

# streetsmart



*Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM*

Useful news and information for association members

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**ourstreet**  
News from AGRM and our members

### Final Day to Save on Annual Convention Registration Rates

Today is the last day to save \$30 per person for AGRM's 2018 Annual Convention, which will be held June 12–15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The rate goes up at midnight tonight! Simply head to [www.agrm.org/2018convention](http://www.agrm.org/2018convention) for all the details and to register.

### Convention Scholarship Deadline Is Tomorrow

Grant money has again been made available to AGRM to significantly defray convention costs for qualifying members. The scholarship includes money for registration, partial lodging costs, and even some transportation expenses. Scholarships are intended for full-time member mission staff members whose mission operating budgets are under \$2 million. The grant allows for up to three people to attend from the same mission. If you are interested, click [here](#) for full details and to apply for the scholarship. *Note that the deadline to apply is tomorrow, March 16.*

### Great Meetings, Great Breakthroughs at DC Forum

As you read this issue of *Street Smart*, rescue mission leaders from across the U.S. are heading home from key meetings on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., as part of AGRM's annual DC Forum. Just yesterday, they held meetings with lawmakers and staff members from their areas from both the Senate and House of Representatives, talking about issues critical to nonprofits—particularly organizations that are meeting the needs of poor and powerless people.

The group of 40 participants spent Tuesday meeting in the Member's Room in the Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress. A highlight of the day was a session with Congressman Kevin McCarthy

(R-CA), who serves as House Majority Leader. The group also toured and had dinner at the newly opened Museum of the Bible.

AGRM president John Ashmen and Candace Gregory, president/CEO of **Open Door Mission** (Omaha, Nebraska), met with HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Neal J. Rackleff, and several HUD staff members for more than an hour to discuss a number of issues, including better messaging on the work that missions do. A task list was compiled and some anticipated projects will soon be undertaken together.

John, along with Carlos Baldovinos, executive director of **The Mission at Kern County** (Bakersfield, California), also met with Vice President Mike Pence's deputy of legislative affairs. Their goal is to make sure that some of the highest priority issues for missions, including adequate funding in the days ahead, are on the radar of the administration, as well as Congress.

### **Media Innovation Competition Now Open**

The Association of Gospel Rescue Missions' 2018 Media Innovation Competition has begun! This is your opportunity to enter your mission's best work in the following categories: annual report, general brochure, newsletter/magazine, website, PSA/commercial, extended video, social media, logo, and photo. An Award of Excellence, an Award of Merit, and up to three Honorable Mention winners will be presented in each category for each budget size group. AGRM will honor winners at the 2018 annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The 2018 Media Innovation Competition will again be judged by independent professionals working in the fields of the competition's categories. The entry deadline this year is April 15. Start the entry process by visiting the competition's main page at [www.agrm.org/MIC](http://www.agrm.org/MIC). Each year, AGRM receives some 500 contest entries from member missions.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at [blewis@agrm.org](mailto:blewis@agrm.org). As we do each year, we are excited to honor the great print and electronic media work member missions are doing!

### **Basic Counseling Course for Credit Offered at Annual Convention**

A unique five-session basic counseling skills course will be offered during AGRM's 2018 Annual Convention. The course will focus on the importance of providing an effective, healing relationship to those in need, and foster an understanding of how to apply spiritual gifts and interpersonal skills.

Five counseling areas will be covered:

1. Healing relationships. This seminar will discuss how to provide the type of relationship that fosters healing and supports positive change, covering the essential ingredients of what makes up a therapeutic encounter.
2. Trauma. This session will cover basic issues in helping to heal individuals who have experienced trauma.
3. Personality styles. This seminar will analyze various life views that different people support.

4. Addiction. This session will cover the biological, social, psychological, and spiritual effects of addiction.
5. Criminal thinking. This final seminar will look at criminal thinking and its influence on mental health issues.

Credits will be given for free for all completed classes. Participants who complete all five courses will receive a basic counseling course certificate of completion. Even for those who are not in the counseling field, this certification can be used to demonstrate their efforts to think through the basic relationship issues that they encounter regularly within the mission setting.

### Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome new business member, **Simon Solutions** (Florence, Alabama). **Mike Simon** is the company's president.
- Please also welcome new business member **Summit Marketing** (Lenexa, Kansas). **Michelle Noyes** is the company's chief development officer.
- Please also welcome new AGRM business member **Garson & Shaw, LLC** (Atlanta, Georgia). **David Dallas**, the company's purchasing manager, serves as the main contact for AGRM members.
- The board of directors of **Sunday Breakfast Mission** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) has announced the upcoming departure of Dick McMillan as executive director/CEO, effective fall 2018. This summer will mark Dick's 15th year as executive director/CEO of the mission, as well as 50 years of service in rescue ministry. The mission's board notes that Dick has played a critical role in the spiritual, operational, and executive leadership of the mission, and says the organization will miss his guidance, wisdom, and experience.



### Oregon Governor Signs Drug Pharmaceutical Price Transparency Bill

Kate Brown, governor of Oregon, has signed into law a bill that requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to publicly disclose reasons for steep increases in drug prices. Several other states, including California, have taken similar measures as the prices of drugs have skyrocketed without an apparent reason.

According to an [article](#) in the *Portland Tribune*, House Bill 4005 won bipartisan sponsorship and overwhelming support in both the state's House and Senate.

When the price of a prescription drug increases greater than 10 percent, the bill requires the manufacturer to report the reasons to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, including information related to the cost of production, advertising, marketing, and research. The manufacturer also must disclose their profits from the drug and whether generic alternatives are

available. Manufacturers face civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day for noncompliance.

### **Tech Start-up Unveils Cheap 3D Printed Homes**

An estimated 1.2 billion people in the world live without adequate housing, according to a report by the World Resources Institute's Ross Center for Sustainable Cities. An Austin-based startup has unveiled its approach to combat that deficiency by using low-cost 3D printing as a potential solution.

According to an [article](#) in *The Verge*, the company, Icon, has developed a method for printing a single-story 650-square-foot house out of cement in only 12 to 24 hours, a fraction of the time it takes for new construction. If all goes according to plan, a community made up of about 100 homes will be constructed for residents in El Salvador next year. The company has partnered with New Story, a nonprofit that is vested in international housing solutions.

An entire home can be printed for \$10,000 but the company plans to bring costs down to \$4,000 per house.

### **FDA Plans to Lower Nicotine in Cigarettes**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plans to try to lower the amount of nicotine in cigarettes to make them less addictive. This marks an unprecedented move by the agency. According to an NBC News [report](#), FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said Thursday the agency would propose the rule, opening a long bureaucratic process. The FDA does not have the authority to ban tobacco-based products, but since it was given some powers by Congress in 2009, it has moved gradually to impose some limits on tobacco sales and marketing.

*The New England Journal of Medicine* rushed out a study Thursday from FDA's Center for Tobacco Products that projected the effects of lowering nicotine to minimally addictive levels. They estimate that a nicotine product standard for cigarettes in the United States could save millions of lives and tens of millions of life-years over the next several decades.

The move would be a big blow to Big Tobacco, which has successfully fought off attempts to regulate how cigarettes are formulated. But tobacco makers were forced to admit to deliberately making cigarettes more addictive in an ad campaign that is currently running.



### **Public School Students Battle Homelessness and Poverty**

More than 1.3 million students in the U.S. public school system have no safe place to call home. These young people pursue their education while contending with the anxiety of homelessness and poverty.

According to a [report](#) by PBS, students who experience homelessness are 87 percent more likely than their stably-housed peers to drop out of school—the highest dropout rates in the country. In turn, young people without a high school diploma or GED are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and despair.



So what's to be done? In an otherwise chaotic time of homelessness, schools can be pillars of stability. Students spend a significant portion of their day in school and, as a result, schools can help identify homeless students, provide a safe and consistent place to study, and connect them to caring adults and community resources.

## **How Prescribers Can Fight the Opioid Epidemic**

As states and physicians scramble to meet opioid guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), they might keep in mind that more options are available for helping to reduce opioid abuse and misuse among patients than just changing prescribing patterns.

While not all abuse, misuse, and diversion can be deterred, abuse-deterrent opioids (ADOs) offer a shift away from the deadliest forms of opioid misuse—intranasal and intravenous abuse. The most serious safety events and addiction-related deaths occur via these methods, at an approximately 2.5 times greater prevalence rate than oral abuse.

According to a [report](#) by Vertical Health, an estimated 11 percent of adults who experience daily pain, as well as the millions of Americans who manage acute pain with prescription opioids, ADOs provide an additional layer of risk prevention. Solutions include using ingredients and manufacturing technology to make the product resistant to crushing, chewing, and gelling; using antagonist ingredients to block the effect of the narcotic when abused; and using prodrugs that require enzymatic or chemical transformation to release the parent drug.

## **Group Suggests Nonprofits Should Focus More on Donor Loyalty**

In their fundraising work, many nonprofits focus on continuously bringing in new donors to support their causes. But could they be missing a more important element for their long-term financial health? The authors of a new report think so. A [report](#) by Associations Now offers insights about daily nonprofit management challenges obtained in a recent survey of nearly 500 nonprofit professionals.

The biggest issue? A lack of resources, cited by 62 percent of respondents. That is followed by donor acquisition (45 percent), staff turnover (37 percent), and donor retention (31 percent).

Interestingly, however, donor retention ranked low on the list of factors that respondents saw as highly important to a nonprofit's success: Only 8 percent named it as the most important factor. Ranking considerably higher were the amount of annual fundraising (46 percent) and the number of recipients helped (38 percent).

While all these options are important factors to consider, the top two answers were more focused on attracting more donors and not on obtaining quality, lifetime donors. Ensuring long-term nonprofit success should be heavily weighted on the quality of donors and donations, which is why nonprofits may be missing an opportunity for growth.



**marketstreet**  
Employment and product ads

The following job positions are currently open at AGRM member missions. Please visit [www.agrm.org/careers](http://www.agrm.org/careers) to view full descriptions and to apply. Click [here](#) for instructions on using AGRM's Recruiting Center to post open positions for your mission.

[Administrative Assistant \(work from home\)](#): City Vision University, Kansas City, MO

[Care Support Specialist](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Case Manager, Men's Shelter](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Development Associate](#): The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, FL

[Development Director](#): Home of Grace, Vancleave, MS

[Director of Development](#): Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

[Director of IT](#): Career Cross Training, Colorado Springs, CO

[Director of Major Gifts](#): Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc., Pensacola, FL

[Director Women & Children's Ministries](#): Raleigh Rescue Mission, Inc., Raleigh, NC

[DIRECTOR, LIGHTHOUSE FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN](#): Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

[Domestic Violence Advocate](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Donor Development Professional](#): Madera Rescue Mission, Madera, CA

[Executive Director](#): Lewis County Gospel Mission, Chehalis, WA

[Executive Director](#): Jericho Road Ministries, Inc., Brooksville, FL

[Executive Director](#): The Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA

[Executive Director](#): Klamath Falls Gospel Mission, Klamath Falls, OR

[Executive Director](#): Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, Philadelphia, PA

[Food and Beverage Driver](#): San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

[FT Recovery Counselor - Overcomer's Center](#): Miracle Hill Ministries, Inc., Greenville, SC

[Health and Wellness Center Manager](#): San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

[Hotel Manager](#): St. Matthew's House/Port LaBelle Inn, LaBelle, FL

[Kitchen Manager](#): Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

[Kitchen Ministry Coordinator](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Manager, Center for Women & Children](#): Career Cross Training, Colorado Springs, CO

[Men's House Coordinator](#): Washington City Mission, Washington, PA

[Overnight Supervisor](#): Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Resident Advisors](#): Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Residential Coordinator\\_Cornerstone Manor Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

**Salesforce Data Analyst:** Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

**Sous Chef:** Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

**Transportation Specialist:** Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

**Women's Growth Leader:** Portland Rescue Mission - Shepherd's Door, Portland, OR

**Women's Program Manager - Laura's Home:** The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

**Women's Recovery Counselor:** Union Gospel Mission (Spokane), Spokane, WA

**Women's Recovery Manager:** Portland Rescue Mission - Shepherd's Door, Portland, OR



## The True Hero

*And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:26–27, ESV).*

Best sellers in box offices and bookstores are filled with stories that mirror this sentiment. We love stories about the victorious underdog—about the person who is told he or she can't do something, then works harder than everyone else around him or her and accomplishes it.

Movies and novels about events like these are often heartfelt, wonderful, and uplifting. But what do they really tell us about ourselves?

In this text, Jesus clearly stated that there is such a thing as "impossibility" for man "but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

What this means is that ultimately, God is the Hero.

We, as His creation, have a part to play in His story, as little "h" heroes. We are the supporting cast that may have a brave scene or a series of profound lines, but in the real story, the real big "H" Hero is God. He graciously brings us into His wonderful story and gives us far more than front row seats; He gave us His Son and His shed blood.

The great thing about not being the hero is that we never have to worry about not being good enough.

The true Hero in our life will never fail us like we can and will fail others. Rejoice in our grand Hero, God, from whom all good things flow, and never forget that not even death could hold Jesus.

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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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