CEO Summit rolls to overflow hotel

Attention CEOs: There’s still room at the table for you for our September 25–27 CEO Summit in New York City, but we’re now directing folks into our second hotel, just down the street. Once again, the Summit will be a gathering of thought leaders to talk about the biggest issues facing rescue missions in 2012 and 2013, but the highlight will be joining 1,500 city leaders from across North
America—maybe people from your city—to talk about city-wide efforts to serve the poor and evangelize the lost. There is so much that can get done if we come together as united disciples of Jesus. CEOs, we need you—your missions need you—in New York City. For more details, go to the CEO Summit page; look for registration information at the bottom of that web page.

New contraception mandate begins today
Most, if not all, rescue missions and thousands more potentially non-exempt religious employers will fall under the controversial HHS contraception mandate this week. The new requirement, which is part of the Affordable Care Act, applies to all health plans and plan years starting on or after August 1, 2012. Employers are now required to fully cover all FDA-approved forms of contraception, such as birth-control, sterilization, reproductive counseling, and drugs that are known to cause abortions (abortifacients). Unfortunately, the HHS rule only exempts a "religious employer" that: “(1) has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; (2) primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; (3) primarily serve persons who share its religious tenets; and (4) is a non-profit organization described in section 6033(a)(1) and section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the Code.” (77 Fed. Reg. at 8726 and 16502.)

While each rescue mission is different, a strict reading of the HHS definition means that most rescue missions fail the four-part definition on the first, third, or fourth parts. Even if your rescue mission is a recognized church and employs clergy, it is unclear how the federal government and courts will decide if “inculcation of religious values” is your mission’s purpose, or if your mission “primarily serve[s] persons who share its religious tenets.”

If you have questions about how the contraception mandate and other aspects of the ACA affect your mission, please feel free to contact AGRM’s Government Liaison Rhett Butler.

Many missions getting on board with sock boxes
We’ve doubled the number of missions participating in the North American Sock Drive inspired by Walt Disney Picture’s new family movie, The Odd Life of Timothy Green, since the last issue of Street Smart. Thousands of boxes are now in locations throughout the country. If you haven’t yet jumped on this rare opportunity, there’s still time. The movie doesn’t open until August 15, so you have a week or so to get the boxes in place. If you still haven’t figured out what this is all about, listen to Janet Steinhauer at Fresno Rescue Mission (Fresno, Calif.) doing a stellar job talking about the campaign on her local TV station. To get involved, go to www.agrm.org/sockdrive.

Check that AGRM has your most up-to-date contact info
AGRM relies on email to keep in touch with members. If you ended up with this issue of Street Smart because it was forwarded to you internally and you seem to be hearing about legislative alerts, educational events, and other news secondhand, we might have an incorrect email address for you. Please click here to check and update your profile. If you are up to date, think about others on your staff and pass this link along so they can check. While you’re at it, check your email program’s spam filters and have your IT department “white list” emails coming from agrm.org. That way your important AGRM emails will not be hung up indefinitely or lost in cyberspace. Be sure to keep your personal and mission profiles updated anytime your website or domain names change.

AGRM districts plan fall conferences
Be planning now to attend your district conference this fall! Members in AGRM’s nine districts will be meeting for education, fellowship, and encouragement. For more information or to register for your district’s gathering, go to www.agrm.org and click on the Attend an Event tab. Then choose your district name for more information and registration details.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>September 13–14</td>
<td>Word of Life Inn &amp; Conference Center Schroon Lake, New York</td>
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Northwest  September 19–21  Union Gospel Ministries  Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
Southern  September 19–21  Sheraton Birmingham  Birmingham, Alabama
Midwest  October 3–5  Garrison Conference Center  Indianapolis, Indiana
Mideast  October 4–5  Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North  Mars, Pennsylvania
North Central  October 11–13  The Gospel Mission  Sioux City, Iowa
South Central  October 11–13  Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission  Shreveport, Louisiana
Pacific  October 18–20  Gospel Center Rescue Mission  Stockton, California
Mountain  October 18–21  Sunshine Rescue Mission  Flagstaff, Arizona

Looking down the street...

- The CBS Buzz Tour and the local network affiliate held a food drive for the Joy Junction Homeless Shelter (Albuquerque, N.M.) today at a local mall. The CBS star-branded and mobile studio-equipped “CBS Buzz Tour” is crisscrossing the country this summer with network ambassadors, activities, and giveaways to 60 markets in 60 days as a thank you to the networks viewers.

- The new day center and renovated food pantry at Mel Trotter Ministries (Grand Rapids, Mich.) have been nominated for a Downtown Award in the Adaptive Reuse category. Online voting will take place throughout August to determine a first-place winner in each category. The winners will be decided by a combined public vote and awards committee vote. Anyone can support the mission by visiting www.downtowngr.org/vote to cast a vote.

Homeless man allegedly stabs other transients in Los Angeles area
A homeless man who authorities suspect stabbed three Los Angeles-area transients while they slept and left behind rambling “death warrants” is believed to also be responsible for two similar attacks in Santa Barbara. According to a Los Angeles Times report, Courtney Anthony Robinson, 38, surrendered to police and was taken into custody without incident. Robinson is suspected in the Los Angeles attacks that took place July 2–3. In those three attacks, knives were left in the victims’
bodies, but none of the stabbings was fatal, police said. Police would not discuss a possible motive for the stabbings, but said no robbery was evident. Robinson was booked for attempted murder at the city’s Metropolitan Detention Center and is being held on $500,000 bail, plus $31,705 in outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

**FDA announces plan to reduce abuse of opioid prescription medications**

In order to cut down on abuse, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced new safety measures for a class of opioid medications used to treat moderate to severe chronic pain. When the medications fall into the wrong hands or are used for recreational purposes, they can cause serious harm, including overdose and death. According to a [CNN report](http://www.cnn.com), the FDA has provided a blueprint to more than 20 companies that manufacture opioid analgesics on how best to educate physicians who prescribe them. The education guidelines include information on weighing the risks and benefits of opioid therapy, choosing patients appropriately, managing and monitoring patients, and counseling patients on the safe use of these drugs. In addition, the education includes information on how to recognize evidence of opioid misuse, abuse, and addiction. Manufacturers will also be asked to provide an easier-to-read information sheet for patients, explaining the ways to use the drugs, what the dangers are, and the best way to discard the drugs if they are no longer being used.

The plan, known as a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy or REMS, is part of the government’s initiative to address the prescription drug abuse epidemic in the U.S. The FDA hopes that manufacturers will have their continuing opioid education plans in place by March of next year.

**Additional preventive health services for women begin today**

Starting today, about 47 million American women will have access to additional preventive health services as part of a new provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). According to a [Time magazine report](http://www.time.com), preventive care coverage will now be provided for insured women enrolling in new health care plans or renewing their existing policies on or after August 1. The eight services women are now eligible to receive under the new provision without a copay or any cost sharing include: well-woman visits; gestational diabetes screening; HPV DNA testing; sexually transmitted infection counseling; HIV screening and counseling; contraception and contraceptive counseling; breast-feeding support, supplies, and counseling; and interpersonal and domestic violence screening and counseling. These services are in addition to existing preventive care that the ACA makes available free to those with private health insurance and Medicare, including annual wellness visits; cholesterol screening; other cardiovascular screenings; and cancer screenings, including mammograms, colonoscopy, and cervical cancer tests.

**Adult children increasingly moving back to parents’ homes**

Whether in their 20s or 30s, black or white, in the West or Northeast, adult kids find there’s no place like home when their finances are in a tailspin or their relationships are in shambles. According to a [USA Today report](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com), the number of young adults ages 20 to 34 who lived with their parents jumped from 17 percent in 1980 to 24 percent in recent years that are part of the Great Recession. The rise was sharpest among those under 25—a new high of 43 percent vs. 32 percent in 1980—but it increased largely across the board. Even among 30- to 34-year-olds, nearly one in 10 lived with parents. The only segment not affected: young adults with graduate degrees. The share living with parents has stayed at 8 percent since 1980. The number of kids never moving out or coming back
after college or divorce had declined in the 1990s but increased faster during the last recession, which hit young adults particularly hard. Unemployment among young workers has hovered above 12 percent. Financial insecurity, coupled with massive student loan debt, has exacerbated another trend that might encourage some to live with their parents: delaying marriage and postponing having children. Many also return when marriages end. Among 30- to 34-year-olds who live with their parents, 20 percent are divorced.

**More Americans have chronic health conditions**

More than one in five middle-aged U.S. adults, and nearly half of adults over age 65, have more than one chronic health condition, such as hypertension and diabetes, according to a new government report. According to an [NBC News report](https://www.nbcnews.com), in 2010, 21.3 percent of women and 20.1 percent of men between ages 45 and 64 had at least two chronic health conditions. Just a decade earlier, the rate among men was 15.2 percent, and among women it was 16.9 percent. Increases were also seen in adults older than 65, with 49 percent of men and 42.5 percent of women reporting in 2010 that they had at least two chronic health conditions; in 2000, the rates were 39.2 percent of men and 35.8 percent of women. Researchers believe the increases are due mainly to rises in three conditions: hypertension, diabetes, and cancer. These increases might be the result of more new cases, or due to people living longer with the conditions because of advances in medical treatments.

**Poverty levels on track to match levels seen in 1960s**

Poverty is making a comeback in the United States. According to a [Fox News report](https://www.foxnews.com), the ranks of America’s poor are on track to climb to levels unseen in nearly half a century. The Associated Press surveyed more than a dozen economists, think tanks, and academics, both nonpartisan and those with known liberal or conservative leanings, and found a broad consensus: The official poverty rate will rise from 15.1 percent in 2010, climbing as high as 15.7 percent. Several predicted a more modest gain, but even a 0.1 percentage point increase would put poverty at the highest since 1965. According to the survey, poverty is spreading at record levels across many groups, from underemployed workers and suburban families to the poorest poor. More discouraged workers are giving up on the job market, leaving them vulnerable as unemployment aid begins to run out. The analysts’ estimates suggest that some 47 million people in the U.S., or 1 in 6, were poor last year. An increase of one-tenth of a percentage point to 15.2 percent would tie the 1983 rate, the highest since 1965. The highest level on record was 22.4 percent in 1959, when the government began calculating poverty figures. Poverty is closely tied to joblessness. While the unemployment rate improved from 9.6 percent in 2010 to 8.9 percent in 2011, the employment-population ratio remained largely unchanged, meaning many discouraged workers simply stopped looking for work. Food stamp rolls, another indicator of poverty, also grew.

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**One Stone, Two Birds**

Wondering if your mission’s publications are being read? Looking for a way to boost your thrift store sales? The **Rescue Mission** (Fort Wayne, Ind.) accomplished two tasks with one effort with a very simple and basically cost-free offer. They put this statement in their monthly newsletter: “Bring this newsletter to Treasure House [thrift store] June 16–30, and receive 20 percent off your entire purchase!”
Bessemer, Alabama: Stewardship Manager—The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center seeks a stewardship manager. Duties include: cultivating major donors, grant writing, overseeing special events, media relations. College degree preferred; five to seven years’ experience in successful fund development. Candidates should submit résumé to hrand@sourcepointe.com. No phone calls, please. Added 8/1/2012

Wichita, Kansas: Executive Director—Wichita men’s shelter, with a $1.4 million operating budget, is looking to partner with the right Christ-centered individual to lead its overnight housing, residential recovery, and community outreach ministries. Details available here. Renewed 8/1/2012

To advertise in future Market Street Classifieds:

Members of AGRM can place a 30-word classified ad listing available positions in two consecutive issues of Street Smart at no charge; additional words will be charged at 50 cents per word. Non-members can place an ad for $25 per issue for a 30-word ad; additional words will be charged at 50 cents per word. AGRM members can renew ads after the second placement at $15 per issue for a 30-word ad. Ads are also placed on the AGRM website. Members can also sponsor Street Smart for $350 per issue. Email desired ad placement to Brad Lewis (subject line: Street Smart advertising). Ads are subject to editing to conform to Street Smart style, and AGRM reserves the right to reject any ads or sponsorships it deems inappropriate for members. All ads are due one week before issue date.

Jesus, the Foundation

Life is fragile. Failed relationships, domestic abuse, economic hardships, incarceration, multiple addictions—and especially, separation from God—can all lead to a life that’s shattered and a future that’s fractured. Yet our rescue missions constantly serve as places that empower men and women to put the pieces of their lives back together.

The apostle Paul wrote, “No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Jesus Christ is indeed the foundation on which a life can be made whole. Once the spirit is restored, the other pieces can be secured into place: regaining physical health, repairing self-esteem, renewing ties with loved ones, overcoming addiction, and learning skills that lead to permanent employment.
One day at a time, we provide a repair plan for life that is built on God’s Word and cemented with love, encouragement, and compassion. What a great joy to serve as safe havens of hope where God rescues, recovers, and restores broken lives.

Contributed by Sherry Pitney, executive director of Rockford Rescue Mission (Rockford, Ill.). Used with permission from The Rescuer newsletter.

To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for "Street Light," please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via email.

Is something unique and exciting going on at your mission? Share your news with fellow AGRM members by emailing items for "Our Street" to Brad Lewis.

AGRM is a nonprofit organization committed to furthering rescue missions. AGRM provides limited space in "Market Street" for advertising opportunities, services, and products to advance the cause of rescue missions. AGRM is not responsible for the claims made by its advertisers and reserves the right to select or reject any advertising, in the sole discretion of AGRM, for any or no reason.

PRIVACY: Protecting your privacy is very important to us at AGRM. We will not rent, sell, or exchange your e-mail address with a third party for any purpose.

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