

Urban Christian Ministries
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Matthew 25:35-36: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

CLOTHING BOUTIQUE

Hello! Allow me to introduce myself. I am Mrs. Roxanne Cumberlander (pictured on the right) and I am the Coordinator of UCM's Clothing Boutique. First and foremost, thank you for your donations to help those less fortunate. I started this in secret in 1996, folding clothes on the porch, regardless of the season. One day the Holy Spirit instructed me to ask Executive Director Rev. Cleveland Howell if he had space for a clothing boutique. Rev. Cleveland obliged and this ministry is thriving 26 years later. In 2021, I felt called to come back to serve the community in this capacity. Gods' amazing plan is bigger than me, and I am completed humbled. The Clothing Boutique is more than giving away free clothing and household goods. It is about reaching souls, making friends, praying with and for our community. I have an open heart to build relationships and to demonstrate love. Recently, we received a phone call from a social worker asking if we would be able to help a refugee family. Of course we said yes! The family came and they left here with an entire car filled to the brim with clothing and household goods. It is through your generosity that we are able to help our neighbors. Thank you for all of your donations, support, and prayers. Please consider financially supporting us in our attempt to expand our services for those who have very little.



URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

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KIDS CLUB

Hello, from Kids Club! It has been an exciting few months here at Urban Christian Ministries! Just before Christmas, we had a party at Marilyn Law's house for the children, where they enjoyed pizza, cookies, and a host of games and activities. We are also in full swing for Black History Month. With the assistance of program coordinator, Ms. Bridgette Green, the children will be exploring some of the old and new pioneers of Black History. This will help the children who are of African American descent to learn about their ancestors' contributions to society. It's important to know your past in order to correct the wrongs in life. On a day to day basis, the children are having fun interacting with each other and working towards improving their grades. Some of our older children are actively studying to take entrance exams in order to attend high schools that have high academic standards. This will prepare them for college. Several months ago, we received a generous donation of four brand new tablets. Recent studies have shown that using tablets in the classroom has been an asset for several reasons. Tablets provide fun and engaging ways to access information, and it allows students to learn at their own pace. In addition, it helps the students to become familiar with technology. We are looking forward to spring here at UCM. Spring time will allow us to do outside activities, such as planting flowers or vegetables in our front garden or engaging in community service projects. outside of Urban Christian Ministries. UCM has a renewed focus on teaching our children to be good citizens and how to pay it forward in their community.

Camp Bliss



Block Club Basketball



Kids Club



Camp Bliss

August 14-20, 2022

Block Club Basketball

July 7-August 26, 2022

Summer Day Camp

July 7-August 26, 2022

A Recap of Christmas at UCM

As UCM prepared for another Christmas with COVID restrictions, we came to the realization that just because we were not allowing groups of people inside of our building, did not mean that we were going to withhold love and compassion. The Christmas season is an emotional time for many people due to having lost loved ones, feeling lonely, or depressed due to financial hardship. In an attempt to remedy this, we asked our clients to complete a wish list of items that they would like for themselves or their family members. In order to fulfill these requests, UCM reached out to local churches and supporters of the ministry. The amount of Christmas cookies, toys, brand new clothing, food, and blankets, was truly overwhelming. In addition, members of local churches offered to help during the 3 days of distribution. The kindness and hard work displayed was inspiring. Volunteers worked tirelessly, assisting people with their groceries and gifts, and offered prayer to our clients before they departed. This Christmas season, UCM served nearly 300 individuals. A special thank you to the following churches: The First Church of Evans, First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora, Lakeview Community Church, Lancaster Community Baptist Church, New Mt. Ararat Temple of Prayer, Randall Baptist Church, and St. John's Lutheran Church.



A Word From Acting Executive Director Kathy A. Jefferys

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” Lamentations 3: 22-23

On behalf of the UCM Board of Directors and the staff, I want to take this opportunity to thank God for you, our prayer partners and financial supporters, and for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon the ministry in 2021. Now our hearts are filled with anticipation as we seek God’s leading by establishing three new goals for 2022.

- 1.) To increase the number of participants in all of our youth programs. Do you know a child/teen who would benefit from our programs? We currently have openings in both our Kids Club and our BWAP programs. Please call UCM at 716 882-9472 for more information and program applications.
- 2.) To obtain a new 15 passenger van that would replace our aging 2008 van.
- 3.) To broaden our donor base

For over 51 years, UCM has been providing youth programs to the underserved youth in Buffalo. UCM has been able to provide these services because of the generous donations from ministry partners like you. However, we must face the reality that the majority of our financial donors are senior citizens and many of our past donors are now enjoying their rewards in Heaven. The question is: “How do we broaden our donor base so that UCM can continue to reach the next generation of young people?” UCM offers three ways to donate financial gifts. You may send a check in the enclosed envelope or you may visit our website and use the PayPal option. In addition, we have a Clover Go device to process donations, either in person or via telephone. We want to thank you for your continued support in the past, and with God’s guidance, look forward to meeting our goals in 2022. We respectfully ask for your prayers which will empower us to reach even more young people with the Gospel message throughout the coming year.

SAFE PLACE

Urban Christian Ministries has been utilizing the Safe Place in a few different capacities. Every Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00pm, Aaron Robinson, one of our BWAP leaders, has been facilitating our LEGO ministry. On Thursday evenings from 5pm-8pm we have had a fantastic group of young men hanging out with us. They have enjoyed playing pool, lifting weights, and playing chess. Each week, Rev. William Coplin takes the time to cook a delicious meal. Several weeks ago, one of the teens asked if he could have a Thanksgiving style dinner. That question left us wondering why that was important to him. It could be that it would be a home cooked meal rather than fast food, as many of our young people have grown accustomed to on a regular basis. Maybe it was deeper than that. Many of our youth rarely get the opportunity to sit down to a meal with people they connect with and trust. We recognize that ministering to these guys is not

going to be an easy feat. They have experienced so much pain and hurt. Our amazing team staff is equipped with the tools to break through and share the love of Jesus that will make a difference in their lives.



CONTACT INFO

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Check us out on Facebook

JOSHUA REVOLUTION

In December of 2021, Anthony Herrera (pictured above) and Aaron Robinson, two of our leaders from Brothers with a Purpose (BWAP) attended Joshua Revolution in Erie, Pennsylvania. Joshua Revolution is a ministry that spreads the Gospel through conferences, outreaches, missions, etc. This conference was filled to the brim with powerful testimonies and speakers who have a fierce love for God. One of the keynote speakers was

Daryl Strawberry, a former Major League Baseball outfielder. Hearing Daryl speak about his struggles with addiction, mental health and childhood trauma touched Anthony's heart because he had battled similar issues. After Daryl spoke, he pulled Anthony to the side and said, " I just want you to know that I love you and I see that you're going through something. Don't give up." This encounter has encouraged and empowered Anthony to fearlessly share his testimony with the youth we serve. Joshua Revolution is geared towards reaching youth for Christ. Urban Christian Ministries has the same goal. One of the ways we have been able to reach our youth has been through the Safe Place. Every day our youth are dealing with trauma, dysfunction, bullying, and economic insecurity. UCM seeks to give them a reprieve from all those issues. We may not be able to fix everything, but we can be a support system and give them hope in Jesus and in the goodness of others.