

# URBAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We are gearing up for our annual 3 day Christmas extravaganza and distribution! It's going to be absolute chaos, but in the best way possible. The dates for this are December 19(Monday), 20(Tuesday), and (Wednesday) 21<sup>st</sup>. Our goal is to meet the needs of all of our families. We acknowledge that Christmas isn't all about gifts. It's about Jesus and His gift of salvation to us. Giving gifts is an extension of His love through us. We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In order to do that, we need your help!

### UCM's Wish List:

1. Christmas cookies
2. Personal hygiene items
3. TOYS, TOYS, TOYS, wrapping paper, and gift cards for older kids
4. Linens, pillows, blankets
5. Winter coats, clothes, shoes, boots, hats, gloves, scarves

In addition, we are looking for specific food items to add to our families' grocery bags

1. Canned soup and chili, crackers
2. Cornbread and stuffing mix
3. Hot cocoa mix, tea bags, hot cider mix
4. Canned baked beans, yams, marshmallows, green beans, canned greens, cranberry sauce, corn, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, frozen pies, bisquik mix.
5. Butter, vegetable oil, spices
6. Shelf stable milk
7. Fresh fruit, onions, potatoes, celery
8. whole frozen chickens, ham, turkeys

We also need VOLUNTEERS! If interested, please contact UCM at 716-882-9472.



# Oil of a Vessel

1. A homeless man that we have built a relationship with over the course of 6 months finally obtained housing. His mom sent us a thank you card to thank us for the love, care, and concern we showed her son. She also said that we saved her son's life.
2. A refugee family from Afghanistan has been coming on a regular basis to receive assistance and over time we established a bond, despite the language barrier. The great news is that you don't have to speak the same language to communicate love. To express their appreciation, they prepared a delicious meal of lamb, rice, and potatoes. In addition, we were given handmade heart pins.
3. A young, homeless man stopped to look for some clothes and thanked us for helping him find a job. Confused, I asked, "How did we do that?" He then said, "Well you guys had a nice blazer and dress pants on the porch and I didn't have anything to wear to a job interview."
4. A lady on the porch asked for prayer for her brother. Several few weeks later, she came back and told us that 3 days after we prayed, God intervened.
5. A lady who has been struggling with addiction, depression, and facing eviction came here because she "didn't know where else to go" and feels safe, loved, and cared for when she is here with us. I spent some time talking to her, crying with her, and offered to spend some time looking for housing options. When we talked the next day, she thanked me for being there for her and going the extra mile.
6. A family came for assistance and we asked if they wanted to join us for prayer as a staff. We gave them each the opportunity to say a prayer and the little boy said, "God, help us to love and not to hate." The entire staff was in tears after that. What a powerful and profound request, but yet it's so simple.
7. A man came to our food pantry and asked if we could help him and his family. He said that they were absolutely desperate and had nothing to feed their kids, and was contemplating stealing to provide. We told him, "No, absolutely not. You don't have to do that. Not on our watch."



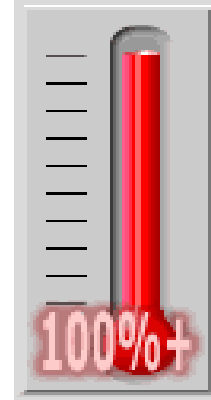
"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be bright as noon."

Isaiah 58:10





**Our  
Goal  
\$10,000**



We are so happy to share the great news that God has challenged an anonymous donor to match the funds received from now through December 31, 2022, up to \$10,000.00. There is so much more that we would love to be able to do within and for our community, but the truth is without your support we can't keep doing what we do. In each area at UCM, the goal is to touch people's hearts, build relationships, restore hope, and show them the Gospel. When Jesus wanted to convey a message about loving people, His approach was to be right in the trenches. UCM is primarily youth focused, but there are other areas that we pour our hearts into as well. Our food pantry is so much more than giving out bags of food. Having to visit a food pantry can be a humiliating and stressful experience for some people. Food insecurity is a constant struggle, especially for families. When people come in, we want them to feel comfortable, welcomed, and accepted. Not only that, but we want them to leave here with everything that they need. The clothing boutique provides community members with a way to clothe themselves and their family members. The truth is, it is becoming increasingly harder for people to provide for themselves. The price of food, rent, and household goods has skyrocketed astronomically. UCM seeks to alleviate a lot of that undue stress and pressure. Since the beginning, UCM has always had a heart for youth, because our youth are the future. The reality is that it is so much harder for kids now. There are so many more obstacles for them to face and it sometimes seems like a losing battle. Through our youth programs, we provide education, empowerment, support and mentoring. Mentoring is essential because it is an active and hands on approach as we walk through life with them. Guiding our youth to make the right choices is the best teacher. A great majority of our youth have no one that is truly there to walk with them. Here is where you come in! Asking for money can be an uncomfortable topic, but the truth is we need it to function. UCM has a dedicated, paid staff who needs a paycheck to survive, utilities to maintain the building, and there is always a need for extra supplies to facilitate our programs. Would you join us in prayer and action for this exciting challenge? We anticipate God's mighty hand evident in your response to this challenge. Donations can be made via PayPal, cash, check, money order, or through our Clover Go device. Thank you and God bless you for your continued prayers and financial support.

Let's keep UCM going for another 52 years!



Introducing....the one and only....Ryan Dewey! (BWAP Assistant Director)

Ryan has been working in different ministries since he graduated from Geneva College in 2009. After serving as a Student Ministry Director with a couple churches for about 10 years, Ryan started to feel a call to get more involved in working in the city of Buffalo. Since that call he has been able to work at the Buffalo City Mission and at Buffalo State College with Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ). He has a heart to serve and a desire to see Jesus do great things in Buffalo. He first connected with Urban Christian Ministries when he had attended Knox Church as a high school student through their basketball ministry. He loves sports, the local Buffalo teams, and good Buffalo food too! He has been blessed by many different people in his walk with God and hopes to share their influence and the different ministry connections with Urban Christian Ministries and the Buffalo community. As the BWAP Coordinator he will be focusing on discipling and mentoring young adults for Jesus through Bible studies, small groups, retreats, and special events.

**Contact Info:**

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Donations can be accepted Mon- Fri 10:30am-5:30pm

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at Urban Christian Ministries, we want to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas season, and we pray God's richest blessings upon you and your family throughout the New Year.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 2:14