



31 YEARS ... AND COUNTING!

A Message from the Acting Director

Showing Up in the Hard Places

KEVIN CAMPBELL This is my 31st year working at the Mission, and I have been so blessed to see God transform so many lives. Three decades ago, when exploring career opportunities and considering how I wanted to spend my life, I realized that a life working at Union Gospel Mission, working for something that matters and has eternal value would be a life well spent.

Today, Portland continues to experience a lot of turmoil around issues related to affordable housing, addiction, mental illness and homelessness. Our calling at UGM remains what it has always been, a commitment to come alongside those who are experiencing homelessness, hunger, addiction, and abuse.

We continue to face significant challenges. People are hurting and in need of hope. Our neighbors who are housed and unhoused alike. We will always face challenges but I'm thankful to be part of a community that continues to show up in the hard places and walk alongside our neighbors no matter who they are or what they are struggling with.

I am privileged to see lives transformed every day, lives like Evaristo's. Please pray for all those we reach that they will be set free from drug addiction, trauma and abuse. And thanks for your care and support.

Sincerely,

Kevin Campbell
Acting Director



Volunteer Highlight: Katy

Katy has been a volunteer with the Union Gospel Mission of Portland for a year and a half. She spent eight years serving breakfast at the Union Gospel Mission in Salem before moving to Portland.

Katy feels drawn to serve those experiencing homelessness. By serving those in need it helps her better understand the community as a whole and the challenges that come with being houseless. Katy serves on our Search + Rescue Friday routes.

"Serving alongside UGM staff has been such an invaluable experience for me. I've learned so much by interacting with those on the streets. It has helped remove any previously conceived notions that I had about why people become homeless."

Katy also teaches English to our Spanish-speaking residents once a week. Her background as an ESL school teacher has equipped her to serve in this capacity.

She also volunteers once a week at the overnight shelter during the winter months. She says *"If you're a donor, come serve just ONE TIME at the Mission. Whether it's passing out clothes or riding along in the Search + Rescue van, connecting with our guests and hearing their stories is the only way to see what you are supporting."*

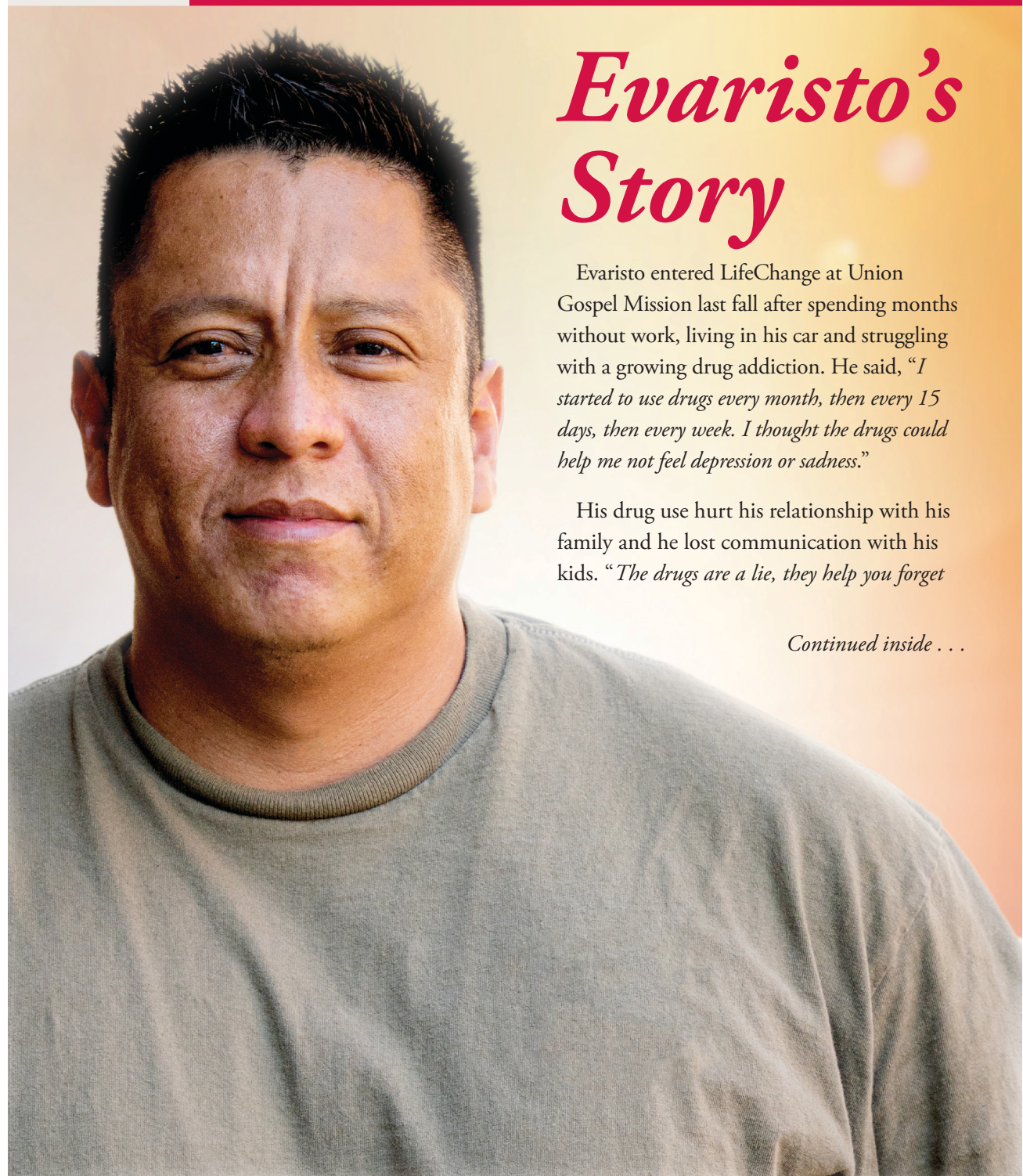


UNION GOSPEL MISSION

LIFECHANGE LETTER

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

AUGUST 2023



Evaristo's Story

Evaristo entered LifeChange at Union Gospel Mission last fall after spending months without work, living in his car and struggling with a growing drug addiction. He said, *"I started to use drugs every month, then every 15 days, then every week. I thought the drugs could help me not feel depression or sadness."*

His drug use hurt his relationship with his family and he lost communication with his kids. *"The drugs are a lie, they help you forget*

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LIFECHANGE LETTER

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about problems for a moment, but when you stop using them all those feelings of sadness and loneliness come back," Evaristo explains. He realized that he needed to change when he started using drugs every day and was not eating or sleeping and lost hope.

Since Evaristo grew up in a Christian family, he found a local church to ask for help. Someone there told him about the Mission. Hearing that LifeChange was a Christ-centered program, Evaristo decided to give it a try. He had some fear when he first arrived. He spoke very little English but the staff who speak Spanish were able to support him and the Mission was able to provide all the course material in Spanish.

Since Evaristo's arrival two additional residents who speak Spanish have entered the program and he now has peers to connect with and encourage him in his native language. He also meets once a week with Katy, a local volunteer who serves as an ESL teacher for Evaristo. He says, "Volunteers play a big part in the program, volunteers like Katy. She is helping me."

Now, Evaristo is doing well in recovery and serves on the Homeless Service team. He provides food, clothing, and hygiene items to those experiencing homelessness in Old Town. He also has the opportunity to help new members of the LifeChange community who don't speak much English. "I like to take the initiative to help because many people helped me when I arrived," Evaristo explains.

Evaristo's relationship with God continues to grow. He has connected to a local Spanish-speaking church where he recently was baptized. He says, "Staying close to my family in Christ is important to my recovery. I give thanks for the Mission and all the people here."

If you know of someone battling addiction or homelessness and they are ready for a change, contact our Intake Coordinator at 503-274-4483 or mensintake@ugmportland.org



Operation Overcoat

A FIRST STEP TO A CHANGED LIFE



Operation Overcoat is our annual campaign to make sure our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness have the resources they need to survive the winter. Right now, the weather is warm and sunny, but in a few short months, the cold and rain will set in. Starting in mid-October UGM will distribute backpacks with winter gear and a meal to our downtown guests, on our Search + Rescue mobile outreach, and at partner locations with churches and organizations in the metro area.

Our goal this year is to provide 600 people with a backpack. The backpacks are filled with warm clothing, blankets and hygiene items. Please partner with us to spread the love of Jesus and make this our best Operation Overcoat ever!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1. **Organize a donation drive at your church, workplace, or school.** Our most needed items

include pants, new undergarments, sleeping bags, boots, and coats. Drop your items off at Union Gospel Mission at 3 NW Third Avenue by August 31st.

Have questions or want more information?
Email Adam Moore at adam@ugmportland.org

2. **Support Operation Overcoat financially.** It costs about \$29 to serve each person through Operation Overcoat. Consider a special financial gift for Operation Overcoat. You can give online at ugmportland.org.
3. **Volunteer.** Help us prepare items for distribution and pack the backpacks; for more information visit www.ugmportland.org/volunteer

Thanks for partnering with us to help people move off the streets and experience a changed life!

THE JOURNEY HOME

The campaign to build a center for homeless women and children



The Journey Home Update

The project continues to proceed on schedule. All underground mechanical, electrical and plumbing for the first level of the building was completed in May. By June the vapor barrier was installed and the workers began pouring concrete. The first slab was finished by the end of June. Framing began in July and should continue throughout August.

This new facility will house our LifeChange program for Women and Their Children. It will be over 50,000 square feet, have 52 residential rooms

enabling double-bed space, and will allow us to provide increased counseling, education, meals, and other essential services for women and children. With this new facility, over 200 women and children a year will have a home that offers life restoration.

This is the greatest fundraising need and we are still looking to raise over \$5 million to complete our fundraising goal.

If you'd like to partner with us in helping restore the lives of women and children, visit: ugmportland.org/journeyhome.



UGM BY THE NUMBERS: OCTOBER 2022 – JUNE 2023



MEALS SERVED
163,271



INDIVIDUALS WARMING
IN COLD WEATHER
SHELTER
640



INDIVIDUALS SAFELY
TRANSITIONED OUT OF
HOMELESSNESS
152



MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN SERVED
IN LIFECHANGE
127