



# 2015 SUMMER *Newsletter*

*St. Aloysius Mission Team*

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

Hello and thank you: I have had the opportunity to say this many times in the past month, as my family and I have gotten settled into our new life here in Greensboro.

If you've ever moved to a new job, new city – really any new opportunity – you know it's a little like drinking from a fire hose at first. And this summer, as the temperatures are soaring early and often, it's an image that sticks in my mind.

Our lobby, shelters and community kitchen are filled with men, women and children seeking even a sip of relief from the unyielding heat of poverty. Our staff and volunteers are here to meet them, in the community kitchen, the food pantry and the shelters. It energizes me to be here, too, to offer some help and hope to one family, one life, from poverty's harshness.

When I was growing up in inner-city Philadelphia, I knew one day I would want to give back for all that I had been given. That may sound odd coming from the youngest of four kids growing up in urban poverty. We saw daily its devastation, crime and violence. But within my family and faith community, I was protected and provided for in ways that far outlast material comforts.

I didn't realize we were poor in any way until I took my first economics class in college.

And I realize that but for God's grace and those who loved me, I could have had a very different life. I want to be that outlet of grace and hope for those suffering in my new hometown.

Coming to Urban Ministry feels like a homecoming to me and a return to my early career in social work.

For my wife of 27 years, Anna, this opportunity to help those in greatest need answers a deep call as well. Believe it or not, we grew up just eight blocks apart in Philly. But the way city neighborhoods sometimes work, we were a world apart till we met as adults. Ministering to others is a family affair for us, and Anna has been a terrific source of inspiration to many women in her own outreach. And she creates a rock-solid foundation for me and our three sons.



That brings me back to this: Hello and thank you, for all you do here in this community and all the hope you hold that working together we can continue to offer relief and hope to our neighbors in need. Please let me know what you think and how we are doing. I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you.

Rev. Myron Wilkins, Executive Director





## STEPPING UP TO FIGHT HUNGER, HERE AND ABROAD

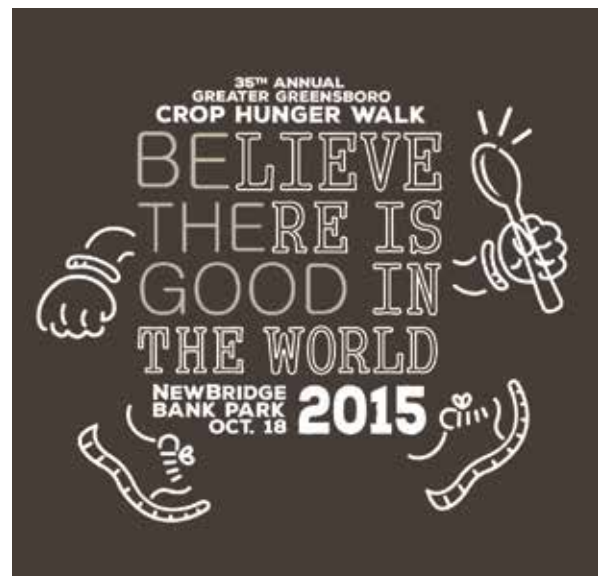
CROP -- Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. In October 2014, the Greater Greensboro area responded and was once again a leader in the fight to end hunger, holding the second largest CROP Walk in the nation and raising more than \$203,000. Since its beginning 35 years ago, the Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk has raised more than \$5.2 million toward efforts to end poverty and hunger locally and around the world.

Church World Service (CWS), Greensboro Urban Ministry's partner in the walk, uses funds raised to work with people around the globe. The agency has provided assistance and training for people like Maria William, enabling them to better provide for their families in Kenya. Maria is a mother of five who received help from CWS for a clean water source. She and her children had to walk long, and often unsafe, distances to find water – that then might not be clean. Now that the family has access to a clean water source closer to their home, Maria has time to sell vegetables in the market and provide a small income for her family, and her children can focus on their studies.

Maria is one of many success stories that we can share from the fundraising efforts of the CROP Hunger Walk. In addition to the international work the CROP Hunger Walks make possible, 25 percent of the funds raised stay here in our own community. In 2014, thanks to the generosity of CROP Walk participants, sponsors and supporters, more than \$50,000 was raised to help men, women and children living in poverty in the Greater Greensboro area.

This year we again gather to join in the fight to end hunger at the 35th Annual Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 18. Won't you consider joining in the efforts to end hunger and poverty? Our efforts are making a difference in the community and around the world, and we welcome your support.

For more information on how you can become involved, please visit [www.greengreensborocropwalk.org](http://www.greengreensborocropwalk.org) or e-mail Cheryl Ledford at [ledford@gumistry.org](mailto:ledford@gumistry.org).



# PAY IT *Forward*



*Rev. Mike Aiken (left); Carol Lambert, Director of Environmental Services; Dora Whitsett, Environmental Services Technician; Greg Berney, Director of Patient Engagement.*

## RETURNING THE KINDESS

When Dora Whitsett and seven of her Cone Health colleagues reached into their event bags at the health system's spring employee celebration, each discovered a golden ticket inside. The eight were chosen randomly to receive the tickets as part of the Cone Health System's Pay It Forward program.

The tickets were each worth \$1,000, and given with just one condition – that the money be contributed to the charity of each employee's choice.

For Dora, her charity of choice is Greensboro Urban Ministry. She and her colleagues from the environmental services department visited GUM's West Gate City Boulevard site on June 24 to share the good news and see the agency's work first-hand. In years past, Greensboro Urban Ministry helped several of Dora's relatives with emergency food assistance when they were in need. After seeing the food pantry and Potter's House Community Kitchen, Dora decided she'd like to help sustain the programs that helped her family.

In addition to the cash contribution, Dora and her colleagues plan to volunteer at Urban Ministry so her Pay It Forward gift can extend even farther!

# Sponsors CROP WALK

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WFMY News 2

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## BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS

### ***2015-2016 Board of Directors Executive Committee***

Craig Siler, Board Chair	Turner Battle, Programs
Bonita Porter, Vice Chair	Rodney Baker, Property
Keith Hennessy, Secretary	Jeff Thiel, Governance
Pete Salassi, Treasurer	Executive Director,
Susan Phillips, Fundraising	Rev. Myron Wilkins

### ***Welcome to our incoming Board members:***

Blake Absher  
Dr. Michael Mango  
Howard Coats

### ***Special thanks to the following Board members who completed their terms in 2014-15:***

Andrew Chamberlin	Nora Shively
Bill Conner	Fanta Dorley
Cathy Johnson	Jeff Burkett

Please visit [www.guministry.org](http://www.guministry.org) for a full list of 2015-16 Board members.

# Beyond GUM

## ANDRE

When Andre came to Weaver House as a guest in 2013, staff members described him as a gentle giant, both because of his large stature and his gentle nature. Andre shared that he was currently homeless because he had made some unwise decisions when he was younger. A legal record prevented him from finding stable employment. Unable to pay for housing, he turned to Greensboro Urban Ministry for help and shelter.

Andre took full advantage of the opportunities offered at the Weaver House for residents to help them become self-sufficient. He worked with a case manager, employment specialist and housing case manager.

Employment Specialist Audrey Thornton helped Andre identify potential jobs and address circumstances that were hindering him from landing the job he wanted and needed. Audrey referred Andre to job readiness classes and other life skills classes. He completed these and prepared a professional resume that highlighted other certifications he'd completed.

Andre was successful in finding employment and is getting ready to move into his own apartment. In the Beyond GUM program, he is now finding help to maintain his self-sufficiency, including budgeting workshops, emergency/crisis planning, and landlord/ tenant relationship education.



*The Beyond GUM program seeks to address homelessness swiftly and effectively, reducing the amount of time people spend in shelters before they can enter a stable housing situation. With the worry of housing alleviated, clients can focus with case managers on addressing the root causes that led to homelessness. The program helps families stay together, men and women to retain employment and children to remain in school.*

## Thank You VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to the following volunteer groups who served with us from January to June 2015!

- American Express
- Atlantic Coast Conference
- Bank of America
- BB&T
- Bestway
- Biscuitville
- CarMax
- CBRE
- City of Greensboro
- Cone Health Systems
- Deuterman Law Group
- Dollar Tree
- Downtown Locker Room
- Earth Fare
- Food Lion
- Gilbarco Veeder-Root
- Greensboro Jaycees
- Harris Teeter
- Lorillard
- Lowe's Food
- Market America
- National Active & Retired Federal Employees
- New Orleans Bar/Grill
- Polo Ralph Lauren
- Sam's Club
- Samet Corporation
- Tanger Outlet
- Target-Management Group
- Total Computer Solution
- United Guaranty
- United States Postal Service
- UnitedHealthcare
- VA-Sidelines



# MEMORIALS

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Tom & Ginny Rice  
Henry Zwicky

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Hugh Gordon  
Graybar Electric Company  
Guilford County Employees

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Fanny Bain

**Bessie Barber**  
Carolyn & Tim Barber

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Anonymous  
Robert & Billie Barrett  
Daryl Brown  
Ann Causey  
Nancy Hawks  
Barbara Hughes  
Bryan James & Martha  
Hughes-James  
Claudette & Ralph Kayler

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Nancy Short  
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Community  
Integrity Transport, Inc.

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Jane Nutt

**Mary Breeze**  
Ruth & Vestal Fulp

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Glen Hutchinson, Jr.  
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Janet McCall

**Harold L. Bunn**  
Anonymous

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Walter A. Burch

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Hoke & Sallie Huss  
Rascha & Robert Kriegsman  
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Frankie Pittman

**John Gouldin**  
Frankie Pittman

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Bill Gruble

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Robert Cates

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Barbara Herbin

**Raymond & Eva Herbin**  
William Herbin

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Linda & Perry Crabtree

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Para Lee Payne

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Jeffrey & Lora Farlow

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Daniel & Sharon Jackson

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Bobby Jessup

**Leon Jessup**  
Bobby Jessup

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Kenneth Garner  
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Mary Maines

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Douglas & Jodi Farmer

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Beth Armbruster  
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Terry Disabatino  
Bunny & Jack Michener  
Jeffrey Pyle  
Jana Warta

**John Zeigler**  
Bessie Zeigler

*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.*



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## Calendar of EVENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT URBAN MINISTRY, LATE SUMMER AND FALL

- AUGUST 21 Clash of the Potters
- SEPTEMBER 19 Groove Jam at Doodad Farm
- OCTOBER 18 CROP Walk (see story inside)
- NOVEMBER 19 Feast of Caring

Watch the Greensboro Urban Ministry website for updates and details! [www.guministry.org](http://www.guministry.org)



*Groove Jam at Doodad Farm*