

streetsmart



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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Early-Bird Convention Rate Ends Wednesday

This is a reminder that the early-bird registration rate for AGRM's 2015 Annual Convention will end at midnight MST Wednesday, December 17. Don't let this opportunity for the biggest savings on the convention slip away. This year's event, themed "I'm Diving In," features a packed program, including opening-day seminars at local rescue missions and at corporations headquartered in the greater Seattle area. General session speakers will include Eugene Cho, Bill Butterworth, Ray Bakke, Lina Thompson, Tony Campolo, and others.

The event will be held May 27–30, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Grand on Seattle's Eastside. Go to our [online registration page](#) to check out convention highlights and to get yourself and your staff signed up now before this special rate ends.

AGRM President Continues to Make the Rounds

Even during this busy holiday season, AGRM President John Ashmen is out among members. This past week, he spoke at a fundraising gala for **Long Beach Rescue Mission** (Long Beach, Calif.). The next day he met with the entire staff of business member **Brewer Direct Inc.** (Monrovia, Calif.) to update them on happenings in the world of rescue missions. John's 2015 schedule is already filling. If you would like the AGRM president to be involved with an event at your mission, contact Executive Assistant [Christine Matos](#).

There's Still Time to Vote in AGRM Elections

All AGRM members received email ballots last week. In the Mideast, Midwest, and Southern districts, members got a ballot to elect district officers, a board representative, and a board member-at-large. Members in all other districts received just the board-member-at-large ballot. The newly elected board members will serve three-year terms, starting January 1.

You still have time—until Thursday, December 18—to cast your ballot. If you have any questions, please contact Executive Assistant [Christine Matos](#).

Denver Mattress Company's Matching Campaign Benefits 69 Missions

Denver Mattress Company and AGRM are pleased to announce that their charity campaign this holiday season raised \$301,848.03 for those in need. During November 1–30, Denver Mattress Company pledged to match every dollar donated to 69 participating rescue missions, with a \$2,500 cap per market. In all, \$163,832 donations were made. Although not all missions met the cap that Denver Mattress pledged to match, the company generously donated the full \$150,000 amount to

the participating missions.

Bill Mollard Appointed to AGRM Board

Bill Mollard, president of **Union Gospel Mission** (Vancouver, British Columbia) has been selected by AGRM's board of directors to serve out the remaining term of Mike Rideout who recently resigned as CEO of **Union Gospel Mission of Salem** (Salem, Oregon), and subsequently from the AGRM board of directors. Bill will be the board's Northwest district representative, and his term will end December 31, 2016.

Looking Down the Street...

- Del Maxfield is currently serving as interim executive director of **Union Gospel Mission of Salem** (Salem, Ore.). Del was formerly the CEO of Denver Rescue Mission (Denver, Colo.).
- Mark Grasso has been appointed executive director of **Good Samaritan Mission** (Danbury, Conn.). Mark had been with Catholic Charities in Bridgeport and Danbury for the past 12 years, most recently as vice president. The Good Samaritan Mission was created by Jericho Partnership to provide in-depth, long-term transitional programs to homeless and other at-risk men. Jericho Partnership is an umbrella organization for 24 urban and suburban churches and 10 hands-on transformative ministries to Danbury's youth, homeless, and other at-risk communities.
- **Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities** (St. Paul, Minn.) has appointed Charles P. Morgan as its new executive director. He was most recently vice president of programming at the **Los Angeles Mission** (Los Angeles, Calif.) and its Anne Douglas Center for Women. Charles replaces the retiring Ken Peterson, who has served as executive director since 2006.



Mayors Say Congress Isn't Helping with Homelessness

Hunger and homelessness are on the rise in cities across the country, and Congress isn't helping, the U.S. Conference of Mayors said in a report released Thursday. According to a [Washington Post article](#), the report from the mayors wasn't a comprehensive look at all cities, but included responses from the mayors of 25 cities. It found that in the past year, 71 percent of those cities saw an increase in requests for emergency food assistance, and 43 percent saw an increase in the number of families experiencing homelessness.

“Mayors in cities across the country are doing all they can to provide the resources for those in need, but the number of people looking for food assistance seems to be growing,” said Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider, co-chair of the Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness, in a statement. Schneider said she was concerned about cities’ emergency food and shelter programs in the coming years “if federal budgeting makes it harder, not easier, to meet our responsibilities to all of our people.”

Federal emergency food assistance makes up at least 20 percent of the food distributed in eight of the cities. Los Angeles had the highest reliance at 51 percent, and expressed worry over slashed funding.

Utah Man Commits Random Acts of Pasta

Several months ago, Matt Tribe snagged a limited edition \$99 pasta pass from Olive Garden that allows the purchaser unlimited meals for seven weeks. After learning he could use the pass for take-out orders, he decided to commit Random Acts of Pasta—he ordered a pasta meal each day and gave it to friends, family, and strangers, [reports Today.com](#).

He quickly started sharing the meals with the homeless after several friends weren’t home to receive his unannounced gifts of food. In the end, Tribe used the pasta pass 125 times, visiting 11 Olive Garden locations in the process. A video of him taking deliveries to the homeless on the street went viral, along with the story behind it. Although some wondered about his motives, Tribe says he simply wanted to show people how easy it is to do something nice for someone. He said his Random Acts of Pasta project was one of the most fun and fulfilling things he’s ever done, and he wants to find more opportunities to give.

Homeless Encampment Cleared and Shut Down

Police and city crews recently began dismantling the nation’s largest homeless encampment, notoriously named The Jungle, in a controversial move that aims to move hundreds of transients from the center of San Jose and find them affordable housing, according to an [NBC report](#).

Businesses owners surrounding the encampment said the streets filled up with evacuated homeless people looking for somewhere to settle, since an alternative place to stay wasn’t offered. At least 130 people voluntarily left the makeshift community, a short drive from some of Silicon Valley’s wealthiest tech giants. City homeless advocates said those people have already been helped with either permanent housing, subsidies, or housing vouchers, though social workers have not been able to find homes for everyone.

A city representative said wet weather and unsanitary conditions made it imperative that the camp be cleared. But opponents argued that some homeless people either won’t or don’t want to find traditional housing and will set up their lives in another non-sanctioned spot.



Alcohol Availability Affects Domestic Violence Rates

Restricting the number of locations where alcohol can be sold in a community may help reduce domestic violence, says a [U.S. News report](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reviewed 16 studies that examined the link between alcohol sales regulations in communities and rates of intimate partner violence. The only factor consistently associated with rates of domestic violence was the number of locations where alcohol was sold (including bars, restaurants, and liquor, grocery, and convenience stores).

Most of the studies found that communities with a greater number of places to buy or drink alcohol also had higher rates of domestic violence. That link held true even after the researchers accounted for factors such as local poverty and jobless rates. Other anti-drinking policies, such as higher prices and taxation, and limiting the hours of operation of alcohol outlets, don't appear to reduce intimate partner violence. The researchers said further study is needed to determine why that's the case.

Meanwhile, funding has increased for veterans' homelessness programs; however, they have a long way to go to meet the goal of ending veterans' homelessness by next year. Nationally, homelessness has declined in recent years but not at the same rate as veteran homelessness.

Gentrification Doesn't Help Many Urban Neighborhoods

While once-affluent professionals settled into previously rundown neighborhoods, these gentrifiers aren't actually transforming neighborhoods. The opposite of gentrification is happening—instead of neighborhoods rebounding, they are getting older, shabbier, and the people who live there are falling deeper into poverty.

According to a [report](#) in *The Guardian*, the number of neighborhoods with a high poverty rate has tripled over the last 40 years. The authors of a new report found that over the past 40 years, more than 2,000 census tracts went from being a below-poverty neighborhood to a high-poverty neighborhood, and neighborhoods whose rate of poverty dropped from above 30 percent to less than 15 percent were clustered in particular areas. In general, poverty only tended to get deeper and reach into more neighborhoods.

One of the contributing reasons to this trend was the decline in urban racial segregation. Those who could afford to move out of poor neighborhoods did so as soon as they could, leaving a concentration of poor residents behind. Another reason for the increase in poor neighborhoods is their aging buildings and decline in infrastructure. As buildings get older, their value goes down and they become more affordable for low-income families. This happens slowly, year by year.

Smoking Hinders Alcohol Rehab

A new study indicates that smoking can inhibit the success of treatment for alcohol abuse, putting people who are addicted to both tobacco and alcohol in a double bind. According to a [News Medical report](#), clients who smoke don't stay as long in alcohol treatment programs than non-smokers and may have poorer treatment outcomes than non-smokers. The information comes from a study by the University at Buffalo Research Institute on Addictions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, less than 20 percent of people in the U.S. are regular smokers. However, a majority of people with alcohol disorders are smokers. In addition, both smoking and problem drinking are associated with life challenges such as unemployment, lack of high school diploma or GED, criminal justice involvement, mental illness, and/or other substance abuse.

The study analyzed more than 21,000 adult treatment seekers from 253 community outpatient substance abuse clinics across New York State. Former research shows that if people can quit smoking when entering alcohol treatment, they may have better outcomes. However, trying to address both addictions at once is very challenging.



Ugly Sweaters Raise Funds for Research

Maybe your mission can adapt this idea in the future—or even scramble to add it to an existing holiday event this year. In 2013, Stand Up To Cancer injected some fun into their fundraising for the holiday season, launching a campaign that encouraged its supporters to see how many days they could wear “ugly sweaters” to earn donations from friends and family. Supporters set up online fundraising pages where they posted pictures of themselves in their hideous holiday sweaters and friends made donations. The nonprofit also encouraged participants to hold ugly sweater parties and share photos on social media sites. All told, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* reported that the campaign raised \$64,000.



Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Development Director—Responsible to work closely with the executive director of Winston-Salem Rescue Mission to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for total mission fundraising, including major gifts, direct mail, grants, record keeping, marketing, public relations, special events, and volunteers. Candidate must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, honor Him in their walk, and be a current member or regular attender of a local Bible believing church; five years' development experience in a faith-based ministry. Ideal candidate will have: (1) Experience working with a significant donor base and a \$2 million plus in annual donations; (2) Experience managing a major capital campaign; (3) Proven ability to acquire grants; (4) Prefer knowledge of Pledge Maker software; (5) A passion to increase sustainable funding across multiple source types. Email cover letter and résumé with references to ken.heater@wsrescue.org. Added 12/15/14

Oxnard, California: Director, Women's and Children Rescue Mission and Emergency Shelter—The Director is responsible to oversee the mission's core value of Changing Lives for Good for the women and children we serve through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Provide a complete continuum of care specifically tailored to the needs of the homeless by offering shelter, intervention, substance abuse recovery, case management, education, life skills development, vocational training, employment, and transitional housing. Develop and implement all ministry services provided, planning, goal setting, program organization, budgeting, outcomes measurement, decision making, personnel recruiting, motivating, training, and ministry improvements in alignment with RMA's Lead Like Jesus culture and Mission, Vision, and Values. Be an advocate for the poor and needy through public education and awareness. Facilitate and model commitment to fundraising, and community and church relations. Ensure collaboration with local churches, agencies, school districts, and government boards to affect an integrated program capable of meeting the felt needs within the community. Assure excellence of recruiting and placement of ministry staff and assure staff's gifting's are effectively assessed, cultivated and leveraged for the advancement of the ministry. Encourage direct reports to demonstrate the love of Christ to transform the lives of homeless and addicted people. This is a full-time, exempt position located in Oxnard, CA. Compensation is commensurate with skills and experience, and includes benefits. Added 12/15/14

Program Description: The Lighthouse for Women and Children, under the umbrella of the Ventura County Rescue Mission, is a ministry of the Rescue Mission Alliance (RMA), a Christian nonprofit organization that has been serving the less fortunate in Southern California through emergency and long-term rehabilitation services since 1972. The Lighthouse for Women & Children offers a 9-month residential Life Recovery Program, 30- to 90-day Emergency Shelter (with 6-month Employment Search and transfer to the Life Recovery Program options), and a 2-year Transitional / Sober Living Program.

Qualifications: Must be a committed Christian woman, active in a local church, with exemplary character and a proven ability to lead, initiate, problem-solve, disciple, and pray for clients. Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a related field (Bible college or seminary preferred) plus a minimum of five years of ministry, management, and nonprofit experience; strong writing, computer, and administrative skills. Must be a collaborative leader with excellent managerial skill, strong relational and team-building skills. Gifted in organizational development with strong strategic

planning abilities. Creative and logical problem solver with demonstrated successful experience and understanding of discipleship or addiction recovery. Ability to develop budgets and manage expenses.

Interested Parties: Please email your cover letter and résumé to vortiz@erescuemission.org or fax to (805) 385-4126 with a cover page indicating the position you are interested in applying for. No phone calls please. *Added 12/15/14*

Rockford, Illinois: Director of Development—Full-time position requiring strong leadership, management, and personal-relations skills; multitasker; high energy; extensive experience with donor relations, campaigns, gift-giving efforts. Contact Lisa J. Pfiffner at atlisapfiffner@rockfordrescuemission.org. *Added 12/15/14*

Muskegon, Michigan: Director of Women's and Family Ministries—Muskegon Rescue Mission is seeking a director for our women's and family ministry. A bachelor's degree in a human service field is required with a master's degree preferred. Must be able to work well with people of diverse backgrounds, as well as other ministries, agencies, volunteers, guests, and staff members. Key responsibilities include: implementing and managing ministry programs that provide hospitality, care, dignity, and hope to our guests; supervision of staff; administering policies and procedures. This is a full-time position. Please email résumé and letter of interest to ssmith@muskegonmission.org. *Added 12/15/14*

Fairmont, West Virginia: Assistant Director/Events Coordinator—West Virginia Rescue Ministries is looking for a mature, hard-working Christian to fill the Assistant Director/ Events Coordinator position. Job description available and résumé accepted by emailing wvrm@hotmail.com. *Added 12/15/14*

New York, New York: Director of Men's Centers—The Director will be responsible for the oversight of all aspects and departments of The Bowery Mission at two locations working with the strong leadership team in place: administration, operations, Life Transformation Program (60 beds per site), Career Center, food service, security, housekeeping, and effective reporting of such oversight back to our headquarters. Able to effectively articulate the vision of The Bowery Mission and enlist potential donors and volunteers. Responsible for continuing to develop and lead our competent and effective team. The Director will review the effectiveness of key staff, making changes where necessary, helping draft written goals to ensure effective execution of priorities, lead weekly meetings, and work with key staff to ensure focus on priorities/outcomes.

Direct Reports include: Life Transformation Program, Operations & Community Relations, Career Center/Alumni Services, Chapel & Compassionate Care, Business Management/Gifts-In-Kind.

Requirements: Bachelor's (Nonprofit Management, Divinity, Social Work, etc.); five years' related ministry leadership experience (Prefer: Master's, 10 years' experience & Fundraising experience);

successful in team building, volunteer coordination, PR; proven administrative, organizational, and supervisory skills; excellent verbal/written skills; commitment to effectively work as part of a bigger team.

Email cover letter, résumé, and a one-page philosophy of ministry to: cbachofer@bowery.org. In subject line "Director of Men's Centers" No calls please. Application Deadline is December 26. Added 12/15/14

Association of Christian Thrift Stores Workshop—Save the date for the Association of Christian Thrift Stores (ACTS) Workshop. The dates are January 11–14, 2015, and the annual workshop will be held at the Sheraton in Birmingham, Alabama. For more information or to register and reserve a room visit www.actsworld.com. Added 12/1/14

Everett, Washington: Case Manager—The Everett Gospel Mission (EGM) is seeking a Case Manager at the Women and Children's facility to provide ongoing support and expertise in a Christian environment to the homeless community. This position requires the integration of personal faith and professional social work, as well as using comprehensive assessment, planning, implementation, and overall evaluation of individual resident needs.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a related field and/or five years' experience with the homeless community or disadvantaged.

Duties and responsibilities: Coordinate the integration of social services agencies through case management with external service organizations. Promote effective and efficient utilization of local housing, legal, mental health, and other agencies to assist the resident to remove barriers to stabilization. Mobilizes resources and interviews, as needed, to achieve expected goal to assist in achieving desired outcomes. Collaborate with the case management staff in the development and execution of the plan of care and achievement of goals. Participate in the development and implementation of resident care policies and protocols in order to provide clear expectations and responsibilities of both staff and residents.

All offers of employment are contingent on satisfactory results of a drug screening and criminal history background check. Cover letter and résumé will only be accepted by fax: (425) 303-8076; email: speterson@egmission.org; or mail: POB 423, Everett, WA 98206. Added 12/1/14

Salt Lake City, Utah: House Manager (Women)—Mature Christian woman needed to serve as a live-in House Manager for Christian Residential Program in Salt Lake City, Utah, which serves women of all types, many who are survivors of abuse. The House Manager will provide a Christian home-like atmosphere for clients by offering residents empathy, understanding, encouragement, and support in practical daily affairs. The House Manager is responsible for managing all aspects of running the home under the direct supervision of the Program Director. Compensation includes private room, salary, and other benefits. Must have driver's license. Experience required. Please email résumé to: sharrison@saltlakecitymission.org or send by mail to P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110 Attention: Shannon Harrison. Added 12/1/14

Salt Lake City, Utah: House Manager (Men)—Mature Christian man needed to serve as a live-in

House Manager for Christian Residential Program in Salt Lake City, Utah, which serves men of all types many who are survivors of abuse. The House Manager will provide a Christian home-like atmosphere for clients by offering residents empathy, understanding, encouragement, and support in practical daily affairs. The House Manager is responsible for managing all aspects of running the home under the direct supervision of the Program Director. Compensation includes private room, salary, and other benefits. Driver's license a plus. Experience required. Please email résumé to: sharrison@saltlakecitymission.org or send by mail to P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110 Attention: Shannon Harrison. Added 12/1/14

Salt Lake City, Utah: Part Time Positions—We are in need of individuals for positions of part-time employment who are willing to serve the Lord first. We need licensed Utah drivers with a clean driving record for the past 10 years and with experience driving larger vehicles classified as CDL or Class A licensure preferred. Need able-bodied men and women who can sort, lift, and carry 50 pounds or more at times. Need those willing to pour out themselves in these positions of employment with the heart of service to “the least of these” and “unto the Lord” (Matthew 25:40, 45 & Colossians 3:23). We need qualified and willing help to serve those who are in the most need. Refer all interest in positions to Shannon Harrison, M.A., Program Director, by email or application sharrison@saltlakecitymission.org. Office address 1151 S. Redwood Road in Salt Lake City. Added 12/1/14

Salt Lake City, Utah: Ranch Director—We are in need of a male Ranch Director who has chaplaincy experience for full-time employment that is willing to serve the Lord first (possibility for husband and wife team). Duties include experience with and ability to oversee Ranch employees and men in program as a head Shepherd of the ranch flock of men. Need someone with proficiency of caring for ranch and farm animals including chickens, sheep, horses, cattle, bulls, etc. with the ability to determine concerns with the animals and enlist assistance for them. Ability to supervise and utilize running ranch equipment including but not limited to vehicles, generator, water pump, solar system, etc. and or willingness to be trained. As head Shepherd at the ranch, the Ranch Director will provide spiritual counsel and encouragement to disciples of the mission through weekly meetings with each disciple and perform church service at the ranch on Sundays. He will be a mature Christ-centered man of God familiar with addictions, recovery, and relapse prevention. He will also be comfortable with crisis intervention and triaging problems or potential problems with the ranch equipment, ranch animals, but most importantly, the ranch men. Should you be this man to fill these shoes, please prayerfully consider contacting Shannon Harrison, M.A., Program Director, at sharrison@saltlakecitymission.org or at (801) 355-6310. Added 12/1/14

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 (plus 50 cents per additional word). Ads are also placed on the AGRM website. AGRM business 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.



Backwoods Bethlehem

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times” (Micah 5:2).

No guest rooms were available in the patriarchal home, so Joseph and Mary were somehow directed to the place where the animals were kept warm and dry. In the backwoods of Bethlehem, though, a stable made of wood—as portrayed in most nativity scenes—would have been highly unlikely.

In “Questions about Jesus’ Birth,” John Ankerberg describes the setting this way:

Most homes were multi-leveled. They had a lower room or cellar that was usually used as a storeroom. In areas like Bethlehem, where there were caves, a cave beneath the house or in back of the house would be used as a storeroom for food or supplies. It could also be a place where the family animals would be fed and sheltered at night, protected from the cold, thieves, and predators.

Now we have the picture. Small sleepy town. Cave hewn out of the rocky hillside. Stone cold feeding trough filled with hay. What was God thinking?

We can unknowingly and quickly put God in the box of human strategy. Just as God began His rescue mission through Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, He can just as easily shake this world as He moves in communities like:

Northfield, Vermont
Franklin, New Jersey
Hiram, Georgia
Kearney, Nebraska
Condon, Oregon

Never heard of these towns? No worries—God has. God chooses unlikely places as the setting, and unlikely people as the characters in His story.

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To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

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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.

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