

# the *Light of Hope*

www.ourm.org • October 2010



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

**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
**So Grateful for Even the Smallest Blessings**



**ORLANDO UNION  
RESCUE MISSION**  
*Since 1948*



"I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I WAS GOING TO FEED HIM OR WHERE I WAS GOING TO GET DIAPERS..."

## So Grateful for Even the Smallest Blessings

The Story of Steven and Angel Gallagher, Residents of O.U.R. Mission Home

"Neither of us had eaten for two days," Steven and Angel Gallagher recall. Their remaining few dollars had gone toward baby food and diapers for their one year old son, Micah. They had no idea how they were going to feed him dinner that night, or when they would be able to eat next.

Steven and Angel never dreamt that they would one day find themselves homeless. Steven had been a dedicated factory worker for 25 years. Yet, soon after Micah was born, Steven's lifelong seizure condition began to grow worse, causing him to suffer four to six seizures a day. His debilitating condition eventually led his doctor to insist that he leave that line of work permanently.

Faced with a frightening and uncertain future, Steven and Angel traveled from Missouri to Florida to stay with relatives. However, with a newborn baby, the living quarters quickly grew cramped leaving the Gallagher family with no place to turn.

Tears still fill Angel's eyes as she recalls feeling heartbroken and lost, struck by the reality that their security had unexpectedly vanished. Her voice breaks as she recalls facing a mother's worst nightmare: the fear that she would have to give up her beloved child. "I didn't know how I was going to feed him or where I was going to get diapers. We thought that we were going to have to give up our child—the child that we wanted so badly." - continued on back page

## Why do people become homeless?



ALLEN HARDEN, PRESIDENT/CEO

Each year, thousands of men, women and families find themselves facing homelessness for countless reasons. Some because of addictions, but others are fleeing domestic abuse or—like the Gallagher family—

battling debilitating medical conditions. After exhausting all resources and discovering that there is nowhere else to turn, they have no other choice but to face the reality of homelessness.

However, the men and women coming to the Mission today are not much different than you and I. They are educated and hard working people who never dreamt of becoming homeless.

For over 62 years, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission has been bringing hope to the homeless of Central Florida. Each year, hurting and broken souls come through the doors of the Mission to receive hot meals, safe shelter and clean clothing, but they also receive so much more. They hear the good news of a loving Savior able to change their lives for good. The Mission does not receive any government funding and your partnership helps hundreds of homeless men, women and families rebuild their lives upon a stronger foundation and regain self-sufficiency each year.

## Imagine preparing a Thanksgiving feast for over 1,200 people...

With Thanksgiving only 2 months away, preparations are already beginning for the Mission's Great Thanksgiving Banquet scheduled for November 25th. Each year hundreds of lives are blessed through this outreach to Central Florida's homeless and hungry men, women and children. Our kitchens are already preparing to serve:

- 🍷 507 pounds of turkey
- 🍷 580 pounds of mashed potatoes and gravy
- 🍷 752 pounds of green beans and corn
- 🍷 1,296 dinner rolls
- 🍷 1,398 slices of pumpkin pie

Each \$29.80 you give provides 20 homeless men, women and children a hot Thanksgiving meal. Invest in changing lives this upcoming holiday season!



**THE GREATEST BARGAIN IN TOWN!**  
You can provide a hot meal and life-changing hope for only \$1.49 this Thanksgiving!



# 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:

That the Lord would open doors of opportunity for our residents as they seek employment.



That the Lord would continue to provide financially for the needs of the Mission.

## PRAISE REPORTS:

Thank God for the hundreds of lives that were changed as a result of One Homeless Night 2010!



Thank God for the generosity of the Mission's supporters who helped our children go back to school prepared for success!



## Special Needs:

Men's belts (size 34-40)  
Men's work boots (size 10+)

Head sets for our adult education classes

White bath towels

Diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes

from page 2

Completely hopeless, the Gallagher family was told to contact the Orlando Union Rescue Mission for help where they received a blessing taken for granted by most. They found the security of hot meals and a safe place to sleep where they could stay together—as a family—while rebuilding their lives.

Since coming to O.U.R. Mission Home almost 4 months ago, Angel has joined the Discipleship Work Program and serves in the kitchen. Steven is improving his memory retention and is scheduled to complete the courses offered by the Career Learning Center soon. He continues to battle seizures, but is working hard to overcome these trials. Micah enjoys playing with his friends in the Family Life Center Nursery and is learning to walk and talk more each day like any normal, healthy child.

"We never lost sight of God, and we thank Him because we are still together," Angel gratefully says. Your support allows families, like the Gallaghers, to stay together despite facing homelessness.

For more information about the Mission's programs, visit [www.ourm.org](http://www.ourm.org).



On September 17-18th, there were 500 additional men, women and children sleeping on the streets of downtown Orlando. Fortunately for these Central Floridians, their homeless experience lasted only one night and helped provide shelter and care for the neediest in our community!

Thanks to all who participated and supported this year's One Homeless Night event. Thousands of broken lives were given hope through this annual outreach. To learn more about the impact of One Homeless Night 2010, visit [www.onehomelessnight.org](http://www.onehomelessnight.org).



Joe Manno



orlando recycling

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.

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