

the *Light of Hope*

www.ourm.org • August 2011



Since 1948, bringing the hungry, hurting and homeless to new life, new goals and a new future in Christ.

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Rescued From A Path Of Destruction



**ORLANDO UNION
RESCUE MISSION**

Since 1948

Matthew 11:28 - If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to Me and I will give you rest.

“Rescued From A Path Of Destruction”

The story of John Hewitt, Current Resident at O.U.R. Mission Men’s Division

Think about the man that is dirty, hungry, drug addicted and asking for money on the street corner. Are you afraid of him? Do you feel he is beyond help? But imagine being that man...feeling lonely and humiliated because of the judgmental whispers and condemning stares. You try relentlessly to overcome an addiction, but yield to the temptation every time. For John Hewitt, imagining is not necessary; this was his life—homeless, starving, battling an addiction to lethal drugs and on a path toward destruction.

John was raised to believe that there was no God. Since childhood, he was instructed to face trials in his own strength. Drugs became the resource John chose to fit in with his peers and make the problems he was facing go away. However, what began as a recreational activity with friends, strengthened its grip on John’s life as he grew older.

Although he was able to function in the construction industry despite his persistent drug use, eventually John’s addiction began imploding his personal life. With tears in his eyes, John recalls the tragic night that his 2 beautiful children were taken away from their family—because of his poor choices. Soon thereafter, his marriage crumbled, he lost his job and John found himself with nowhere to go other than the dangerous streets of Orlando. “My life had just hit rock bottom,” recalls John.

He now faced his worst fears—homelessness, hunger, filth and humiliation. John recalls sitting outside of a local grocery store—his stomach aching from hunger pangs—watching happy families leave with cartfuls of food. He felt that just a morsel of food would satisfy the nagging pain he experienced, so he resorted to panhandling. “Being hungry makes you do things that you normally wouldn’t do,” John says as he recalls the shame



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of panhandling. John managed to find enough food to survive, but knew he could not continue down this destructive path. After attempting several secular rehabilitation programs to no avail, John enrolled in the Orlando Union Rescue Mission’s Emergency Shelter Program. Although he had been raised an Atheist, John immediately knew that something was different about the Mission’s program. “There was always everything you needed – razors, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant and you get to go to chapel – that was a blessing to me.”

John finally realized that Christ is what he needed to finally be released from his drug addiction. John accepted Christ as his personal Savior in 2009 and through His power has remained sober for 1 year. He is now participating in the Mission’s Work Extension Program. “The relationship that I have developed with Jesus goes above and beyond anything I could have ever imagined. Coming to the Orlando Union Rescue Mission has truly changed my life.”

Miracles happen each day! Lives are changed and hopeless men, women and families find new hope and strength in Christ. Residents, like John, come in weary and looking for help with basic needs, but leave transformed from the inside out. For more information about the Mission’s life-changing programs for men and women, visit our website at www.ourm.org/programs.

SO MANY EXCITING CHANGES ARE HAPPENING AT THE MISSION!



ALLEN HARDEN, PRESIDENT/CEO

Giving some spare change, a bottle of water or a hot meal to the homeless man or woman on the street corner may make you feel better temporarily, but it doesn’t reach far enough to permanently heal the source of the pain they feel inside each day. Without deeper life change, their most important need will remain unmet.

The Orlando Union Rescue Mission provides many of the basic needs that other homeless agencies offer—including food, clothing, and shelter. However, the Mission’s programs stretch further by introducing each guest to a Savior, able to heal life’s deepest wounds. Each day broken men and women come to the Mission looking for satisfaction of their physical needs. After these needs are met, the road to recovery and self-sufficiency begins.

Because of your generosity, the Mission will soon open the doors to our Interim Emergency Shelter for women. We are eagerly anticipating the opportunities that will be presented through this new program which will not only meet basic needs, but many of our guests will hear the Word of God for the first time! Know that your gift today will offer much more than meals and shelter, it will give hopeless men, women and families the opportunity for a second chance and a new life.

Did you know?
The Mission has served 48% more meals so far in 2011 than in 2010? Your gift today of \$29.80 will help provide hot meals to 20 homeless guests.

INTERIM EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR WOMEN - UPDATE



For almost 25 years, O.U.R. Mission Home has provided transitional services to thousands of homeless women, children and families in Central Florida. Residents enrolled in O.U.R. Mission Home’s programs generally stay between 6 months to a year while completing their education, locating employment and working alongside their Case Manager toward self-sufficiency.

Early next year, O.U.R. Mission Home will begin offering emergency/overnight services to 24 additional single women each night. Construction is already underway to repurpose existing office and storage areas to accommodate additional guests in need.

The streets of Orlando can be dangerous and with this new addition, women who urgently need shelter and care will know that there is a safe place they can turn to. Call Amanda at 407-422-4855 ext. 1117 for a list of sponsorship opportunities!

DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS NEW OUTREACH IN OUR COMMUNITY!

AND THE WINNER IS...

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MISSION'S 1ST ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY COOK-OFF WINNER-- HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL ORLANDO!

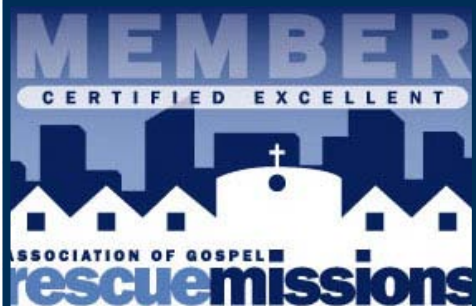
Cheddar stuffed burgers, pulled pork sandwiches, home-cooked baked beans, Grandma’s secret recipe potato salad and delightful banana splits were just some of the tasty options offered to approximately 800 hungry men, women and children during this exciting event. Thank you to all of our cook-off teams who went above and beyond to make sure banquet meals were unbelievably tasty and served with love:



Harvest Bible Chapel Orlando • Lockhart Baptist Church
Saint Andrew’s Sanford • South Orlando Baptist Church
Summit Church • The Limu Company

WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE 119 SOULS THAT FOUND NEW HOPE IN CHRIST THROUGH THIS ANNUAL OUTREACH!





It's Official . . .

We are pleased to announce that the Mission has undergone a rigorous audit and has been recognized as a certified "Mission of Excellence" by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions.

Our goal has always been to be a model ministry, an outstanding example of His work and a wise steward of your gifts. We are blessed to receive this honorable recognition.

Come see firsthand your local Mission of Excellence at work. Call 407-422-4855 ext. 1117 to schedule a tour.

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**"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK
TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S
HAPPENING AT THE MISSION!**

Be the first to hear about volunteer opportunities, important updates and upcoming events!



Scan the code above using your smartphone or visit <http://www.facebook.com/orlandounionrescuemission> to join!



It's almost time for the children at the Mission to head back to school! Many homeless families struggle to afford the much needed school supplies for their children to succeed academically. You can help the children at the Mission achieve academic success by providing them with the following much needed school supplies:

Urgently Needed Supplies Include:

Highlighters • Calculators • Safety Scissors • Tissues • Rulers
Hand Sanitizer • Dictionaries

Also, don't forget about these other urgent needs:

New, unused pillows • Diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes

For more information about the Mission's special needs, contact Leisa at 407-422-4855 ext. 1109.



The Orlando Union Rescue Mission is a non-profit, faith based organization whose mission is to provide those in need with food, shelter, clothing, education and other resources to help the homeless achieve self-sufficiency. The foundation of our work is Biblically based – to bring people to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Send your generous gift today to make a difference in the lives of Central Florida's homeless men, women and children!

P.O. Box 2791 • Orlando, FL 32802 • 407-422-4855 • ourmission@ourm.org • www.ourm.org