MINISTRY REPORT

STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF HELP AND HOPE
Early morning in the Potter’s House: We find it can be a place of wonder. Not that sense of starry-eyed amazement, but rather, of quiet humbling. We wonder, as eggs are cooking and places are set, how do our guests on the other side of the kitchen door do it, day after day? How, we wonder, would we do it if we were facing their uncertainties?

The economy may be improving, but many people are still struggling in Greensboro. And daily life for them is hard. Inside this year’s Ministry Report, you will learn how some of our guests have broken free of crisis’ grip, with the help of Greensboro Urban Ministry. With your support, we are able to offer our guests help and hope that allow them to move from “How can I do it?” to “This is how I will do it.”

Many of you told us last year how we can do our work better, through strategic planning input sessions and surveys. We thank you for your time and perspectives. We’re excited to begin to share this plan — you’ll find our updated mission, vision and value statements on the facing page. Stay tuned! We’ll have more to talk about this year, for sure.

For now, back to Potter’s House. Every morning of the year, the dining room doors swing open, and our guests sit down to eat. Each day, people from across the city come together. They get to know each other. They share sports scores, maybe a joke. Then there’s that full serving of encouragement. Soon, these people from across the city discover they aren’t so different after all. And that, perhaps, is one of the greatest wonders – and values – we find at Greensboro Urban Ministry.

You are such an important part of this ministry. Together, we are building toward a community where people don’t have to wonder if they will have enough to eat, a place to stay, or an opportunity to live a stable life. Thank you for your support!
Dianne Flowers finds the food assistance she needs to stretch a tight budget.

Dianne Flowers looks in the cart, and she knows she has everything she needs.

"Are you ready to go?" the volunteer asks.

Dianne says yes. She knows she can make it with the food she receives from the Urban Ministry.

There was a point she felt she couldn’t.

The food stamps she receives every month don’t always cover what she needs to keep her from going hungry. But that was only part of the problem.

In the past year, she had been homeless for at least five months. She lived out of her black Nissan Maxima as well as staying in local hotels.

She never really worried about finding a place to stay. She kept asking herself, “What am I going to eat?”

So, the Urban Ministry helps. She now has a place to stay. That helps, too.

“This food helps me stabilize,” says Dianne, 67. “I know I’ll have something to eat.

“I can go home and settle down, and I’m good to go. Everything is there if I need something to eat. And I can share it with my neighbors.”
Larry Strader found a cot covered with a quilt. For him, that is home.

Larry is 64, an unemployed construction worker. He has a bad heart, a bad hip and a bad knee. He lost his job because of those ailments. He didn’t have any money to rent a room.

For weeks, he slept in the bushes. Then, this year, he found Grace. That is Grace Community Church, part of the constellation of Weaver Extension (WE) shelter sites citywide Urban Ministry runs every winter with congregational partners.

“They showed a lot of love and caring here, and it makes you feel like somebody,” he says. “I mean, I was camping out in the bushes. But when I came to the Urban Ministry, I felt like I could be myself. I get here and everyone is so nice, and they take the time to listen to you.”

One of those people is Dana Carr, a Grace parishioner and WE shelter manager.

“You see someone on a bench, and you make assumptions,” she says. “But you hear about their children or their grandchildren, and it humanizes them. So, you learn to listen. Just to be. It’s nothing major. You just have a relationship and show a lot of kindness.”

Larry appreciates that.

“I don’t have any family,” he says. “It’s just me. And when you have someone who listens to you and understands where you’re at in life, that makes a major difference.

“They give you food and a place to go. But it’s also a lot of pride. They gave me my dignity back.”

How We Help

Shelter Ministry

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Longer-term Solutions

Juliet Barrett found an apartment.

For five months, she and her 10-year-old daughter, Jamira, lived temporarily in a private studio in Pathways Center, the Urban Ministry’s shelter for homeless families.

For her, the room and Pathways gave her structure. But it also relieved some of the stress she faced.

She’s a single mother, working minimum wage jobs. She had an apartment for five years, but she lost the lease when she lost her job. Then, she moved in with her mom – and her mom lived in a one-room apartment.

That was tight.

So, she came to Pathways to find a little more room. She also found something else.

She found people to talk to and get advice from, and she found resources on apartments and jobs. She now has a job as a substitute food server with Guilford County Schools.

She and her daughter also have a new place, which Urban Ministry will help support her to move into.

“I know she is ready to move,” Juliet says, laughing. “She is ready for her own room.”

Juliet is ready, too. Still, she knows what the Pathways Center gave her. She won’t forget that.

“I can get back to where I used to be,” says Juliet, 33. “I can save money and be someone my daughter can look up to, and it feels good.”

“It feels good to go to work and know I can pay my bills and keep a roof over me and my daughter’s head,” she says. “That feels good.”

871 households provided financial assistance through Emergency Assistance to help prevent loss of housing

146 households from our shelters provided financial assistance and case support to re-establish homes

68 formerly homeless households provided rental subsidies and case management at Partnership Village transitional housing community

Middle and high school students at Partnership Village guided through Future Bound career and college preparation program
Chaplaincy and Stephen Ministry

In September 1996, Mike Sasser didn’t want to do it. At least at first. Sasser was commissioned as a lay minister for his church, and right afterward, a church member told him about a request from the Rev. Frank Dew, the chaplain at the Urban Ministry.

Frank wanted a lay minister to start a support group for homeless men, and the church member told Mike he should do it. But Mike didn’t know if he could do it. He didn’t know if he wanted to do it.

Still, he went to the Urban Ministry to see Frank conduct his own support group. Within two minutes, Mike knew.

“Thank you, God,” Mike said to himself. “This is where I want to be.”

Five months later, Mike began a men’s support group on Thursday night after dinner. He and at least 15 men would gather in the chapel, and they’d talk about finding a job, fighting an addiction, just anything that weighed on their hearts.

Mike encouraged them to remain vigilant, to be positive. But mainly, he listened. He listened for more than an hour, sometimes nearly two. Then, he’d end with a prayer and everyone would sing a verse from “Amazing Grace.”

He carried out that support group for 14 years. He also became a Stephen Minister, a lay listening ministry of volunteers at Greensboro Urban Ministry and congregations citywide.

In 2012, Mike retired after 41 years at VF Corporation. Soon, he and an intern chaplain from his church, Guilford Park Presbyterian, started a Thursday night mentoring session for teenage boys living at Partnership Village. Today, he and Greensboro Urban Ministry Chaplain Andrei Spells work together with the teens.

The program has worked. Four students from N.C. A&T also help them with the teenagers, several of whom have gone on to college.

Then, on Mondays, Mike helps people and families with emergency assistance as well as homeless men in a support group.

Ask him the why about all that, and he has a ready answer. He knows the need never wanes.

“I remember when I went to my pastor and asked him, ‘What should I be doing?’ and he told me, ‘Mike you’ll know,’ and I know with the Greensboro Urban Ministry, it has changed my life. I am so thankful.”
Community Coming Together

Her name is Dori Bennett. But the students know her by another name.

Miss Dori.

She comes two afternoons a week to Partnership Village to tutor elementary- and middle-school students, and on this particular Thursday, she’s working with a little girl.

The little girl is a first-grader, with two tufts of hair the size of tennis balls tied and perched atop her head. She needs help with her math. They begin. Miss Dori remembers.

She grew up in Greensboro, surrounded by people who helped her.

Ask her about those memories, and she’ll talk about being 5 years old, riding on the shoulders of a family friend during a civil rights march from Windsor Center to the Greensboro Coliseum.

She’ll also tell you about her mom, Rosa Bennett. Her mom marched with her, and she made sure her daughter knew about the young minister from Atlanta, a man who once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

That was the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Miss Dori is now 58, a volunteer tutor comfortable in a Dudley High sweatshirt and eyeglasses with Kelly green frames. Dudley High is her alma mater; North Carolina Central University is, too.

She’s also a graduate member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and their charge is to serve their community.

Miss Dori (photo, left) does just that on this Thursday afternoon. She sits at a table, peering over her glasses, using her finger as a pointer to help a little girl add.

The little girl begins slowly. But soon, the addition comes easy. Miss Dori breaks into a wide grin and gives the girl a high-five.

Miss Dori knows the first-grader is getting it. But she’s not the only one.

“This allows me to know that I’m helping someone,” Miss Dori says. “It’s like what Oprah Winfrey says about letting your light shine within you. You want it to shine on someone else, too.”
Financial Accountability

Greensboro Urban Ministry takes its work very seriously. Charity Navigator has recognized Greensboro Urban Ministry as a 4-star charity, a designation that we strive to continue to be worthy of – and one we hope provides you confidence in your investment.

Our commitment to you is transparency and accountability. Our annual audit, 990 and strategic plan are available to you on our website under the About Us tab. We are also happy to provide printed copies of these reports to you upon request.

Urban Ministry started from the work of a handful of downtown congregations. Over time, supporters have grown to include civic clubs, individuals, families, local foundations and businesses, and national companies with local offices. Only about 3% of our funding comes from government sources.

Last year, our program service expenses totaled $6,125,011, including in-kind donations such as food. We may be larger than we were 50 years ago, but Greensboro Urban Ministry is still grass-roots and homegrown.

This brings us back to you. The program accomplishments you see reflected in these pages are a direct result of your generous support. We value you for choosing to be part of Greensboro Urban Ministry. Together, we are building a stronger community.

Greensboro Urban Ministry: Where We Are and What We Do

**USE OF FUNDS**

- Program Services
- Management/General
- Fundraising

**PROGRAM SERVICES**

- Emergency Assistance
- Food Pantry
- Potter’s House
- Partnerships
- Partnership Village
- Beyond GUM
- Weaver House/WE
- Chaplaincy

**Pathways**

- Studio shelter for 16 families with children
- Rehousing support/Case management

- Future Bound teen program
- After-School Tutoring Club

**Pathways Center**

- 135 Greenbriar Road
- 68 apartments with rental subsidies
- Case management and life-skill workshops
- Fortune Bound teen program
- After-School Tutoring Club

**Partnership Village**

- 135 Greenbriar Road
- 68 apartments with rental subsidies
- Case management and life-skill workshops
- Future Bound teen program
- After-School Tutoring Club

**Main Campus**

- 305 W. Gate City Blvd.
- Emergency Assistance Program
- Food Pantry
- Potter’s House Community Kitchen
- Weaver House Shelter
- Pathways
- Rehousing support/Case management
- Chaplaincy Office
- Volunteer Services Office
- Administration

**Expressing the love of God to our neighbors in need by offering food, shelter and solutions**

Greensboro Urban Ministry
Please like our Facebook page and find us on Twitter and Instagram (@gsourbanmin) to get the latest updates on the work that you make possible through your support of GUM.

Special thanks:

Piedmont Graphics for sponsoring production of this report

Perfecta Visuals for photography

Jeri Rowe for story profiles