

Wesley Monumental UMC

Mission Program Profile: Union Mission

Name of Program/Organization

Union Mission, Inc.

Target Population

In 2018, Union Mission provided shelter services for 710 persons (94,903 shelter nights and 115,947 meals and counseling services for 1,056 clients) that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Services defines as “homeless.” This included 563 adults and 147 children. HUD defines homeless as living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided. HUD’s annual point in time count estimates an annual average of 1,000 homeless persons in Chatham County but most estimates place the number at 4,000 who are homeless at some time during the course of the year.

Agency Mission/Purpose

Union Mission’s mission statement: “Partnering with people to end their homelessness through housing and supportive services.” Services begin with emergency services (stable housing and food) for up to 90 days, assignment of a case worker, and job training/placement under a structured program.

Union Mission’s vision statement: “To be the partner of choice to those seeking to move from homelessness to stable housing.” Union Mission works with homeless to return their lives to normalcy with the goal of permanent housing and financial independence.

Union Mission’s value statement: “Encouraging faith and restoring hope through a caring and compassionate partnership where people can thrive and lives can be rebuilt.”

Union Mission works with homeless to return their lives to normalcy with the goal of permanent housing and financial independence. In 2018, Union Mission placed 94% of its clients into stable housing.

Organization Contact

Patricia Youngquist, Executive Director, 107 Fahm Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401:
pyoungquist@unionmission.org

Wesley Contact

Patrick Monahan: patrickcmonahan@gmail.com

Nature of Spiritual Purpose

Union Mission is non-denominational but follows principles based on faith. The organization’s Values Statement reads - “Encouraging faith and restoring hope through a caring and compassionate partnership where people can thrive and lives can be rebuilt.”

Union Mission's executive director, Mrs. Patricia Youngquist, is an ordained minister (Methodist), and two of the last four executive directors have been ordained ministers. Union Mission does not affiliate itself with any denomination. Reflecting the organization's principles as a faith-based, the Board of Directors represents a cross-section of multi-denominations: Protestant, Catholic and Jewish.

Union Mission encourages faith by including clergy and churches/synagogues to work with clients on individual and group basis. Union Mission sponsors monthly lunch and learns and invites various churches/synagogues leaders to learn about Union Mission's programs and opportunities to become involved in encouraging faith as part of the healing and return to normalcy in clients' lives.

Sources of Funding

Union Mission's income totals about \$3 million annually, as follows: \$1 million, donations and fundraising; \$300,000, other; \$1.7 million, contracts for services (these are not grants but rather agreements with city, state and federal agencies for services which are reimbursed upon completion; while agreement may be with city or state, often these funding sources originate through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development).

Organization Activity

As noted in Union Mission's mission: "Partnering with people to end their homelessness through housing and supportive services." Union Mission works with homeless individuals and families to provide emergency care in shelter and food and counseling with the end goal to return their lives to normalcy with the goal of permanent housing and financial independence.

Union Mission's Board of Directors also focuses on a sustainable business model by following a core principle, "No Margin, No Mission."

Union Mission's Board of Directors provides a self-examination of programs and financials each year with an annual audit, which also becomes part of the Form 990 submitted annually to the IRS to maintain the organization's 501 (c) (3) tax-exemption. In addition, Union Mission submits documents for an annual assessments to the United Way of the Coastal Empire as well as local, state and federal agencies that provide funding (through contracts for services).

Union Mission's 990 Form is available on-line on its website as well as on the IRS website. Financial statements and government audits are available by request.

Non-financial Needs of Organization

Union Mission's staff works with various community organizations and individuals on volunteer opportunities. Union Mission receives approximately 2,500 volunteer hours annually. Noteworthy events include Thanksgiving Dinner for Homeless and Christmas Dinner for Homeless but many hours are contributed daily for the small contributions that help homeless individuals.

Union Mission maintains a store of clothing and household goods for homeless clients, but its small size keeps the storage area at capacity.

Besides a professional staff whose cross-duties include management, financial and fundraising, Union Mission maintains strong ties to the community through its Board of

Directors whose individual members offer pro bono or discounted services, including legal. Because of the importance of fundraising, Union Mission also contracts with the Miracle Company (Phoenicia Miracle) to review fundraising and recommend new opportunities. Union Mission recently employed a staff member to handle social media.

Prayer needs of the program and people served - *Always*.
