



UGM of Grays Harbor

# Harbor of Hope

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

## Noel's Story

Before coming to the Friendship House, Noel was homeless and living on the streets, spending long hours with nothing to look forward to. One day, as she sat on the sidewalk, a police officer approached—not with demands or warnings, but with a question:

"Do you want to do something different today instead of just sit here?"

Looking around, she thought, "There has to be something better than this." It felt like a miracle when she answered, "Sure. I'll try something different." That yes changed everything.

The officer brought Noel to the Friendship House, the Union Gospel Mission's women and children's shelter. At first, she wasn't sure if she'd fit in, but the staff made her feel welcome.

Soon after, the Women's Director, Colleen, shared the love of Jesus and prayed with her. That night, Noel gave her life to Christ.

Since coming to the Friendship House, Noel has found stability and peace. Her basic needs are met—shelter, clothing, and three healthy meals a day. Hunger, she said, had been one of the hardest parts of life on the street.

Now, Noel is part of the Mission's one-year New Foundation Discipleship program and BCF Bible study training. "I'm learning to look at myself, analyze my past, and stop hurtful behaviors. My mindset is changing—if I keep doing the same bad behavior, nothing will change," she says.

There was a time she thought God had abandoned her. She remembers sitting on a hotel bed saying, **"God, how come you just left me? I felt forsaken. But now I know—He never did."**

Her mindset has changed. She no longer wakes up worrying about cigarettes, money, or where she might sleep. She has found something better.

She has found Jesus.

Noel now works in the Friendship House clothing bank, helping others in need. She dreams of becoming a Sunday school teacher or counselor to share the hope she has found.

She takes comfort in scripture, especially Psalm 27:1:

**"The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom should I be afraid?"**

**"God saved me from my troubled life. I never want to go back. Now, I have a better future."**



*Inside*

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First, I want to thank everyone who has supported us along the way—we are deeply grateful for your prayers and encouragement. We pray that all is well with each of you who stand with us here at Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor.

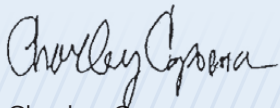
Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 4:19, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Since giving my life to Christ, my greatest desire has been to win souls for God’s Kingdom. Here at the Union Gospel Mission and Friendship House, we’ve been given an incredible opportunity to share the gospel, and we are witnessing lives being transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ. Yet, there are still so many who need to be reached.

That’s why we are seeking 300 faithful prayer partners to join us in daily prayer. Scripture reminds us in 1 Timothy 2:1, *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.”*

If you would like to join us in prayer, please visit our website at [ugmgraysharbor.org](http://ugmgraysharbor.org). Click on Get Involved, then select Prayer Partner.

Together, let’s believe for a great harvest of souls for the glory of God!

In His service,



Charley Capoman  
Executive Director



## Because of You, Life Is a Little Easier

Thanks to your generosity, our upstairs bathroom at Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor has been beautifully renovated. For years, our guests shared two aging toilets and two showers—plumbing that dated all the way back to 1906. It was a daily challenge for people already carrying heavy burdens.

Now, because of you, our guests have a clean, welcoming space with three toilets and two showers. This simple improvement has brought comfort, dignity, and relief to those who need it most.

For someone experiencing homelessness, even the smallest details—like having enough restrooms and showers—can bring hope and remind them they are valued. You made that possible, and we are deeply grateful.





# My Life is Changing!

**We asked several clients how God is helping them make positive changes in their time here at Union Gospel Mission. Here's what they said:**

At Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor, lives are being transformed every day, thanks to the generosity of caring friends like you. Guests are finding safety, hope, and a fresh start—often for the first time in years. In their own words, here's what your support makes possible:



- "UGM is full of good people, doing good things for people who really need it."
- "The program has helped me a lot. It's helped me stay away from addiction—and most of all, the Word of God has helped me."
- "From my heart, I appreciate the donors for keeping this place going."
- "We would be way worse off without the Mission. It's a place to wait it out while waiting for housing."

- "This place is such a blessing for people like us."
- "I've learned I'm not a failure."
- "Sleeping outside is hard—the streets are cold, loud, and scary. Since coming to the Mission, I feel safe, happy, and I can finally sleep."



## Planning Ahead

As the leaves fall and we enter this season of thanksgiving, Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor is reminded of how much your generosity means—not just right now, but in the year ahead. November and December are traditionally months of great giving. Donors like you step forward to ensure that men, women, and children experiencing hunger and homelessness are cared for during the coldest, hardest months of the year.

But your gifts also carry us through a very different season—the "summer giving slump." When the weather turns warm, needs in our community don't go away. Families still need food. Guests still come seeking shelter. Lives are still being transformed by God's grace. Yet summer is the time of year when donations naturally dip.

That's why the support you give this fall is so critical. The gifts you make today don't just provide hot meals

this Thanksgiving or a warm bed this Christmas. They also sustain the Mission in the summer of 2026, when giving slows but the needs of our neighbors remain just as urgent.

Because of you, Union Gospel Mission can plan ahead. We can make sure the shelves in our pantry are stocked, the lights in our shelter stay on, and the doors remain open to welcome anyone who needs hope, help, and healing—no matter the season.

As you consider your year-end giving, please know this: your generosity today stretches far beyond these winter months. It's an investment in stability, in compassion, and in lives changed by the love of Christ all year long—even during the summer giving slump of 2026.

Thank you for thinking ahead with us, and for making a lasting difference

# A Fresh Update at Friendship House

Union Gospel Mission's Friendship House is more than a shelter—it's a safe, family-oriented home where single women and mothers with children can find physical, emotional, and spiritual support. Whether they are facing homelessness, financial struggles, or addiction, Friendship House provides stability and care during difficult seasons.

Recently, the home received a wonderful update. Thanks to the generosity of G&B Contracting, the bathroom now has a beautiful new floor. Their team volunteered their time and skills to complete the project, and the results look amazing.

We are truly blessed by their hard work and kindness. On behalf of the women and families who will be uplifted by this space every day: thank you, G&B Contracting!



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## Our Volunteers Make the Difference!

### Helping Hands Needed for the Cold Weather Season

As the temperatures drop here in Aberdeen, the Union Gospel Mission of Grays Harbor is preparing to meet the needs of men, women, and children who come to us seeking warmth and safety. Many arrive without proper winter clothing. We are asking for donations of gloves, coats, hats, scarves, and warm socks to help our guests stay protected during the cold months ahead. Every item you provide makes a tangible difference in someone's life this winter.

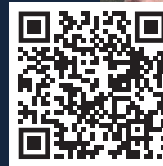
### Thanksgiving at the Mission

This November, we are blessed to be hosting two Thanksgiving dinners: one for our residents and one for our non-resident guests in the community. These special meals are made possible by the generosity of our supporters and the dedicated volunteers from local churches who help decorate, prepare, and serve in both the kitchen and dining hall.

Want to volunteer? Go to [ugmgraysharbor.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://ugmgraysharbor.org/volunteer-opportunities) for more information.

### Your Gifts Make All the Difference

Whether through clothing, food, volunteer time, or financial support, your generosity ensures that no one faces the cold and holidays alone. Thank you for being a vital part of sharing hope and love in Grays Harbor.



## 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**

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