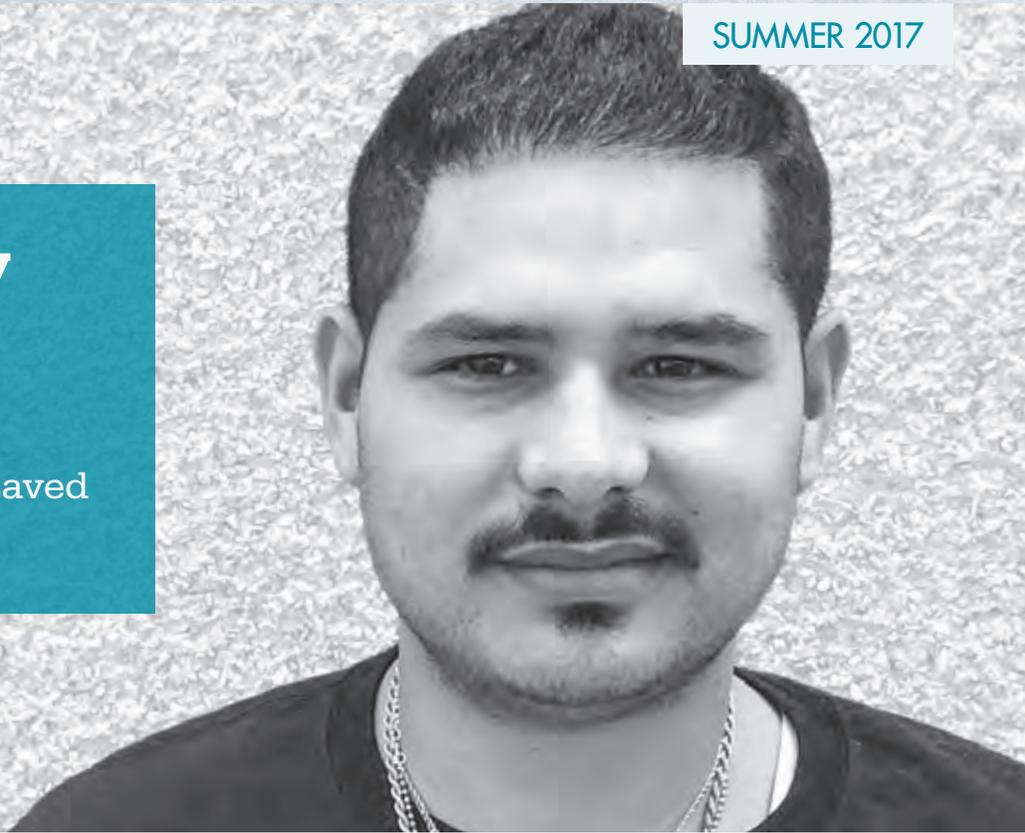


“Where I Really Want to Be”

by Javier

The love you showed me saved my life. Thank you.



When I was growing up, my stepfather abused me and fought my mother. We'd go to church to learn something good, but I'd feel scared and doubtful seeing something bad at home. I would ask, “Why does God let people get abused?” I couldn't understand.

By 13, I started smoking marijuana, then got into hard drugs and gangs. I wanted revenge on my stepfather. In fact, I wanted him dead. But all the time, something — God, for sure — told me, “Javi, don't think about that. You could end up in jail, or dead. Where do you really want to be?”

For a long time, I tried to settle down. But things kept getting worse. A friend encouraged me to tell the cops about my stepfather, but I was too embarrassed to talk to them. I wanted to change, though, so about a year ago, God led me to Union Gospel Mission. The longer I stayed, the more my attitude and my life started changing.

Over the past 10 months, I've changed a lot. Really, it's God changing me. I've learned to love and respect whoever comes at me with anger and hate. I can help people just

by listening. Before, I could never do that, but now I can control my own feelings and be calm. I can talk to anyone.

I think I could even talk to my stepfather without getting angry now. I've even started praying for him. I don't want revenge anymore. I don't understand what he did, but I trust God's purpose for it, so I let Him handle the situation.

“Why does God let people get abused? I couldn't understand.”

I feel good in church. Before, I thought it was pointless, but now I see why even strangers give you love and peace. They put you in the middle of their circle and pull you towards them like a magnet. That's what your support for Union Gospel Mission has done for me.

Thank you.



A Season of Change

Message from Andrew Porter, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Mission,

I know a lot of people don't like change. That's understandable. Change can often be uncomfortable and hard. Most of the time, change is good, I think. But some changes are just heartbreaking.

The Tri-City area is seeing a lot of change. Franklin County is one of the fastest-growing regions of the state. But over the past five years, as our community has grown, so has the number of people experiencing homelessness — not just men, but women and children, young adults, and even elderly people. A few weeks ago, I counted six guys over the age of 75 here at the Mission!

These aren't folks struggling with drugs and alcohol. Most are people devastated by medical issues, job loss and unemployment, lack of education, emotional trauma and family issues.

We're Changing to Better Serve Hurting Neighbors — Thanks to You!

To meet these new challenges, Tri-City Union Gospel Mission is changing, too. This spring, we broke ground for a new men's facility that will not only enable us to shelter more people, we'll have the space to hire more case managers and counselors to serve them. We'll also have classrooms

and teachers who will help transform their lives. And that's the key: transformation. We definitely want to serve more people, but more important, we want to change lives. At the same time, we're also starting to look for new facilities where we can serve more families.

We definitely want to serve more people, but more important, we want to change lives.

All these changes are possible for one reason: You. Your compassion reminds me that some things never change, like your commitment to serve hurting people in the name of Jesus. Sometimes, I'm completely overwhelmed by all you do. What a blessing to live in such a caring community. Thank you!

Andrew Porter
Executive Director



YOUR GENEROSITY AND LOVE RESURRECTS LIVES THIS SUMMER

The season of Easter may be past us now, but your partnership with the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission continues to resurrect the lives of hurting people this summer. Thanks to you, those who are hungry are fed, those who are homeless are sheltered, those who are friendless are loved, and those who are lost are found. None of this is possible without you!

I hope Javier's story in this newsletter inspires you. He's just one of the lives you have helped transform through your gifts and prayers. But more come seeking our help every day — and they need caring people like you to give them hope.

So, this summer, please remember the hungry, homeless, and hurting people in our community. *To give today, please use the enclosed reply slip, or make your donation online at www.tcugm.org. You may also call us at 509.547.2112. Thank you for being a friend to men, women, and children who need your help.*

Facts on Homelessness

Homelessness among aging Americans is on the rise. The median age of the homeless population went from 30 to 50 between 1990 and 2010. Some studies estimate that homelessness among seniors 65 and older will increase by 33 percent by 2020. — **Jean-Michel Giraud, Executive Director of Friendship Place, Washington, D.C.**

Approximately 21% of homeless families and 25% of single homeless women are homeless due to domestic violence. One national American survey found that domestic violence was the second most frequently stated reason for homelessness for families. — **Voices of Women**

PLEASE GIVE TODAY

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If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18, NIV)