



The Mission Newsletter
1321 E. Lancaster Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 339-2553
www.ugm-tc.org

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Don Shisler
CEO Emeritus

Charles M. Wolford II
President/CEO

*Thankful
in All Circumstances*

Thanksgiving Day comes just once a year, but giving thanks happens every day at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County.

When a hurting neighbor comes in for a meal, or just to get out of the elements and enjoy some warmth and conversation, their gratitude is plain to see. For those who stay longer to work toward lasting life transformation, every day is clearly a blessing in their eyes.

That's just as it should be for all of us, every single day. Even in the most trying of times, there is always something, however small, to be thankful for. A wonderful way to show your appreciation is by sharing your blessings with others who are less fortunate — which is exactly what you do when you support UGM-TC.

You give people like Anthony the opportunity to change direction and make a fresh start. You help them see the path God has prepared for them and walk alongside them on the way. And, like Anthony, many of them are showered with blessings that they are eager to share with others.

As you start thinking about your own Thanksgiving dinner in the weeks ahead, please remember UGM-TC. Send a gift of support or see what you can do at the Mission to make the holidays special for the men, women and children we serve. And always, keep us in your prayers. God bless you!

In Christ,

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18, NKJV

Save the Date
for our
Annual Ladies Luncheon



**TUESDAY
FEB. 24,
2026**
**11:30 AM
to
1:00 PM**

**Will Rogers Memorial Center
Round Up Inn**

[3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107]

Mark your calendar to hear
special guest

Grace Valentine

Please email event@ugm-tc.org
for more information.



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via email



**Father
Rogers Meredith**

**The Highest Form
of Thought**

As Christians and as students of the Bible, we are not surprised when we find Scripture telling us how or what sort of things we should think about. For instance, in St. Paul, we are told “to take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ” and then in another place to think on things which are “pure, lovely and of good report.” I find this interesting because these and other similar passages suggest a sort of hierarchy of thought. In other words, there are both lower and higher forms of thinking possible even within what is permissible.

So, what is the highest form of thought? In answer, the great Gilbert Chesterton very helpfully puts it this way: “Thanks are the highest form of thought.”

I think I understand why he put it so. It's because when we are grateful, we are focused not on our shortcomings (the past) or on our needs (the future) but on the present. Thanksgiving causes us to face outwardly. To be thankful is to live in the now, which is where God is. To be thankful is to be free. To be thankful is to be authentically human. To be thankful is to turn to God, “that my heart may sing your praise and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever.”

Happy Thanksgiving!

Please pray:

- For our residents, that they will find much to be thankful for, both now and as they begin their new lives.
- That our unsheltered neighbors will find their material and spiritual needs met at UGM-TC this holiday season.

HOW MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have any prayer requests you would like to share, please email them to rmeredith@ugm-tc.org.

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THE
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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



*We are always
thankful — for you!*



Anthony's Transformation!
Read about our first Economic Mobility Pathways Program Graduate



Meet Anthony: UGM-TC's first EMP Program Graduate!



A devoted single father, Anthony worked two jobs to raise his three children in North Carolina. Life wasn't easy, but he had the love of his family. Then his children went to live with their mother in Texas. "I was on my own," he says.

Anthony still had his beloved grandmother. A devout Christian, she instilled in him a love for Jesus and a desire to help others. Before she passed away, she told him he would see his children again. Shortly after, his middle son called. Anthony dropped everything and took a bus to Texas to be near his children. "I got a job," he said, "but I didn't have a place to stay."

It was Christmas 2023 when Anthony arrived at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. He spent two weeks as an overnight guest before joining the Transitional Housing Program and meeting his case manager. She encouraged



him to join our Economic Mobility Pathways (EMP) Program which offered a culinary pathway. Having inherited a passion for cooking from his grandmother, Anthony felt like this could be his calling.

He embarked on a 16-week program with Taste Community Kitchen, earning a paid internship during the final eight weeks. He prepared entrees for two showcase events, impressing local restaurant owners with his expertise and creativity. After completing the internship, he was offered a job at a Wolfgang Puck restaurant.

But Anthony's heart was still at UGM-TC. When a position as a cook in our kitchen became available, Anthony jumped at the chance to give back. "I like to feed everybody that comes in. I like to make sure they have a nice, hot meal. I try to make sure they get seconds if I can," he says. "I got that from my grandmother, because she wouldn't let anybody go hungry." Anthony's crowd-pleasing dessert is his pineapple upside-down cake!

As UGM-TC's very first EMP Program graduate, today Anthony's life looks completely different from when he first walked through our doors. He has earned the American Culinary Federation Certification giving him a competitive edge and the opportunity to make a living wage. Additionally, he is the proud owner of a car and has moved into his own apartment.

It is something only the Lord could have orchestrated, through your generosity. Anthony says, "It shows that when you follow the plan God has for you, blessings come."

Partner Highlight: TFT – Tomorrow's Families Today

As part of the EMP Program, UGM-TC provides Life Learning Skills such as digital skills, principles of professionalism, and financial literacy.

One of our financial literacy partners is Broderick Taylor from Tomorrow's Families Today. Tomorrow's Families Today is a non-profit organization that provides financial education and community services to the Tarrant County community and beyond. Our partnership with TFT has been a blessing in so many ways. In addition to teaching financial literacy to our residents, they impacted Anthony's life through their partnerships.

TFT was gifted a car from Freeman Toyota and received another donated car from Steve Curry. TFT partnered with the Fort Worth ISD CTE Automotive Program to restore one vehicle

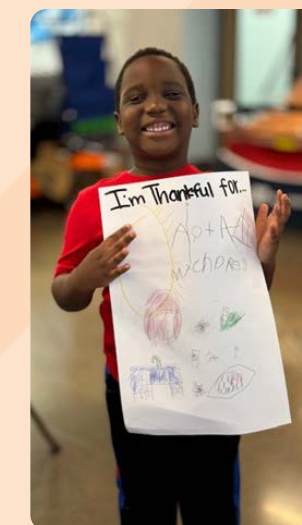
out of the two donated vehicles. Instructors Justin Seely and Tim Walz at OD Wyatt High School used this project to prepare future graduates who may be interested in an automotive career.

Once the youth completed the restoration, TFT donated the vehicle to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County for a resident. UGM-TC was thrilled! When UGM-TC told Anthony about the gifted vehicle, he was blown away by everyone's generosity. Anthony's case manager helped him make necessary preparations to receive the vehicle like ensuring his driver's license was up to date and securing insurance. Freeman Toyota and Tomorrow's Families Today hosted a ceremony for Anthony to celebrate his success and receive this restored vehicle. We are so thankful to all involved in providing this amazing, heartfelt gift!



Kids Are Thankful Too!

Everybody at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County is excited about Thanksgiving — especially the kids! They look forward to the delicious dinner and the festive atmosphere. We asked the kids what they're most thankful for and some answers included God, a place to live, food, school, and friends. Here are just a few of the beautiful and imaginative drawings they made to show their gratitude.



Donate Meals

for Thanksgiving

UGM-TC provides food boxes for The Vineyard on Lancaster tenants and a big, traditional Thanksgiving meal for residents and guests from the street.

