



UGM of Grays Harbor

# Harbor of Hope

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

## I've Traded Shame for Confidence

When other little girls were enjoying playing with toys and getting lots of hugs, Marcy's childhood days were filled with fear and trauma. "I remember sitting in our yard when I was in fifth grade, crying and wanting to hurt myself," she recalls. "But I always knew Jesus and that day He told me, 'Don't do anything to yourself. This is not something we can't get through together.'"

Often Marcy used drugs to escape her situation. As an adult, she continued to medicate herself as way of coping with her world. Lost and sad, it was in jail where she found a Gideon Bible and reconnected with Jesus.

After being released from jail, Marcy was dropped off at Union Gospel Mission's Friendship House for single women and moms with children, funded by your generosity and love. "At first I was terrified," she says. But the kindness of our staff and volunteers broke through her fears, and she began to realize how much God truly loved her.

"I'm not ashamed to be in a shelter. I'm one of the ladies!" she says with pride. Marcy's future is filled with hope for the first time. "When I was in jail, I didn't have anything—I was empty. Today I have more confidence because I'm able to ask for help. UGM has changed my life!"



***Your generosity has given Marcy purpose and hope through the ministry of Friendship House.***

***"I want to keep getting stronger in God and in my recovery. I want to find out what God has for me."***

*Inside*

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

It has been a life-changing experience going from being a forester for 19 years to becoming the director of Union Gospel Mission three years ago. I want to thank my wife of 42 years and my family for the support and prayer I've received. I'm also thankful to the community, volunteers and churches who support the Mission.

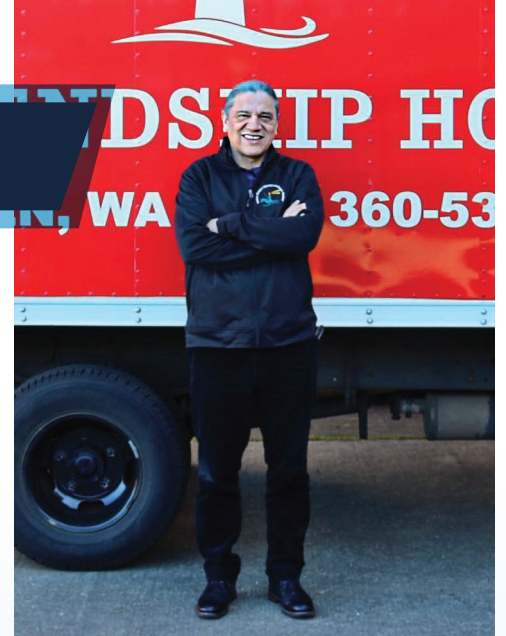
I gave my life to Jesus Christ and accepted Him as my Lord and Savior 36 years ago. I have always had a heart for the lost, and now in my third year as the Mission's director, I can see how, through the years, God was preparing for the place He has me in now.

I had never been a leader—only a follower—and now God has placed me in the director's position with a staff of 14 people to lead in the work and ministry of the Union Gospel Mission as we strive to meet the needs of the least, the last, and the lost.

My vision for Union Gospel Mission is to help people in need; I want to see broken lives restored. My thanks to all of you who come alongside of us and partner with us to help us accomplish this.



Charley Capoman



## We've Got a Little Problem

Each day, around 40 men at UGM form a line, waiting up to two hours to use our cramped bathroom with two worn-out showers and toilets. Guests with limited mobility struggle to use them at all!

These facilities date back to 1906 and are so worn that cleaning, patching and repairs have become almost impossible.

Plans have been drawn to construct a new bathroom with four toilets and three showers for our guests – reducing the wait so men can get to class, work and other responsibilities sooner.

This critically needed renovation will cost \$90,000 and we need to get started right away! Your gift would help us:

- Demolish current bathrooms
- Repair water-damaged wood
- Update plumbing
- Replace walls and flooring
- Install new toilets, showers and fixtures



Please help us meet this urgent need by sending a gift in the enclosed envelope. Or contact Shelly at 360-533-1064 or by email at [shelly@ugmgraysharbor.org](mailto:shelly@ugmgraysharbor.org) to learn more. Thank you!



# Stories of Hope

Often, men who come to Union Gospel Mission are struggling with loss and loneliness. Finding out there are people who want to help them move forward makes all the difference. Thank YOU for being one of those people!

## Edward's Story

Edward's health had been a challenge since birth. With a compromised immune system and serious heart condition, life had never felt "normal." As Edward got older and his heart condition grew worse, he wondered each night if he'd even wake up in the morning.

Edward worked at Ocean Spray for several years but then lost his employment and his home. When his brother learned Edward was living in his truck, he encouraged him to find shelter. "I'd burned all my bridges," Edward admits, "so I ended up here at the Mission."

But ending up at Union Gospel Mission has been a life-changer for Edward—he's no longer afraid to go to sleep at night! ***"Being at UGM has kept me alive. And the Bible study helps my mindset,"*** he says. ***"It makes me think differently when I go out the door in the morning."***

For men like Edward who suffer with severe health issues, life on the streets can be brutal. His health is still a challenge, and he needs appropriate housing to keep him safe. Meanwhile, Edward takes life one day at a time, thankful he is warm at night and able to sleep.



## Brian's Story

When Brian's partner of 22 years passed away three years ago, his life fell apart. He had served eight years in the Navy as an aviation technician, had struggled with alcohol off and on, and had been homeless at times, but the loss of his friend and home was shattering.

"I lived in a storage unit with 25 other people, some drug addicts, for a year and a half," he explains. "Every day was a challenge. It was terrible. I felt like a lost little puppy."

Finally last spring, Brian decided to come to Union Gospel Mission. Here, he discovered the staff took time to listen to him, and he appreciated the fellowship with other guests. "It's been a lot less stress. I'm calmer," he says. "It's been a good experience."

Brian is finding his way again, participating in Bible study and learning new ways to cope. ***"I'm learning I can say 'no' to things and people, and I'm learning to control my words better."*** He's also seeing a doctor about health issues he'd been neglecting. "That's a miracle," he smiles.

Though Brian is hoping for a place he can call his own someday, he's grateful for the safety, help and kindness he's found here. "People who don't know about the Mission should come and check it out," he says.



# Ways You Can Give!

Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor is a conduit of YOUR generosity and love for the hurting. You are the givers, and we pass along what you give to meet the needs of men, women and children experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty. We can't thank you enough!

## IN-KIND GIFTS

Our thanks to Tiffany Pratt and her coworkers at the **Washington State Department of Natural Resources** for the truckload of donations they dropped off March 7 following their drive! Would you like to help too? Bring gently used summer clothing for men, women and children to 405 E. Heron Street. Call (360) 533-1064 to learn more about our needs. Thanks!



## FINANCIAL GIFTS

When you give to Union Gospel Mission, your gift is used immediately to meet emergency relief needs like food, shelter and clothing for the homeless. But did you know, your gifts also provide case management, Bible-based recovery programs and life skills classes? To learn more, visit us at [ugmgraysharbor.org](http://ugmgraysharbor.org) and on Facebook.



## VOLUNTEER

Each month, volunteers from **First Baptist Church of Elma** come to our Friendship House for women and families for craft time. In March, we made scarves! We welcome volunteers to assist with recreation, Bible study, food service and more at Friendship House and our Men's Center. Email Shelly at [shelly@ugmgraysharbor.org](mailto:shelly@ugmgraysharbor.org) to get started.

## PRAYER

Please pray for the men and women in our New Foundations Recovery Program. "Before coming to UGM, waking up every morning was terrifying," a program member told us. "I was fearful of everything. But now I look forward to each day."

That's because donors like YOU give and pray. You are making a difference in each individual life and in our community!



## GIVING FOR A LIFETIME

You can support the ministry of Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor beyond your lifetime by including the Mission in your will. Here is a simple codicil you can provide to your attorney.

*I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor, Aberdeen, Washington, [percentage or amount] of my estate for its unrestricted use and purpose.*

Always check with your tax or estate attorney before making a planned gift to charity. Contact Shelly for more information at (360) 533-1064.



**Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor**

P.O. Box 859 / Aberdeen, WA 98520  
(360) 533-1064 / [www.ugmgraysharbor.org](http://www.ugmgraysharbor.org)

