

the *Light of Hope*

www.ourm.org • November 2010



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

IN THIS ISSUE:

**“Make Your Gifts Stretch
Further This Holiday Season!”**


**ORLANDO UNION
RESCUE MISSION**
Since 1948

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8

Provide Hope For A Brighter Future



Thanksgiving is an exciting time of year when most are surrounded by family and food—expressing gratitude for their abundant blessings. However, for the homeless, Thanksgiving can be a painful reminder of the loneliness and struggles they face each day—like finding a nourishing meal, a caring friend or safety and rest at night. Such overwhelming obstacles can cause one to lose hope and become consumed with discouragement.

Because of your partnership, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission is able to become the hands and feet that show love and compassion to those in need throughout the holiday season. Providing for the physical needs of the homeless in our community often leads to greater life transformations. Thank you for being such an integral part of this ministry to Central Florida's homeless men, women and families.



REMEMBERING WHY I GIVE BACK: A Glimpse of Homelessness Through The Eyes of a Child

The Story of Whitney Stayton, Former Resident of O.U.R. Mission Home

Have you ever thought about what homelessness is like through the eyes of a child? As a 10 year old, Whitney Stayton found herself and her family at the doors of the Orlando Union Rescue Mission hopeless and desperately in need of help. However, Whitney represents thousands of children who find themselves homeless each year. In Florida alone, there are over 50,000 homeless boys and girls plagued with loneliness, instability and confusion as their families find themselves without life's most basic necessities.

On the outside, Whitney's family seemed to have it all—good jobs, a big house and lots of toys. "Anything a kid wanted, we pretty much had," she recalls. However, Whitney also remembers the heart-breaking secret that most were not able to see—her mother's struggle with a destructive drug and alcohol addiction.

As much as Whitney dreamed of a normal childhood, her mother's addiction caused her world to crumble. Eventually Whitney's mother lost her job and the family was evicted from their home. Whitney remembers this chaotic time when she bounced between several homes, each time being forced to leave her friends and school and begin a completely new life. Whitney's final move was to a big pink building called O.U.R. Mission Home.

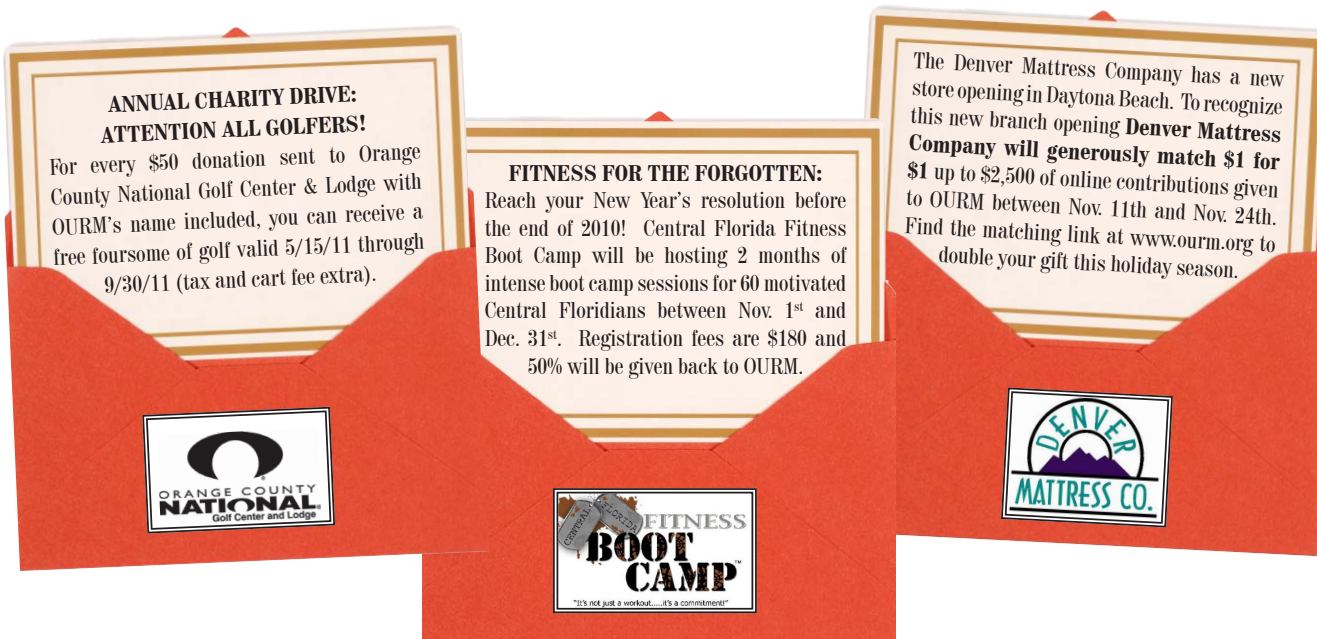
She remembers being overwhelmed by the thought that her family was moving into a homeless shelter. "No kid wants to tell their friends that they are moving into a homeless shelter," Whitney says. However, when her family arrived at O.U.R. Mission Home, Whitney knew immediately that it was more than a shelter. it was a home. While at the Mission, Whitney noticed big changes in her mom – *continued on back page*



Today, Whitney serves on staff at the Mission— ministering to boys and girls who are currently going through the same trials that she went through as a child.

Make Your Gifts Stretch Further This Holiday Season!

Thank you to the Central Florida businesses who are getting creative to make an impact in the lives of homeless men, women and families through the Orlando Union Rescue Mission. Here are a few unique ways to make your gifts go further:



For more details about these giving campaigns, visit www.ourm.org or call 407-422-4855, ext. 1117.

Give Hope This Christmas!

SPECIAL NEEDS



Imagine preparing a special Christmas for over 300 men, women and children... you would probably start shopping today!

The following items are needed in order to make this holiday season memorable for those less fortunate:

- New, unwrapped toys for children
- Hygiene backpacks/duffel bags for men
- Gift certificates for teenagers and single women
- Filled stockings for all ages
- Make a child's "Special Wish" come true

For more information about Christmas opportunities, contact 407-422-4855 ext. 1109.

prayer requests:



Be an Orlando Union Rescue Mission prayer partner! Please post this list where you pray.

Thank you so much for lifting up your heartfelt prayers for this ministry and those in need.



PLEASE PRAY:

For those in need who will be attending the Great Thanksgiving Banquet. Pray that the Lord will start preparing their hearts to receive His Word and that many would come to know Him.

That God would create opportunities for our staff and volunteers to share Christ over the upcoming holiday season.

That God will continue to bless this ministry financially allowing us to reach more homeless men, women and children for Christ.



PRAISE REPORTS:

Thank God for the 650 men and women who have accepted Christ as their Savior so far in 2010.

Thank God for those who faithfully give their time to help serve those less fortunate.

Cont. From Remembering Why I Give Back

she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and worked hard to receive a High School Diploma.

Although the Mission may not be able to impact the lives of all of the men and women on our programs, we can still show boys and girls that they are loved and help lead them on a path toward success.

"This was the place that helped turn my family and my whole life around."

Whitney's childhood was filled with chaos and uncertainty, but as a grown adult she still remembers and is thankful for the profound impact that the Mission has had on her life. "You go through hardships as a child, but it makes you a better person in the long run."

For more information about the Mission's programs for families, visit www.ourm.org/programs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MISSION?

MISSION IN ACTION LUNCHEON

Join us Nov. 8th from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm for an exciting Mission in Action luncheon highlighting the Mission's programs for men. Hear inspiring testimonies and a mini-concert by our men's choir. There is no charge for first time visitors. Contact 407-422-4855 ext. 1116 for more information about Mission in Action.

GREAT THANKSGIVING BANQUET

The Mission will welcome approximately 1,200 men, women and children from the streets of Central Florida and offer them a hot Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 24th.

You can help make this Thanksgiving season special for those less fortunate.

Each gift of \$29.80 provides 20 life-changing meals... please help as many as you can!



FOR ONLY \$29.80 YOU CAN PROVIDE 20 MEALS OF HOPE THIS THANKSGIVING!

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.

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