



Arlington Urban Ministries Newsletter

November 2011 Volume VIII—No. 4

Arlington Urban Ministries assists those who are homeless, imminently homeless, exited from shelters, sick, elderly, disabled, unemployed and the working poor with financial assistance for rent and utilities. AUM is committed to preventing homelessness by keeping more Arlington residents safely in their homes with their utilities connected.

2011 AUM Board

Chair—Gail Smith
Curtis Arnold
Suzanne Berk
Lee Bibb
Mike Colin
Dr. Jerry Edmondson
Don Henderson
Patrick Johnson
Ann Mitchell
Dan Moorhead
Chris Olson
Brenda Richardson
Julie Ryan
Mary Scott
Joe Stenger
Tom Williams
Nancy Williamson
Toy Wooley

Executive Director
Joan Church

A Few Words From Our Board Chair



One of my least favorite things is to ask people for their hard earned money. So, I've been struggling with how to write this article. I could tell you how many clients we served so far in 2011 (1,565), or how your support has provided (\$176,777) to keep clients in their homes, to feed them, to keep their electricity on. I could tell you how your dollars have changed lives, or how thankful our clients are for the assistance you helped provide.

I could tell you how well AUM is doing keeping overhead costs down so that more of your dollars go directly to meet client needs, or how many volunteer hours help make that possible. I could tell you of the increased need in our current economy and the number of potential clients we must turn away, or I could tell you that our volunteers and staff are letting God's light shine thru them each and every day.

But the plain simple fact is that all of the good things that happen at AUM can't continue without your support. We are about to launch our Annual Appeal with the goal to raise \$30,000. You will be receiving the letter in the next few weeks. We need your continued help to make a difference.

Jesus told us that the poor would always be with us. But He also said that what we do for the least of His flock we do for Him. He has given us so much. Please use AUM as one of your hands reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need.

God Bless you as you have blessed AUM,
Gail Smith

A Special Thanks to Chesapeake for the 1800 bottles of water that was recently donated to AUM. Chesapeake's generous donation allowed AUM to distribute water to 457 families during September's Mobile Food Pantry Distribution.



Client Spotlight on Margaret

Margaret H. is a single mother of three teenage boys, struggling with stage-3 bone cancer. She has only one kidney, cannot undergo chemo, and is awaiting a bone marrow transplant. This family of four lives in a one-bedroom apartment that was recently robbed. The families' needs were overwhelming, but AUM was able to make a difference for which Margaret was very grateful! AUM paid a portion of her electric bill, gave her a Walmart gift card, a Nu2U voucher for clothing and towels, three pairs of tennis shoes, socks and sweaters. Because of our faithful donors, AUM is able to provide hope and solutions for families like Margaret's, and all those who turn to AUM for help in their time of desperation and crisis.

- Cherry Christenson, Development Assistant

Need a Christmas or Birthday Gift Idea?

Looking for the perfect gift for folks on your gift list? An honorarium to AUM is an easy, yet meaningful gift that will bring fulfillment to your family or friends.

Your honoree(s) will receive a letter on Christmas themed stationary. They will learn how the donation you gave in their name is making a difference for families struggling to pay their rent or utilities.

Keeping a family safely in their home with their heat, water, and gas connected is a pretty awesome gift!

Call Joan at the Mission Office, 817-861-8585, to start or finish your shopping with your AUM honorarium!

Tamales Are Back!

It's time! Order your delicious pork, chicken, or vegetarian tamales! Order for your holiday entertaining, family dinners or for gifts. Tamales will successfully freeze for minimum of six months.

First United Methodist Church member Anna Piel is coordinating this scrumptious fundraiser to benefit AUM. Orders will be taken at FUMCA during church on November 20 and 27. Delivery available at church on December 11th.

Thank you, Anna!

\$10 doz.—flash frozen tamales
Made by: Texas Tamale Warehouse

Orders Also Taken at AUM Office:

November 13-27

Pick-up: December 12—15

Contact AUM
817-861-8585 joan.church@arlurbmin.org

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!!

It's time to start preparing for the AUM Annual Children's Christmas Party!!! "Christmas in July" was a success and AUM received many wonderful toy donations. In order to make this year's Christmas Party even bigger and better, we are still in need of Walmart \$10 gift cards and more new and unwrapped toys for children ages toddler to age 12.

Suggested items include: sports balls, baby dolls, kitchen or baking sets, Spiderman, Hot Wheels, wrestling action figures, puzzles, games, coloring books and crayons. If you or your organization would like to make a donation, please contact Rhonda Brown-Crowder at the Mission Office or at

Rhonda.brown-crowder@arlurbmin.org. Thank You and God Bless You for your continued support!



AUM volunteer Sheri Womack assisting child with crafts



AUM volunteer Jim Hart, aka Santa Claus!

Make A Difference Day



Amy Giddens, Sr. Vice President, Celeste Stegall, President, Gail Smith, AUM Board Chair, Rita Simpson, Treasurer

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post #8561 sponsored a delicious barbecue dinner and canned food collection to benefit AUM.

The \$253.50 and four large boxes of food this amazing group of volunteers raised will indeed "make a difference" for the struggling families AUM assists.

Thank you, VFW Ladies' Auxiliary!

TXU Annual Conference



Rhonda Brown-Crowder, Celeste Stegall, Patrick Johnson, Joan Church, Jim Monroe, Kim Campbell

AUM staff and volunteers recently attended the 10th Annual TXU Energy Aid Conference in Ft. Worth. TXU is an invaluable partner whose passion for helping those in need in the community is evident.

TXU's Energy Aid program allows AUM to continue to provide ready assistance to its clients by helping them to retain their electric services. Thanks, TXU, for all you do!

Mobile Food Pantry

AUM's Mobile Food Pantry success continues to grow! The food distribution count for October was 490 families. This number is AUM's largest distribution to date. AUM is the only agency in Arlington hosting a Mobile Food Pantry, and will celebrate its one year distribution launch in December. The Star-Telegram recently ran a front page story on the Mobile Food Pantry success and the partnership between AUM and the Tarrant Area Food Bank. If you or your group are interested in volunteering, please contact Rhonda Brown-Crowder at the Mission Office at 817.861.8585 or Rhonda.Brown-Crowder@arlurbmin.org

Client Success Story!



Client Sheila W. came to AUM to request assistance with her electric bill. Sheila shared the fact that she was currently unemployed and was hopeful to find employment soon. During the meeting, Sheila agreed to participate in AUM's Long Term Focus Group Meeting. Sheila provided valuable feedback on how AUM can be more impactful in the services it provides to its clients. Sheila received a gift certificate to AUM's resale store Nu2U.

A few weeks later, Sheila called to let the AUM staff know that she had used her gift certificate to find a nice outfit to wear on a job interview, and she was hired! Sheila said she was very impressed with the quality of merchandise and the selection that was available at Nu2U, and that her purchase helped put her "best foot forward" at the job interview!

