Adult Education in Belle Meade Community

By Ben Sullivan

In late summer of 2008, the economic recession had dealt the Greenville job market a devastating blow, and suddenly even people with years of experience in their fields were denied access to new employment opportunities simply because they didn't have a GED. We were seeing a dramatic increase in daily visits at the Learning Center.

Space at the Learning Center was limited, and we began to explore the possibility of opening a satellite location. Greenville Tech's Director of Community Affairs, George Singleton, suggested we check out the old Sistine Elementary School in the Belle Meade community. The school had served Greenville County for a half-century prior to its closure in the early 2000s. A relatively young agency, Upstate Circle of Friends, acquired the site from the school district in 2005 and began renovating it into a one-of-a-kind facility, offering a diverse array of services. The same building that served as a meeting place for a Jehovah's Witnesses congregation also housed a mixed martial arts dojo. George had a particular interest in United Ministries' collocation there, as he serves on Upstate Circle of Friends' Board of Directors.



The space available was a perfect fit for what we had envisioned: two classrooms; one for instruction and the other for testing. Upstate Circle of Friends was also availing us with one of their part time employees to aid in the delivery of GED services. To promote awareness of our new site, we began a massive PR campaign in the form of announcements on the radio, blurbs in the newspaper, and flyers in and around Belle Meade. I arrived in November 2008. By February 2009, we already had two new graduates! Another seven students demonstrated readiness. Four have taken the GED and are awaiting scores; the remaining three will be scheduling exam dates for September. Made possible in part by a grant from Hollingsworth Funds, Inc.

Make Way for God's Message: Donate Bibles

Pet Projects

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:105

Does your church have Bibles that you would like to share with those seeking assistance from United Ministries? To make a donation of Bibles, please call Rebecca at 864.335.2612.

Gifts in Memory

Shirley Acosta
Evelyn Runge

Randolph "Randy" W. Blackwell
L. Dewitt & Judy Patterson

Chaplain J. Brown
Norman G. Raiford

Vicki Byers
Nancy Hardesty

Patricia Cain
Edith Smith

Marcelle Collison
Stanley & Jimmie Smith

Jane Carson France
Jane B. Wallace

Ruby Garrison
Beverly Stigall

Mary Goldsmith
Evelyn Runge

Jane Huguley
Mr. & Mrs. Elliott Batson
Bobby & Lu Brown
Joseph J. Pazdan
Mack H. Pazdan

Carmen Huskamp
Gerald Huskamp

Wanda Mason
Mr. & Mrs. J.D. "Tim" Lewis

Jane Mattson
Evelyn Runge

Kirby T. McKinney
Harry & Jo Ussery

Betty Lane "Duck" Merritt
Mary Abercrombie
Carolyn I. Henderson

Dr. Donald M. Myers
Katherine Muller

Thelma Roe
Evelyn Runge

C. Lawson "Scotty" Scott
William H. Orders

We need **volunteers to help with our newsletter mailing on September 9 from 8:30-11:30am**. Call 864.335.2613 to tell us you're coming.

- The Learning Center needs a **working computer** for the lab.
- Place of Hope needs **soap (desperately), razors, men's & women's underwear, socks, deodorant, foot powder and Vaseline, plus water bottles, towels and hats** to help participants beat the heat.
- Emergency Assistance needs **peanut butter, non-perishable food & canned meats**.

Orientation Upcoming Dates

Wed., August 19, 9:30-11:30am
Wed., September 2, 9:30-11:30am

Orientation provides a thorough overview of United Ministries programs: why they are structured as they are, how they operate, and what someone can do to get involved.

Call 864.271.2965 for more info.

Gifts in Honor

Just Because
Alison Long
Mae C. Long

Mrs. Jere Coker
Mr. Dan Collins
Mrs. Peggy Deibler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Efirid
Dr. Bill Evins
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Foxhall
Ms. Linda L. Galloway
Dr. Lyn Hammond
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Lathem
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Littlepage
Mr. Tom Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Reynolds
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Roper
Mr. & Mrs. Mac Timmons
Ms. Nancy Wonser
Dr. O.M. & Mrs. Ann Ballenger

Ryan & Tracy Weeks
Kevin & Leah Mitchell

The Marriage of
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Dover
Dr. & Mrs. W. Eugene Bondurant

Y'all CAN Do It

Your church, employer or civic group CAN participate.

CANstruction
September 18-19

CANstruction structures are made entirely of non-perishable foods which are donated to United Ministries' food pantry after the exhibit.

C. Lawson "Scotty" & Martha Scott
Mary Breazeale Roe

Ruth L. Traynham
Mrs. William C. Wright

William H. "Billy" Wallace, Jr.
Dotsy Bridgers
Carolyn I. Henderson
Jane B. Wallace

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Wells, Sr.
Dr. O.M. & Mrs. Ann Ballenger

Dr. Thomas Whitaker
Dr. Basil Manly, IV

To get involved, contact John Long at 864.503.5241.

Rose Ball You're Invited

United Ministries has been chosen as a recipient of The Rose Ball, Greenville's longest running charitable event.

You are invited to take part in the South's most elegant charitable gala featuring more than 4,000 varieties of roses.

The Rose Ball · September 25, 2009 · 7:30pm · Poinsett Club · Tickets are \$400 per couple

For more information, please visit www.roseball.org or email info@roseball.org.



Dine at [Brew & Ewe](#) on Sundays and a portion of your food and beverage bill will be donated to us.

United Ministries staffers think they've got the best fruit smoothies, lemonade & chicken salad in town.

Walk for the Homeless Sponsor Form

Thank you for sponsoring the 20th annual Walk for the Homeless, Oct 18, 2009! Please fill in the information below:

Sponsorship name as it should appear in print: _____

Your name: _____ Your title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Address (to mail receipt): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Sponsor Level: Method of Payment:

? Pathfinder \$10,000 ? Check: Mail check with form to United Ministries, 606 Pendleton St, Greenville, SC 29601.

? Pioneer \$5,000 ? Please invoice me: _____

? Hiker \$2,500 ? Credit Card: VisaMasterCard

? Scout \$1,000 ? Credit Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

? Footprints \$500 ? Signature: _____

Sponsor a Walker:

? \$250 Sponsor 3 walkers. List the group/walkers' names, if known: _____

? Sponsor ____ walkers for \$100 each. List the group/walkers' names, if known: _____

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We tweet. Do you?

[Follow United Ministries](#) and [Our Eyes Were Opened](#) on twitter.

[Forward email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to Imaronie@united-ministries.org by Imaronie@united-ministries.org.

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