

Yakima

UGM NEWS

MAY 2019

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

The Newsletter for Supporters of Yakima Union Gospel Mission

From the dark slow death of street homelessness to **vibrant new life**, jobs, and family, find out how The Mission and local churches are...

Expanding the **REACH OF HOPE**



| 1300 N 1st St, Yakima WA | 509.248.4510 | info@yugm.org |

Inside... | 2. Search & Rescue | 3. New Life Grads | 4. Bridge Program

Local church helps launch Search & Rescue!

Sleeping outside each night,
228 people wait for hope.

The first book of the New Testament ends with Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples to "Go ye, therefore." Because in Christ, God didn't wait for us, Christ told His followers not to wait either. Our faith has always been a "Light shining in the darkness" (John 1:5).

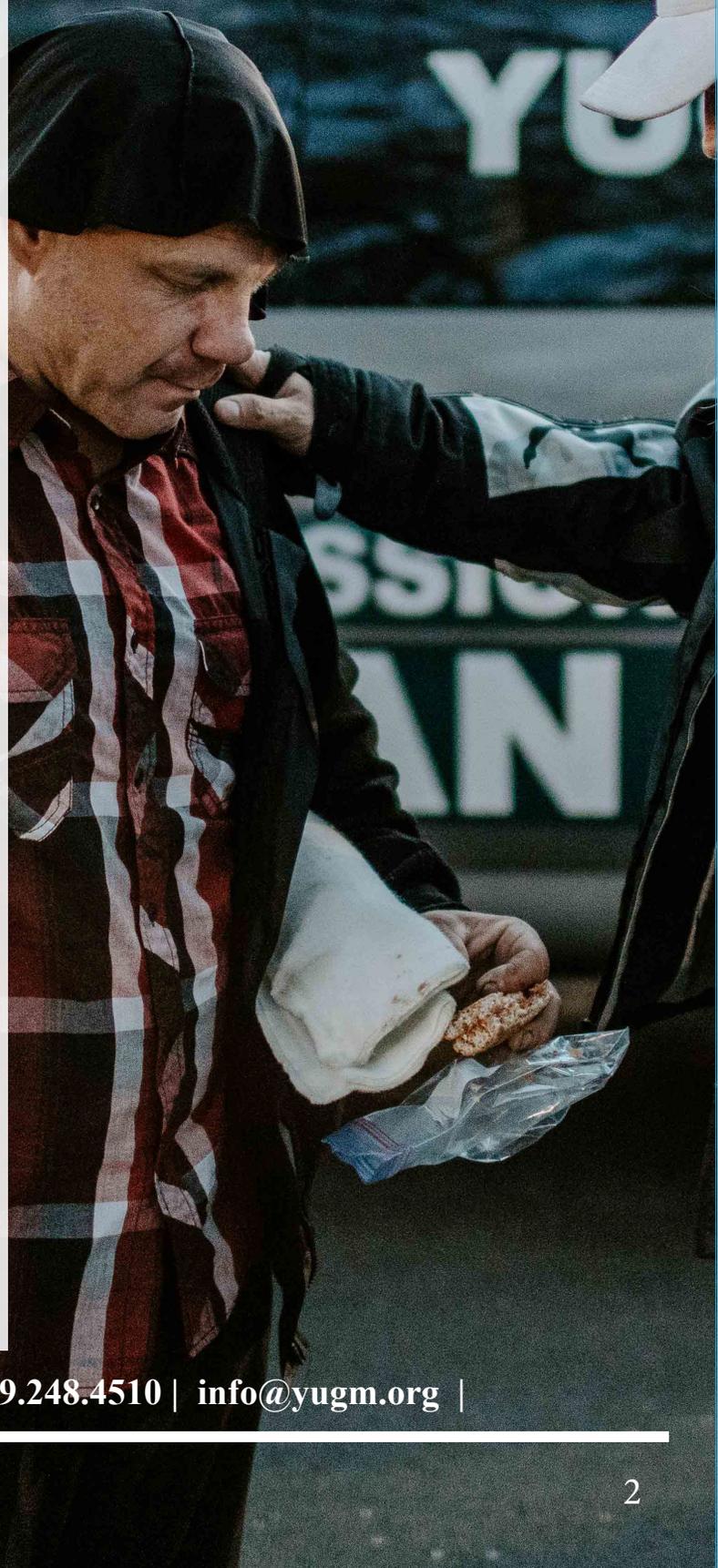
Thanks to a generous gift from Westside Church, the Mission is now proactively going out at night in a van loaded with cocoa, volunteers and the Love of Christ. So far, we have been out every Friday night finding and ministering to homeless people not in our shelters or programs.

Teams have offered friendship, prayer, and the services you make possible at the Mission. Truthfully, it can take a while to convince someone to give Hope one more chance. It breaks your heart to drive away from someone who just let you pray with them, but still wouldn't accept a ride back to our shelter.

But we are already starting to see the fruit. Last week, we brought in someone from the street after three weekly visits in a row from the team. One less business owner will find someone in their doorway! One more person will have a chance to change, a chance to know God's love in Christ!

Thank you for keeping the lost souls in your prayers. And thank you for supporting the work of the Great Commission!

- Mike Johnson
CEO/Executive Director



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Life updates from New Life Graduates **CHANGE REALLY HAPPENS!**

Many of you have read the countless stories of individuals we've highlighted throughout the years. It's a vulnerable thing to share the depths of yourself, especially when it involves the stuff we would never want others to know. Some even shared with hesitancy and heartbreaking expectation - that they wouldn't receive the grace they so desperately longed for. Here's the cool thing. That never happened.

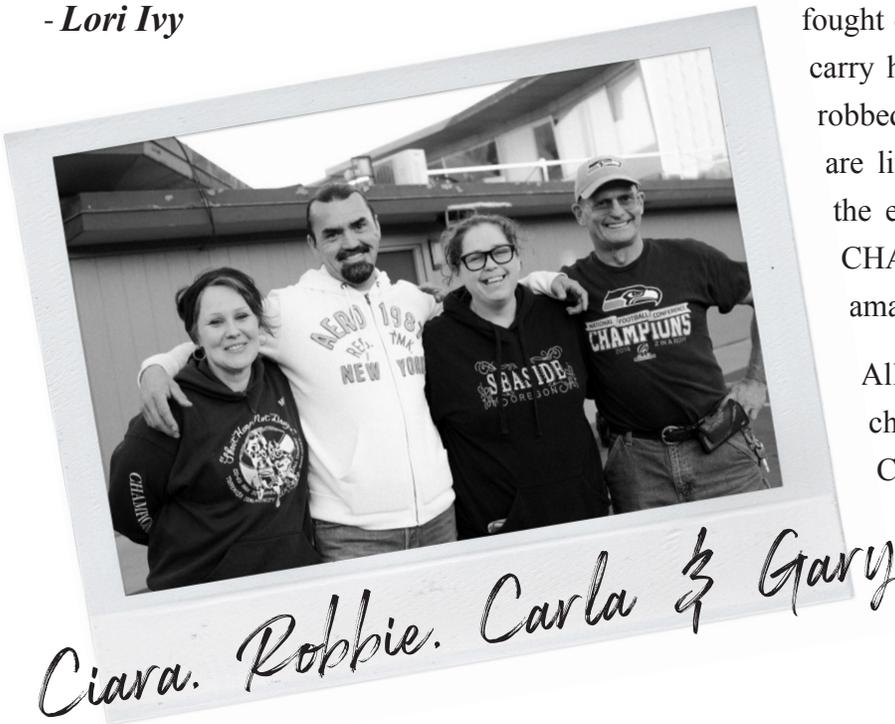


**" I WILL NEVER
BE THE SAME. "**

-Lori Ivy

In fact, *so many of you* reacted in opposition of that. You stood alongside these folks, extended open invites to your home and dinner table, prayed and fought on behalf of them, and because of that they all carry hope.. These men and women who once were robbed of everything, including a second chance, are living proof that the grace of Jesus Christ and the encouragement that comes from relationship - **CHANGES LIVES.** **Thank you** for giving these amazing people a second chance at life.

All of our NLP grads are involved in local churches, one of our graduates just earned her C.D.L, another just celebrated two years of working at Highgate Senior Living. These men and women are continuing to mend their families, further their careers and grow spiritually. May we never stop celebrating them!



**YUGM GRADS HAVE 5X THE SUCCESS AT
PERMANENT SOBRIETY COMPARED TO THE NAT. AVG.**

Meet
Edward



Edward arrived at The Mission in a tight spot and ready for a change.

He joined the Mission's new Bridge Program, where he met and his wonderful volunteer case manager, Monica Masias. In The Bridge, Edward had some health issues resolved, got new glasses (paid for through the Yakima Lions Club), got a phone, and received practical tools for his forward progress.

All along, he was encouraged in his faith through Bible classes led by staff and volunteers. During his program involvement, he also worked alongside the Mission's director of maintenance.

Edward has been clean and sober for over a year, is now a maintenance employee of the Red Lion Hotel, and has moved from the Mission into his own place. He is still growing, but is praising God for how far he's come!

Edward is one of many men and women who have participated in The Bridge since the program launched last year. **The Bridge is transitional housing that helps clients make plans and connect to resources as they move upward out of homelessness.** Clients work with case managers, attend classes on subjects such as Christian faith, finances, coping skills while working side-by-side with YUGM employees building work experience and references.

If you would like to volunteer as a case manager like Monica, or refer someone in need, you can call David Wells at 509.853.4370 or email him at david.wells@yugm.org.

You Can
Help!

- Coffee
- Juice
- Liquid Eggs
- Jello
- 6 - 9 oz Paper Cups
- Styrofoam Cups
- Saran Wrap
- Reynolds Wrap
- Toilet Paper
- Brooms & Dustpans
- Swiffers
- Air Fresheners
- Deodorant
- Socks
- Post-It-Notes

SUPPORT THE BRIDGE AT YUGM.ORG