All of us at some point find ourselves having to deal with adversity and are comforted when friends offer a helping hand. Recently Greensboro Urban Ministry experienced adversity when a serious plumbing problem threatened to temporarily shut down operations. Although operations were temporarily displaced, Urban Ministry remained open with the help of individuals and corporations in the community. We are sincerely grateful to those in the community who came to our aid. We wish to extend a special thank you to Shiloh Baptist Church, who provided a place to serve meals; the Interactive Resource Center, who housed our homeless men and women for a night, and the American Red Cross, who provided cots; HealthServe Medical Center, who provided office space to our Emergency Assistance Program; the many restaurants who donated ready-to-serve meals including Pastabilites, McDonalds, Biscuitville, Chick-Fil-A and others; and, Johns Plumbing, who donated a large portion of their repair services and did an outstanding job with repairs. Finally, thank you for your support of our organization, for your prayers during our time of trouble, and for your financial support to ensure that we could continue our mission to express the love of God to people in need through practical action, even in our own hour of need.

We are proud to report that all of our plumbing issues have been resolved and Greensboro Urban Ministry has resumed normal operations thanks to your support!

*Figures based upon Greensboro Urban Ministry’s 2013-2014 approved Fiscal Year Budget.*
FEAST OF CARING

The aroma of fresh baked bread.
The dulcet tones of harmonizing guitars.
The warmth of a delicious bowl of soup.
The murmur of friends greeting one another in fellowship.
These are the things that make the Feast of Caring such a wonderful community event.

This year’s event celebrates twenty-two years of fellowship and support for Greensboro Urban Ministry and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the William Mangum Holiday Honor Card. We hope that you will join us on Thursday, November 21st, at Greensboro's First Baptist Church between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm, to pledge your support for the upcoming year and join us for a bowl, or two, of soup. Your donation of $25 or more allows you to select either five Holiday Honor Cards, or a piece of hand-made pottery.

The generous donations and pledges received during the Feast of Caring help to support the services of Greensboro Urban Ministry as we work with individuals in our community experiencing crisis. By providing these individuals with the assistance they need, we seek to return them to stability and self-sufficiency, equipping them with the skills needed to prevent future crisis.

Greensboro Urban Ministry is excited to have again partnered with the Center for Visual Artists for the Clash of the Potters pottery competition. This event, which pits six areas potters in a head-to-head competition to determine the fastest potter, provides half of the pottery offerings available for selection. Other pottery pieces are made available through the generous donations of more than fifty of the area’s most talented potters.

Greensboro Urban Ministry would like to thank Lincoln Financial for their sponsorship of Clash of the Potters and the Feast of Caring. Also, the Center for Visual Artists, First Baptist Church, the Greensboro Women’s Club, the Bobby Doolittle Band, and the many restaurants and faith communities who have worked to make these events a success.

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 20
CROP HUNGER WALK & RUN
Registration 1PM
Walk & Run 2PM
Grasshopper Stadium

OCT 26
GATE CITY CHILI COOK-OFF
4PM-8PM
Newbridge Bank Ballpark

OCT 26
FOOD FOR ALL TELETHON
6AM-7PM

OCT 29
HOLIDAY HONOR CARD LUNCHEON
11:30AM - 1PM
Christ United Methodist Church

NOV 21
FEAST OF CARING
5PM - 7PM
First Baptist Church

MICHAEL’S GIFT

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Holiday Honor Card, artist William Mangum has also written a book entitled Michael’s Gift chronicling his personal journey with chronically homeless individual Michael Saavedra. For more information, please visit William Mangum Fine Art Gallery at 2166 Lawndale Drive or online at http://www.williammangum.com/the-honor-card/
The last five years have been an economic hurricane in Guilford County. Although many have begun to recover from the Great Recession, thousands of others in our area continue to suffer through very hard times and remain on the brink of extreme poverty. Guilford County’s unemployment rate still hovers slightly below 10%, several points higher than the national rate and twice the county’s rate in 2007. This number does not even include people who work multiple part-time jobs or people who have given up trying to find work. A Gallup poll conducted last year ranked the Greensboro-High Point region fourth nationally among metropolitan areas facing high food insecurity. Food stamp applications in Guilford County are at an all-time high, and a growing number of schoolchildren in our area are homeless. In the 2012–2013 school year, over 2000 children in the Guilford County Schools had experienced homelessness.

For almost fifty years, Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM) has provided emergency assistance to Guilford County residents in times of financial crisis. The last five years have been extremely challenging at GUM because of the recession. That challenge was compounded in 2013, when GUM became a first responder for families who suffered from several breakdowns in the administration of the federal SNAP program (food stamps) and because of the North Carolina legislature’s decision to reduce the amount and duration of unemployment benefits. GUM has always been committed to providing assistance to the needy as its resources permit, but need is growing. While the Great Recession continues to impact many Guilford County residents substantially more than elsewhere in the nation, our government aid and charitable support have not been enough to meet the basic needs of those affected.

That’s why we and other supporters of GUM have recently created the Sustainers Society of Greensboro Urban Ministry. The Sustainers Society is a group of contributors who have committed to monthly financial support for GUM and its vital work. We hope that this reliable and continued support will counteract the economic and political turmoil than have been so devastating to the full recovery of our community from the recession. Monthly pledges through the Sustainers Society can be in any amount and can be fulfilled through bank drafts, credit cards, or checks. It is a simple idea, but the commitments of the Sustainers Society will ensure GUM’s financial stability and enhance our ability to address our community’s needs.

GUM’s mission is to express the love of God to people in need through practical action in the Greater Greensboro area. Many of us have been blessed to be able to help in this extraordinary task. Please join us in sustaining the good work of Greensboro Urban Ministry!

There is nothing like the sights, sounds and smells of summer. They reconnect us to what we knew and loved about this time of year as children. A happy time; a time of fun, but also a time of lessons learned both formally and informally. It is thrilling to see that the children and families at Partnership Village were able to experience the sights, sounds and smells of summer. They made lots of memories while they were free from the school schedule and we celebrate their participation in all of the activities that were made possible for them through the support of the local community.

One little girl was so excited that she had dreams about going to Camp Weaver. Twenty-one of the children participated in that week long camp experience. Twenty-eight children spent over a month in Freedom School, a literacy based summer enrichment program that focuses on helping children fall in love with reading, increase their self-esteem, and generate more positive attitudes toward learning. They loved it! Four children went to Drama Camp, 7 went to camp at the Children’s Museum, 2 went to B Natural Music School, 2 teen boys attended Duke Basketball Camp and 1 young lady participated in the writing school at UNCG.

In addition to the camps, there was a boys’ basketball group on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, skating and laser tag opportunities, pizza and ice cream parties and cakes, provided by Cakes for Free, for 18 children who celebrated birthdays this summer. Project Alert was on site to provide substance abuse prevention curriculum for teens and the boys were a part of the Wise Guys program, a male-oriented teen pregnancy prevention program which has proven effective in helping male adolescents make wiser and more responsible decisions. A backpack school supply giveaway, sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church signaled the end of summer. The continuation of Bible Study and the renewal of dinner, compliments of Guilford College UMC, served as a reminder to everyone that fall was right around the corner.

Adults love summer too, particularly with the activities that were planned for them. Computer and zumba classes were offered. NA and support groups with Stephen Ministers were available. Faith Presbyterian provided fresh vegetables at least once a week. There were workshops for non-working adults, job skills classes and parenting classes. Love and Faith Christian Fellowship Church provided a family dinner and fellowship. Americorps also planned an activity in June for the single adults in the community.

The staff and volunteers at Partnership Village work diligently with people in the community. It takes a lot of planning and networking to provide these kinds of experiences. Thanks to their hard work, and the support of individuals, churches and civic groups, these events were possible.
BRUCE JOHNSON

When Bruce Johnson first came to Greensboro Urban Ministry, he was scared. “I had nowhere to go and no one to call,” says Bruce. He had moved to North Carolina just a few months before. He was fleeing Detroit, a city embroiled in social and economic turmoil with little hope or opportunity.

The streets of Detroit had been cruel to Bruce. He worked hard in school as a child, but eventually the lure of the streets got to him. One bad decision after another, Bruce soon found himself with a criminal record, no job, and a life with a bleak future. Eventually, Bruce made the decision to get out.

Bruce had moved in with his sister with high hopes of a fresh start and beginning a new life. When things did not work out, Bruce found himself stranded, with no place to go. He bounced from one homeless shelter to another, finding only temporary refuge. Bruce found at Greensboro Urban Ministry what he found at no place else, a second chance and a new home.

At Greensboro Urban Ministry, Bruce was provided with food, shelter, and compassion. He was given a safe place to sleep every night and three warm meals every day. This proved to be crucial as it allowed Bruce to focus on reshaping his life and getting out of his crisis. It also proved to be the path necessary for self-sufficiency.

Today Bruce is on his way. Thanks to Lily, Bruce’s case worker who he refers to as his ‘guardian angel’, Bruce is making great strides toward acquiring a steady job and a more structured life. “Thanks to Greensboro Urban Ministry, I got my life back,” says Bruce.

It was once said by former president T.R. Roosevelt, “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” With your continued support and dedication, we can continue helping those in our community who need it the most, like Bruce. Let us work together toward the common goal of preventing homelessness and hunger. Let us embrace our community with love, hope and goodwill toward all.

SPONSOR PROGRAM

At Greensboro Urban Ministry, our programs are about much more than food and shelter. We believe that success is achieved when we meet our clients where they are, provide for their basic needs, and, through the support of case management, work with our clients to help them regain their independence and self-sufficiency.

By sponsoring a program for a day, a week, or even a month, you can help change the life of someone facing hardship in their life. What a great way for you to honor a friend or loved one for a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or graduation while supporting the work of Greensboro Urban Ministry.

WEAVER HOUSE BED

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POTTER’S HOUSE TABLE

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PARTNERSHIP VILLAGE

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ESTATE PLANNING

Remember Greensboro Urban Ministry in your will and other estate plans. For more information, contact Rev. Mike Aiken, (336) 553-2639

CITY, STATE, COUNTY AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

You can designate your pledge to Greensboro Urban Ministry through the following:

- State Employees Combined Campaign (charity code 1511)
- Combined Federal Employees Campaign (charity code 58975)
- City/County Employees Campaign (write in “GUM” with United Way Campaign)
MEMORIALS

JUL-SEPT

Harvey Alexander  
Meg & Don Eggleston

Bishop M. Alleyne  
Solid Rock International Ministries

Christina Joy Arnold  
Andy & Debbie Arnold

Victor Blandin  
Well-Spring Retirement Community

Helen Wilkerson Bonetti  
Gregory Bonetti

Michael Boyum  
Joan & Pedro Tavares

Sandy Bradshaw  
Mary Newby

Daisy Brooks  
AFRC Auxiliary

Betty Bullington  
Carolyn Stone

Harold L. Bunn, Sr.  
Jackie & Mike Rasche

June Butts  
Cokey Mills & Lee Ann Segalla

Lena Gentry Call  
Katherine Paschal

Carl L. Carlson, Jr.  
Marilyn Anderson

George Carver  
Tom & Janet Cunningham

Don & Win Cheney  
Anonymous

Gary Cartey  
Angela & John Kenan

George Carver  
Tom & Janet Cunningham

Clyde & Dorothy Brown  
Debbie Johnson

Dorothy Lomax  
Dorothy Lomax

Ethel Hargett  
Ethel Hargett

Joan Hargett  
Joan Hargett

Judith Hargett  
Judith Hargett

June Hargett  
June Hargett

Mary Hargett  
Mary Hargett

Margaret Hargett  
Margaret Hargett

Cary Hargett  
Cary Hargett

Robert Hargett  
Robert Hargett

William Hargett  
William Hargett

We compile the lists in this report carefully. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent. If you find that your name has been omitted, please accept our apology. We would be grateful if you would notify us of any corrections.
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
THE 2013 HONOR CARD

For 25 years the William Mangum Holiday Honor Card has provided a meaningful way to recognize a friend, family member, client, or employee, while at the same time providing critical funding to support those in need. With a minimum donation of $5 per card, you receive an Honor Card which allows you to show your support for the community while acknowledging others during the holidays. What greater gift than to help those in need?

The 25th anniversary card, entitled “Fall Into Me,” focuses on our need for others in our lives. In the statement from artist, Mr. Mangum shares “Ours is a world that perpetuates a belief in self-fulfillment, the ability to make yourself happy and complete through your own efforts. But each day can be challenging. One moment, we are on top of the world fulfilling every dream we possibly could have, and then, suddenly, we stumble with disappointment. The reality of failure begins to taunt us, making us question if there is anything worth looking forward to... those moments should cause us to turn to God. When we feel we are losing our balance, He can help. When life knocks us off our feet, we don’t have to be frustrated. With God’s strength lifting us up, we can still stand strong. So often that hand up comes through the efforts of volunteers at churches, shelters, and other outreach agencies. God works through many of his faithful to be the hands of Christ to those that need an encouraging smile and assistance.”

Honor Cards are available locally at Greensboro Urban Ministry, area churches, and other locations including William Mangum Fine Art Gallery for a minimum donation of $5 per card, November through January. 100% of the proceeds go to Greensboro Urban Ministry to provide support for individuals in our community who are experiencing crisis.