Union Gospel Mission
TARRANT Co

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

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Every Meal is a *Beginning*

Dear Friend,

Chances are, you haven't started preparing for your Thanksgiving dinner yet. But at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, preparations are in full swing. That's because Thanksgiving is a very big deal here, not only to our staff and volunteers, but to the men, women and children who will share a meal made possible by friends like you.

We're already stocking our pantry, scouting the biggest turkeys and hams and making sure we have enough folks to cook, serve, greet and clean up. While we are preparing for the celebratory feast, our dining room continues serving hurting neighbors every day — many hungry for much more than a meal.

In fact, every meal at UGM-TC can be the beginning of a new life. Chapel services before dinner are a great way for overnight guests and residents to grow in their faith and learn about Jesus, leading to transformation.

That is our mission — and yours. That is why we celebrate Thanksgiving not simply as a meal, but as an opportunity to share God's love with those who need Him most. Thank you for your support!

The Board is grateful for your continued prayers during this season of transition as we seek God's guidance in building UGM-TC's leadership team for the future.

In Christ,

Caroline Samis
Chairman

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NKJV

Donate Meals for Thanksgiving

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

Prefer to drop off donations?

Bring your food items to our pantry:
2208 Cypress St, Building B
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Monday – Friday 9AM – 4PM

- Turkey (10-12 lbs)
- Canned green beans
- Canned cranberries or cranberry sauce
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Canned yams



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Follow us on Instagram (@ugmtarrantco)

Include your email address on the enclosed response form to receive Mission news and updates via email

What Residents Are *Thankful For*

I'm grateful for UGM-TC because: They were here for me when I needed help. – *Albert*

I am thankful for my case manager because: She takes the time to take care of all needs. She is very helpful in assisting with resources. – *John*

I am grateful for: The opportunity to save money while working. A place that meets all of my needs. – *Jared*

I'm grateful for UGM-TC because: I have received a lot of opportunities, such as the Work Extension Program for providing employable skills. – *Tayla*

I am thankful for my case manager because: She is so nice and all that she does. She is an amazing soul. – *Neal*

I am thankful for every case manager because: They are helpful, knowledgeable and provide resources. – *Jeremy*

I'm grateful for UGM-TC because: I receive direction to make good decisions, having a place to heal from injuries, and the grace and patience I have received during this time. – *Loren*

I am grateful to UGM-TC because: I have never utilized a single charity. I had no idea how I could ever help someone else without the basic mechanics to live. This has helped me learn to live on less and once life is moving forward, I can do much more on a lot less. – *Rosemarie*

I am thankful for my case manager because: She is so dedicated. I am grateful for UGM-TC because they believed in me. I am grateful for second chances. – *Brandon*

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OCTOBER 2026

THE
MISSION
NEWSLETTER

Stories of the Lord's provisions through you in Tarrant County

Thankful for New Beginnings



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Kiya's Family is Grateful!

Because of You, They Found Stability

"I made a good choice coming here."

Kiya never wanted her children to grow up moving from place to place. For three years, Kiya relied on the generosity of friends and resources like local shelters in search of stability.

Originally from Louisiana, she and her children have lived in Kansas, Maryland, and New York, before arriving in DFW.

Then, Kiya heard about Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. "A sweet lady named Ms. Jackie answered the phone and said, 'I will get you in and help your family,'" Kiya says.

Right away, Kiya knew she and her children had found their pathway to a better life. "I liked the Alpha classes, learning about Jesus and the Bible," Kiya says. She also attended parenting classes and More Than Pretty.

Kiya's daughter, Chara, and son, Keroy, thrived in the Therapeutic Children's Enrichment Program (TCEP). Chara says, "They care about kids. Other teens in the program were going through experiencing homelessness like me. I look forward to the program every day and the bonds I created in there."

Now in the tenth grade, Chara has won an award for her outstanding improvement in geometry. She credits TCEP for giving her the foundation to accomplish that goal. Looking ahead, she hopes to attend Howard University and study criminal law.

Today, you can find Kiya and her children thriving in the comfort of their own place. After three years with no fixed address, Chara is excited to finally celebrate a birthday — her Sweet 16 — at home.

Kiya is grateful for all you have done for her family and so many others. "UGM-TC is a nice place," she says. "When you walk in the door, you probably say, 'How did I get here?' But everything will be better. You'll say, 'I made a good choice coming here because they really work with you and help you.'"

Thankful for Plenty at UGM-TC



One thing everyone appreciates is a home-cooked meal, and we'll be serving that this Thanksgiving. There will be something for everyone: turkey served up roasted or smoked, juicy glazed ham, cornbread dressing and gravy, green bean casserole, candied yams, rolls, cranberry sauce and pie (if anyone still has room!).

Our men, women and families will attend a chapel service followed by a celebratory feast. Together, we'll give thanks to God who brings us together and provides this bounty through your generous giving.





Decades of Dedication Volunteer Doug Robinson

Many dedicated volunteers bring their talents to Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, but few can match Doug Robinson for length of years or hours per week served. As a church member, Doug began serving at UGM-TC over 40 years ago, cooking and serving meals. Today, he has a hand in several key ministries, working nearly every day of the week.

Doug says, "It's so easy in life to become busy with things that don't mean anything. I want to be found, when God takes me home, to be busy about the Father's business."

For Doug, that means lending a hand with Alpha, Authentic Manhood, KiDs Beach Club®, TCEP and the Welcome Center. He also still helps out in the UGM-TC kitchen and volunteers with his church.

One story Doug told was, "the best way to learn, is to teach. There was one Sunday where I wore a full shepherd's garb, had a staff and a beard on. I'll be walking in as a shepherd to teach, making it fun. If you can make it fun and visual, you can teach kids anything."

"I get upset when people say they're waiting for God's call," Doug says. "Are you waiting in a recliner with a remote in your hand? Find where God is working and join Him in His work. You'll learn things you won't learn anywhere else. It's an adventure, part of the journey. And UGM-TC is an adventure. People have such opportunity when serving here!"

If you'd like to embark on your own volunteer journey at UGM-TC, visit www.ugm-tc.org/volunteer.