



# HARBOR of HOPE

A newsletter of Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor  
HOLIDAY 2023

Thanks to you...

**KATHY HAS  
HOPE THIS  
Christmas!**



Union Gospel Mission  
of Grays Harbor

*Reaching Hearts & Changing Lives of People in Need*

**DON'T  
MISS...**

**2**

Celebrating  
the HOPE of  
Christmas

**3**

"I'm worthy,  
through Christ's  
love."

**4**

You make  
Christmas  
special!

For more information: (360) 533-1064 [ugmgraysharbor.org](http://ugmgraysharbor.org)

## Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

**How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our homeless neighbors too!**

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

**This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ's love and grace to our neighbors – like Kathy (whose story is on the next page).** Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



*Charley Capoeman*

Charley Capoeman  
Executive Director

## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



**\$2.35**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$8.75**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

## Give Before the Year Ends! \$55,000 GOAL


This holiday season, weary neighbors are desperate for a helping hand before they lose hope completely. **Your year-end gift gives them a chance to transform their lives.**

Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will help meet our \$55,000 goal, offering even more people *help* now... and hope for the new year!

- ✓ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online at [ugmgraysharbor.org](http://ugmgraysharbor.org).







“I received a  
whole **new**  
**chance at**  
**life.”**

“The Mission helped  
me understand that I  
am worthy.”

**K**athy remembers a tough childhood: her parents both worked at an auto plant and her dad had a drinking problem. Eventually, the family fell apart, and Kathy was out on her own as a teenaged wife and mother.

Determined to have a better life, Kathy and her husband stayed involved with their church. “I called myself the perfect Christian wife,” she remembers, but her faith faltered when their marriage ended due to her husband’s infidelity.

A few years later, with her two daughters in tow, Kathy moved cross-country to be with her new husband. Twenty years and three children later, her life felt complete. Then, her world

was turned upside down by his unexpected passing.

All her life, she’d focused on her children while depending on her partners to deal with bills and paperwork. “I was always ‘Mom,’ but I didn’t know how to take care of myself,” Kathy admits.

She began to fall in with people who didn’t have her best interest at heart, and she came to the realization that she could lose everything. Thankfully, she found a nearby Crisis Center where a kind staff member led her to Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor.

At Friendship House, Kathy found stability and safety. As she settled in with the other women, she began sleeping more soundly

and even learned to smile again. She was asked to join the program, and she committed to a new life of learning through God’s Word.

With classes, Bible study and a structured environment, Kathy has learned to be independent. She’s made friends, and gives back by sharing her time and talents. “I love helping the ladies who come here. The Mission runs a tight ship that works!”

**Kathy has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life.** “With the Lord by my side, I know that wherever I am is exactly where I need to be.”



# Colder Days = Increased Needs

**Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.**

With average lows of 36° in Grays Harbor – and added factors like rain and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges as the weather sets in.

Help us bring them in from the cold at Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor:

- **Safe shelter.** We provide a warm bed and a roof over their heads.
- **Hot food.** Each plate of food offers comfort to cold, weary neighbors.
- **Winter clothes.** Warm winter coats, clothing and shoes go faster than we can stock them.

**To see our most urgently needed items, visit [ugmgraysharbor.org/giving-options](http://ugmgraysharbor.org/giving-options)**

## YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION SPECIAL!

**Christmas Morning:** Thanks to local donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



**Holiday Feast:** Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

**The Miracle of Jesus:** Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God's love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

*Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!*