



## Follow the Wisemen

The Wise Men of long ago brought gifts to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Even though they didn't know Mary, Joseph, or Jesus they brought those gifts to honor the person that Jesus was to become. At United Ministries we offer the community an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for the children that we serve. These gifts are a means of telling the children and their families that they are important to the community and that we want them to be a part of our lives.

Gifts are provided for children twelve and under whose families cannot afford to purchase gifts. The parents give us gift suggestions and tell us their children's clothing sizes. We make this information available to churches, businesses or individuals who wish to help us supply the Christmas gifts. Clients began registering for Christmas gifts on October 3. If you would like to follow the Wisemen and help us to give gifts to children in our community, please contact Becky at (859) 727-0300 or email her at [admin@umnky.org](mailto:admin@umnky.org).

If your church or business would like to have a 'giving tree' with gift suggestions for several families, contact Becky at the number above and we will supply you with tree tags with gift suggestions that you can hang on a Christmas tree.

## Help Provide Thanksgiving Dinner

For many of us, one of our happiest childhood memories is of our extended family gathered around the table for Thanksgiving dinner. You can probably smell the turkey and taste the pumpkin pie right now! At United Ministries we know that strong families are an essential safety net during down times. That is why we provide the fixings for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. Otherwise our clients would not be able to gather with their families for these important celebrations.

We are asking you, our supporters, to help us provide the food for these meals. You can do this by donating food from the basket list, donating \$10 for each turkey or ham you wish to supply, or by organizing a food drive in your work place or church to supply the items on the list.

Drop off food items at UM, 525 Graves Ave., Erlanger on Mon - Fri 9AM - 3PM or Sat 9AM - 1PM.

To buy turkeys and hams, make checks out to United Ministries, memo line "turkey or ham" and mail to United Ministries, PO Box 18430, Erlanger KY 41018. You may also donate on our website:

[www.umnky.org](http://www.umnky.org)

Thanksgiving and Christmas basket list:

- Canned green beans
- Canned corn
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Instant potatoes
- Stuffing mix
- Canned gravy
- Dessert mix (cake and frosting, brownies, pie filling and crust mix)
- Dinner rolls



## Meet Our AmeriCorps Members



**Megan Matthews, John Jenkins, and Rodna Bailey-Jackson**

Every month United Ministries counsels over 200 clients, administers three large federal and state housing grants, sorts and distributes thousands of donated items, and picks up truckloads of food. We certainly couldn't do it without our AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps was established in 1993 as a network of national service programs that engage Americans in intensive service to meet the nation's critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. There are currently 70,000 Americans serving their country through AmeriCorps. Members serve for 1700 hours each year and in exchange receive a \$12,000 living allowance, healthcare and childcare benefits, and a \$5500 education benefit. Our AmeriCorps members are part of the Kentucky 'Build Corps', whose purpose is to assist homeless and inadequately housed families to find and keep safe, affordable housing. This year we were given the opportunity to have three of the members serve in our ministry. John Jenkins and Megan Matthew are new to the program. Rodna Bailey-Jackson served at UM last year and chose to serve again at UM this year.

John worked at United Ministries last year through the Kentucky Community Action Center's program for retirees. He appreciated the work done by UM and saw that by **2** serving through AmeriCorps he would be able to continue his relationship with

UM and would be able to spend more time interacting with the clients. He plans to use his educational grant to help pay for college for his two children. Prior to working at UM, John was a videographer for CVG. He has created a publicity video for UM and does videography in his spare time.

Megan is a student working on a degree in Human Services Management through the University of Phoenix. She hopes that serving at United Ministries will give her experience in her chosen field. Megan has a son in second grade at Miles Elementary, so the daycare and health care benefits of AmeriCorps were a big plus for her. Megan stated that the opportunity to work in a faith based organization and to meet each morning in prayer with the United Ministries staff has been a real blessing.

Rodna was introduced in the previous newsletter, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for continuing her service at UM. Rodna is the mother of two children and is a student at NKU, where she is studying counseling and human services. She has a passion for serving the homeless and has the ability to put herself in the shoes of the families that come to her for help.

AmeriCorps workers can serve for a maximum of two years, and so this year we are saying 'goodbye' to Trisha Austin who has served faithfully at United Ministries for two years. We give thanks for her caring heart!

## Stats

January to July  
1818 families served  
\$82,740 in donated food distributed  
\$49,040 in housing assistance given  
\$5,576 in clothing given

## Thrift Store Basics

### SALE HOURS:

Wed. - Fri: 9 AM - 12 PM  
Saturday: 9AM - 1 PM

### DONATIONS RECEIVED:

Mon-Fri: 9 AM - 3 PM  
Sat: 9AM-1PM

## High Priority

Items for our holiday dinner baskets:

- canned sweet potatoes
- boxed potatoes
- boxed dressing, canned gravy
- funds for turkeys and hams
- dessert mix

## Help Needed

We need receptionists on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. mornings.

We need help with the Thrift Store on Mon., Tues, or Sat.

## Contact Us

525 Graves Avenue  
PO Box 18430  
Erlanger, KY 41018-0430

Phone: 859-727-0300  
Fax: 859-727-4313  
Email: [admin@umnky.org](mailto:admin@umnky.org)  
[www.umnky.org](http://www.umnky.org)



**Trisha Austin**



## **Christmas Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 12**

United Ministries' annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 9AM to 2PM in our building at 525 Graves Ave., Erlanger. The bazaar will feature 200 themed gift baskets, holiday decorations, and bargains at our thrift store. Refreshments will be served to all in attendance.

The baskets are assembled under the direction of Ruth Ann Sturgis and are composed of donated items or items purchased last year at 'after the holiday' sales. The gift baskets range in price from \$5 to \$40 and each has a specific theme such as 'golf', 'baby girl', 'Bengals', 'Kentucky', etc. The baskets sell quickly, so plan to come early!



***Please help us  
by posting the flyers in  
this newsletter  
in your church or  
place of business***

## **From Our Director**



United Ministries is always a busy place. In October we continue to provide our usual services of emergency food, clothing, household items, case management and prayer. What changes in October and November is the addition of requests for Thanksgiving and Christmas help. We also see clients throughout the month for emergency financial assistance. We provide several types of assistance in this area. We provide, as we have for many years, small amounts of financial help to families who have disconnection notices on basic utilities or are in danger of being evicted.

We also administer several substantial grants, all of which have a similar purpose. The HEARTH Grant, the Tenant Based Rental Deposit Grant and a grant from the Greater Cincinnati Presbytery all make available funds that assist families to get back into housing or to pay past debts for the places where they are living. The intention is the same- to keep families from falling through the safety net and to fulfill our mission statement- to prevent homelessness. These monies make it possible to provide substantial financial assistance that can make a difference in situations where the usual \$50 to \$75 falls far short of the need.

We are thankful that we have a Licensed Social Worker on the staff. She is paid with, and administers HEARTH Grant funds. She also provides the example of high ethical standards of practice and behavior for the other caseworkers and volunteers. We are thankful for the resources God provides and continue to covet your prayers for our mission, those who come for help, and for ourselves.

In His Service  
Becky Ewing

## **Free GED Classes at United Ministries**

Tues. 3:00-4:30 testing and orientation

Walk-ins welcome

Tues. 4:30-7:00 Study Lab

Walk-ins welcome

Thurs. 3:30-4:30 CLASS

Thurs. 4:30-7:00 Study Lab

Walk-ins welcome

(859) 442-1180 (Deb)



## United Ministries Says 'Goodbye' to One of its Founders

This summer Oscar Smith, one of the original founders of United Ministries, was called home by our heavenly father. Oscar was born in 1917 in Elsmere and lived a life of service to his church, his family, and his community.

In 1983 Oscar was instrumental in urging his church, Erlanger Christian Church, to join with 12 other Erlanger/Elsmere churches to create United Ministries. The new organization was to coordinate the resources of the churches in their efforts to help those in their community who were struggling financially. United Ministries was initially housed in the Erlanger Methodist church and began serving by distributing donated food and government surplus food. Oscar immediately volunteered to help by distributing the food and doing odd jobs as needed.

Over the next 28 years Oscar continued to support the ministry in many ways: distributing Thanksgiving meals to clients, maintaining the building, constructing shelving, and donating funds. Even when he was no longer physically able to do the kinds of work he loved (mostly using hammers and screwdrivers!) he helped out by folding and stapling our mailings. He passed on to his family his conviction that God has freed us to serve others. His daughter, Pat, volunteered at United Ministries for many years and served as the Executive Director. His grandson, Jason, was an AmeriCorps member who worked at United Ministries.

As a manufacturing consultant for GE, Oscar worked in several foreign countries gaining knowledge about the problems faced by people of various cultures and developing a desire to jump in and help solve problems. After retirement, not only did Oscar volunteer in his home community, but he also spent several years helping people all over the country to build new churches.

**Thank you Oscar for your dedication to serving your community!**

## Free Mammograms Offered to Clients

The Saint Elizabeth Health Care Mammogram van visited United Ministries in August and offered Mammograms to our clients. The cost of the service for each client was either covered by individual insurance or by funds from the Susan G. Koman Foundation Cincinnati. Nineteen clients made appointments to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to monitor their health. Our thanks to volunteer Sue Evraets for organizing this important service for our clients.



## Donate Your Cellphone



Your old unused cellphone, working or not, can help United Ministries! Just bring in your old cellphone; include the battery but not the charger. Bring it in to United Ministries and give it to the receptionist. We turn them in to a recycler who pays us for each cell phone turned in.

# St. Henry Volunteers Help with Yard Work at United Ministries



If your group would like to volunteer for a work day at United Ministries, contact Becky Ewing at 727-0300 or [becky@umnky.org](mailto:becky@umnky.org)



525 Graves Avenue  
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## Responding in Thankfulness

*"A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9*

### Financial Gifts:

\_\_\_ I can help by donating \_\_\_ turkeys or hams at \$20.00 each for families in our community

\_\_\_ I can help by donating \_\_\_\_\_ to help families with food, housing or utilities

Make checks payable to United Ministries, mail to United Ministries, PO Box 18430, Erlanger, KY 41018-0430  
or go to our web site: [www.umnky.org](http://www.umnky.org) to make a donation

### Gifts of Time:

\_\_\_ I can donate some of my time to help people in my community through United Ministries.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to United Ministries, PO Box 18430, Erlanger, KY 41018-0430

### Gifts of Prayer:

Listed below are just a few of the specific prayer requests that we have received from our families:

- for the Lord to open a door for a job for Gary
- for Amed's family that is tormented by racial hatred.
- for Tank bus drivers, that they have safe runs