

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

LIFECHANGE LETTER

“ I don't know
how I survived. ”

- CODY

INSIDE:

- Alive and Thriving Because of You!
- Your Passions Are Not Boring
- It's Not a Transaction. It's a Relationship.



CODY'S STORY:

Alive and Thriving Because of You!

HUNGER. REGRET. PAIN. SHAME. REMORSE. Those are the feelings that Cody was always trying to escape. Meth and fentanyl helped for a little while, but the hunger and all the rest of those feelings would always come back.

He was homeless for four years, living in his car, scraping by just to eat and get his next fix. Then, on a Sunday night, Cody finally gave up.

“For the first time in four years, I looked up and instead of cursing God and being mad at Him, I asked Him for help,” he says.

The next morning, he called the Mission. A few hours later, he was walking through our doors.

For Cody, even coming here was a big challenge. He remembers walking past other people on the streets who were shooting up and smoking.

*Cody helping a customer at the Mission's Thrift Store.
Proceeds help fund the ministry of Union Gospel Mission.*





KEVIN CAMPBELL
Acting Director

Thanks for Being Part of Our Family

TRADITIONS ARE HONORED in my family. Every Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter are spent together around a dinner table enjoying each other's company and sharing a good meal. We always open with a prayer of thankfulness for what the Lord has done for us, all we have been provided, and thoughts of those less fortunate. My best friend is a *LifeChange* graduate who always joins us.

But holidays can be very difficult for those in *LifeChange*. Separation from family and facing a lifetime of bad decisions is a formula for depression and self-medication. Thankfully, many *LifeChange* residents at the Mission can create new families. They are no longer alone. Many know what it's like to come through the front door broken. To join others who love the Lord and are seeking a new life creates hope and new friendships. They find that wherever they have been and whatever they have done God loves them. God forgives them. God desires a relationship with them. And through Jesus we can all be radically changed.

Otis came by my office today with his wife Robin to say hello. Otis graduated from *LifeChange* 22 years ago and he came to say thank you to UGM for saving his life. He's battling cancer and he knows that we love him. That we pray for him. And that we stand by him like a good family member does.

In Christ,

Kevin Campbell
Acting Director



"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence." Jeremiah 17:7

NOVEMBER 2023



He remembers feeling drawn back to the drugs, almost stopping a few times.

“It was scary fighting through the gauntlet of people out there, but when I got through the doors, I was home and I knew it,” he says. *“It was a good place. It was a safe place to come.”*

**““ Now with the Mission,
I have a family to be a
part of. ””**

It took Cody about a month to detox. During that time, the meals friends like you provided helped nourish him.

As he watched the other men in the LifeChange Recovery Program, he began to imagine a new life for himself.

“I was looking at these guys and I’ve never seen somebody ever do anything so brave in my life,” Cody says.

Now, six months in, Cody is the brave one. He’s opened up to people and to God in ways he never imagined.

“All I needed was a relationship with Christ to get repaired, and this place gave me a safe place to do that, to dig into the word and find out who God is,” says Cody.

It’s All About Relationships

“Here, they support restoring relationships . . . It’s what makes you feel human.”

Today Cody isn’t just feeling human, he’s feeling fully alive.

“Every step that I’ve made towards recovery is what Christ has given me,” he says.

The Lord, working through friends like you, has given Cody hot meals at the Mission, a bed to sleep in, time in our LifeChange program, the gift of sobriety and the joy of being around people. In fact, last Thanksgiving all he wanted was to be alone. This Thanksgiving, he can’t wait to eat and celebrate with others.

Friends like you are the only reason Cody was able to discover that *Life Changes Here*. Thank you for helping him when no one else would. Thank you for giving him the chance to live a new life.



WE NEED COFFEE AND PIE!

No Thanksgiving meal is complete without coffee and pumpkin pie! To help your dollars go as far as possible, please consider donating pre-cooked, store-bought pumpkin pies and coffee (*either ground or whole bean*) for this year’s Thanksgiving celebration.

**Drop off pies and coffee at 3 NW Third Ave. Portland, OR 97209
We’re open Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.**

We're Thankful For . . .

We asked our guests what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving, and here's what a few of them said:



"I'm so thankful for the food at the Mission! I don't have to stress about where my next meal is going to come from. Having those basic needs met is key to my recovery. I can spend that time and energy healing from past wounds."

ROXIE*

Previous LifeChange Resident



"When I was out on the streets, it felt like the whole world was against me . . . Being at the Mission for the holidays is such a treat. Having a warm meal and chatting with all the guests really brings joy to the season."

JAMES*

Previous LifeChange Resident



"I'm so happy to have the food during Thanksgiving. It's pretty miserable when you're on the streets and have nowhere to go during the holidays. Coming to the Mission makes all that go away. Even if it's just for a moment, I feel loved and at peace here."

JOHN*

Homeless Services Guest



"There's always a line out the door at the Mission, especially during the holidays . . . but they don't leave you lined up, they come out and offer some coffee and water, and talk with you. They do all they can to make you comfortable as you wait."

DON*

Homeless Services Guest

** Names and images have been changed to protect the privacy of our guests*

Your Passions Are Not Boring

There are people who know that planned giving falls into the same category as wills, trusts and estate plans. They may be right. But to us, it means so much more.

To us, planned giving is about sharing your passion and leaving a legacy that shows your loved ones what matters most to you. And there's nothing boring about that. In fact, we think it's so important that we launched a Planned Giving program.

If you don't already have a legacy plan that includes honoring the things you are most passionate about, we'd love to help. To get started, contact Kevin Campbell at kevinc@ugmportland.org



PLANNED GIVING





It's Not a Transaction. It's a Relationship.

The Union Gospel Mission is not a transactional place.

Sure, people can come in, eat a hot meal and leave. They absolutely can stay just one night in our winter shelter and never come back. They can accept a hot cup of coffee from our Search+Rescue team and not tell us their name.

But most of the time, that's not what happens.

Most of the time, those services – especially meals – allow us to build relationships. That's why *Life Changes Here*.

So while each \$2.33 you give will provide a meal, it will also do more. That meal makes it possible for us to develop relationships, share the love of Jesus

Christ with our hurting neighbors, and help them begin living new lives!

Without support from friends like you, the Mission can't keep its doors open — let alone provide thousands of Thanksgiving meals or nights of safe shelter. If you can help, please rush a gift today.

Thanksgiving is our busiest time of the year, which means it's our biggest opportunity to reach the most people.

Give quickly, safely and easily at
ugmportland.org/here or scan here.



Heart of
Hope 
Partner

WANT TO MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT?
*Become a Monthly
Heart of Hope Partner*

When you sign up to give monthly, you'll know you're changing lives every day while saving postage and administrative costs and making sure that vital Mission programs keep running.

To sign up or find out more, call 503-274-4483 or visit ugmportland.org/heart-of-hope

LIFECCHANGE LETTER

A PUBLICATION OF UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Through the transformative power of Jesus Christ, we open life-changing pathways to people experiencing homelessness, hunger, addiction, and abuse.



3 NW Third Avenue | Portland, OR 97209 | 503-274-4483 | ugmportland.org