



Newsletter

Mission Statement

"We, who acknowledge God's providence and fidelity to His people, especially those in poverty, do dedicate our efforts toward the support of those who are homeless. Our goal is to deliver to the homeless those basic human needs, care and compassion that is not usually received from other organizations."

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Special thanks to

Missouri Poster & Banner, Inc.
1331 Erie
North Kansas City, MO 64116
816-474-6140

THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU

Next Quarterly Board Meeting

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2008
7:00 P.M.

at UPLIFT, 1516 Prospect
Kansas City, MO

PRINTING BY:

PRINT TIME

From the President

Frank Fiorini, President, Uplift Organization, Inc.

Hello to supporters, volunteers and friends of Uplift.

We recently held two special board meetings to reassess priorities of the organization. The topics discussed and to which action was applied are as follows:

- (1) Replace 1998 GMC step van. A search is in place for another Dodge or Freight Liner Sprinter model 2500.
- (2) A need for more cooks was addressed by Margo Yerk conducting a solicitation program. The initial search was successful but more cooks are needed. Those interested should call Margo – her phone number is on page 3 of the newsletter.
- (3) Specific needs of clothing are socks, men's underwear, t-shirts and trousers.

- (4) The current needs of canned food are fruit, tuna, beans, soups, canned meats and pasta.
- (5) The Uplift Organization website will be updated with more information.
- (6) Duties for Route Leaders, Drivers, and Outreach volunteers have been prepared and distributed.
- (7) Floor painting continued in the distribution rack storage area by Jim Schmidt and Steve Tenner.
- (8) The financial position of Uplift Organization was more positive at half year than first quarter and as compared to 6 months of 2007. The net income for six months of 2008 was a \$1,428.00 improvement over six months of 2007. We received many great gifts, two notable amounts were from Church of the Nativity and Knights of Columbus Council #11067.

From the Editor

by Jennie Wheeling

Several cooling centers have been open and are available during the periods of oppressive heat this summer. They are open from 8 a.m. to at least 5 p.m.

- 6111 E. 129th St. , Grandview , MO
- 14700 E. Truman Rd. , Independence , MO
- 3013 E. 9th St. , Kansas City , MO
- 6618 E. Truman Rd. , Kansas City , MO
- 4300 NE Parvin Rd. , Kansas City , MO
- 500 W. 39th St. , Kansas City , MO
- 701 Washington , Kansas City , KS
- 500 N. 7th Street , Kansas City , KS (open from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

· 420 E. Santa Fe, Olathe , KS

Time Warner Cable has graciously recorded Uplift in action and linked to it on their web site. The location to view this short presentation is <http://www.kcondemand.com/Community.aspx> Click on Uplift to watch the video.

Monetary donations to help the homeless can be made directly to Uplift as well as through the United Way organization. Please contact your employer for details.

Uplift now has a presence on the internet! Our URL, or site address, is <http://www.uplift.org> and our e-mail address is uplift@planetkc.com

Uplift Organization, Inc.

Board of Directors

Ron Aerts
 Jeff Blackmon
 Larry Otto
 Jennifer Schmidt
 Jim Schmidt
 Harold Foster
 Kathy Smith
 Susan Beurman
 Bruce Beurman
 Carol Myers
 Candi Fogleman
 Gred Lebold, Chairman

Officers

Frank Fiorini, President
 Joe Kordalski, Vice President
 Terry Connealy, Treasurer
 Sandy Otto, Recording Secretary
 Jennie Wheeling, Corresponding Secretary
 Vivian Dennison, Support Coordinator
 Jo Bustamante, Volunteer Coordinator

**We really need
 clean 12oz, 16oz & 24oz
 PLASTIC BOTTLES
 no milk containers
 PLEASE**

**Published by
 Uplift Organization, Inc.
 for its members and friends.**

*News and changes of address
 should be sent to the editor:*

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**Excerpted from ‘Hitting Home:
 New faces join ranks of the homeless’**

by Stephanie Armour, USA TODAY

Time is running out for Tracy Mosely. A single mother of five, Mosely is on the brink of homelessness after the house she’s rented for a year fell into foreclosure and was sold at auction. Mosely, a part-time restaurant hostess, came up with \$500 for a security deposit on another place. But she says all the landlords she’s contacted want \$1,000 or more.

She doesn’t have it. Lying on her bed in Florissant, Mo., flipping through the newspaper, seeking a place to move her family, Mosely says she’s not sure if she has weeks or days before she’ll be evicted. She may wind up, she says, in a homeless shelter.

“My blood pressure is sky-high,” she says. “We’ll be on the streets. I’m just lost about what to do. We were settled here, this was home, and the kids are looking at me like, ‘Mom, please.’ I told them I’m doing my best.”

Mosely is one of the faces of a national real estate crisis whose most grievous victims are increasingly facing the ultimate fate: homelessness. With more families on the cusp of having nowhere to live, thousands of both former homeowners and renters are winding up in shelters or turning to charities for food or other aid to get by.

Nearly 61% of local and state homeless coalitions say they’ve seen a rise in homelessness since the foreclosure crisis began in 2007, according to a study released in April by the National Coalition for the Homeless.

According to the study, which let respondents offer multiple replies when asked where they’re headed once their property is foreclosed on, 76% of displaced homeowners

and renters are moving in with relatives and friends. About 54% are moving to emergency shelters. About 40% are already on the streets.

Those facing homelessness include the working poor, who were among those hardest hit by the collapse in subprime mortgages. But others are middle-class families who scarcely expected to find themselves unable to afford their homes.

“Shelters are full, and it’s getting worse,” says Michael Stoops of the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington. “There are more homeless homeowners, people who first try to downsize, then wind up living with family and friends or in vehicles. At the shelters, there’s almost no room at the inn. It’s first come, first serve.”

Six cities reported a rise in the number of homeless people who used emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in the past year, and 10 cities reported an increase in households with children seeking help, according to a 2007 survey done in part by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

For some who’ve lost homes to foreclosure, charitable groups are a desperate alternative to living on the streets.

Take Judy Johnson, 46, of Sacramento, who works 10-hour days as a hair stylist. Johnson and her husband, Gregory, 52, had been living for eight years in a two-story, 3,000-square-foot home when he lost his job as a supervisor in waste management. He also developed diabetes, fell into a coma and was hospitalized for a short time. He is now recovered.

Judy, a mother of four, tried to support her family and make the mortgage bills

Uplift Organization, Inc.

Second Quarter Cumulative Stats..... 2007.....	2008
Number of Volunteers.....	942.....1,083
Number of Volunteer Hours.....	1,940.....2,364
Number of Camps Visited.....	1,198.....1,182
Number of Homeless Served.....	4,709.....7,918

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS

Blankets & Sleeping Bags.....	566.....950
Clothing.....	5,425.....7,768
Beverages.....	24,930.....32,191
Food.....	7,092.....14,115
Misc. Items (Hygiene, Meds. etc.).....	6,757.....9,073

on her single income because Gregory was unemployed.

"We became paycheck-to-paycheck," she says.

Ultimately, the family fell behind on their payments. In December, the home was sold at auction, and the family had to move out. They had no savings left, Judy says, and no family or friends who could take them in. And they couldn't afford the security deposits of \$2,000 or so that landlords were requesting.

"We were thinking we would have to separate the family; we had nowhere to go, nobody to help us," she says. "We were basically homeless. We were on the verge."

Rising prices a contributing factor

In addition to foreclosures, other factors are driving families to the edge of homelessness: mounting utility bills, the surge in gas prices and the rise in unemployment, which jumped from 5% to 5.5% in May, the government reported. Often, those factors make it harder for families to afford their mortgages — especially for those who bought homes with adjustable-rate mortgages that have reset to higher rates.

Homelessness affecting schools

In the meantime, the effects of foreclosures and homelessness are seeping into public school systems that are now serving more children without permanent addresses. An estimated 2 million children will be directly affected by the subprime mortgage crisis as their families lose their homes to foreclosures, according to First Focus, a bipartisan children's advocacy group that issued the report. The April 2008 report indicates that foreclosures often result in disruptions to a child's education.

Losing one's home and having nowhere to go can also leave former homeowners emotionally wounded, seized by a sense of failure and shame. Others struggle to hold onto their pride and a fierce desire to avoid the help of charities or government services.

Sandra Wright, 37, and her three children and three grandchildren have lived in a rental home for about a year in Gary, Ind. The home has been foreclosed on, and she has until Friday to move out.

Wright, a housekeeper at a hotel, was worried that she'd wind up in a homeless shelter. But she's hopeful of finding another rental in time because the lender on the home is offering her \$1,000 if she leaves the house by Friday.

"I was worried I'll wind up in a shelter," Wright says. "They could come and put everything out on the streets. I've been praying a lot. All you can do is pray."

Monetary Donations are always welcomed:

Uplift Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 270175
Kansas City, Missouri
64127-0175

Hours of drop-off donations at 1516 Prospect Kansas City, MO:

Monday 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.... 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

OUTREACH

- Visit the homeless
Monday and Wednesday 6:00 PM
Saturday 5:00 PM
2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours
Call Jo Bustamante at 816-524-0024

PREPARE MEALS

- Recipes and instruction provided
- Prepare and deliver meals for 60 people to Uplift
- Call Margo Yerk at
816-246-8801 (Home) or 816-516-1304 (Cell)

OUTREACH SUPPORT

- Transporting homeless to doctor appointments
- Visiting homeless in hospitals and detox centers
- Visiting and supporting people that have moved to permanent housing
- Call Vivian Dennison 816-520-2005 (Cell)

SORTING DONATIONS

CLEANING DISTRIBUTION CENTER

- Every second Saturday 9:00-11:00 AM
- Excellent service project for elementary and high school students
- Appointments not necessary

Ongoing Needs

- Socks*
- Men's Regular Underwear*
- Shirts & Tees*
- Trousers*
- Plastic Tarps
- Blankets
- Shampoo
- Playing Cards
- Sleeping Bags
- Canned Food
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Matches
- Plastic Jugs for water
- Large Lemonade Mix
- Toilet paper
- Tennis Shoes & Boots

Every second Saturday of the month is our work day. Donations may be dropped off between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Those interested in meal preparation please contact Margo Bustamante at (816) 246-8801 or (816) 516-1304. Our cooks are asked to prepare meals for approximately 60 homeless. Occasionally there are donated supplies at the Uplift facility such as meat and other items that can be used for meal preparation.

Any Questions, contact Uplift at (816) 241-0060



P.O. Box 270175
1516 Prospect
Kansas City, MO 64127-0175

Important Upcoming Dates

September 13, 2008

Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day

October 11, 2008

Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day

October 14, 2008

Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Quarterly Board Meeting

November 8, 2008

Saturday 9:00 A.M. Work Day

A non-profit organization may elect to apply for the federal tax exemption status under 26 USC § 501(c)(3). An organization receiving a "501(c)(3) status" gains certain privileges and obligations. A 501(c)(3) organization is exempt from paying federal income taxes (but still may be required to file annual income information). Additionally, all persons and organizations that make contributions (money or property) to a 501(c)(3) organization will be able to claim deductions for their donations to the organization on their individual federal income tax (amount of deduction to the extent allowable under federal statute, 26 USC § 170(c)(2))

When making your United Way contribution, please be aware that you may designate Uplift as the recipient of your gift through the donor choice program. This program is another way you can help us to help others.