



## STORY OF HOPE: When Structure & Rules Help Men Learn to Live Again

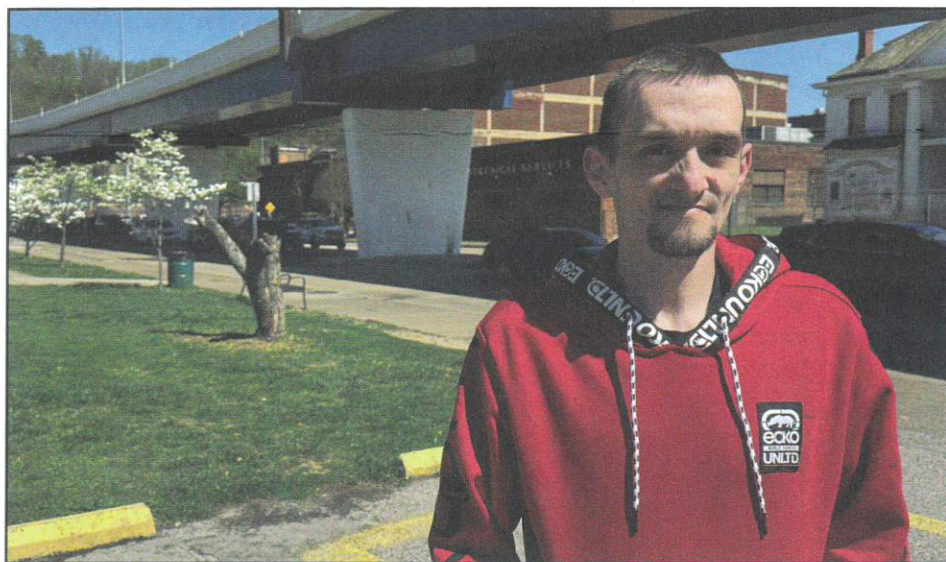
When you hear the words “structure” and “rules” does it remind you of a stuffy, rigid experience such as a harsh teacher in school? Do you automatically relate those words to a negative experience? What if having structure and setting rules could be life saving for some?

At the risk of sounding out dated or old fashioned when compared to today’s culture, Union Mission Men’s Shelter sees incredible value in having structure and rules for the men. Jeremy, a current resident of the shelter, explains how these requirements have changed his life.

“I started using drugs early,” says Jeremy. “Started smoking pot when I was 12 and quickly moved on to other things. As a young adult, I became a heroin addict and used for 20 years.”

As with many struggling with addiction, Jeremy found himself homeless and in trouble with the law.

“Homelessness is a hard life. Very few people choose to be homeless, it just happens due to other choices we make,” Jeremy says. “It’s bad. You do anything you can to eat or get a little money. Even steal from others if you have to. I got to a point where I didn’t necessarily want to take my life, but I just didn’t care what happened. I overdosed a lot during that time. If I came back, then I came back. I just didn’t care.”



Jeremy soon found himself in serious trouble with the law.

“Me and another guy broke into Walgreens one night and I took every bottle of liquor they had in the store. Due to that and some other crimes, I ended up going to prison for 2 years,” Jeremy explains.

Jeremy was released from prison in early 2025 but on the condition that he had a “home plan”.

“They won’t parole you if you don’t have a plan,” Jeremy explains. “You have to have a place to land. I wanted to come to Union Mission. I had spent a short amount of time at the shelter years prior, but I wasn’t ready to clean up. This time it was different and I remembered how this shelter was different. They have structure and rules to follow. I knew I needed someone to challenge me to get my life back.”

When asked about the structure and rules at the Men’s Shelter, Chris Jones, Director of the Men’s Shelter, says, “Yes, the men are expected to follow a routine and to clean up after themselves. Not a single person living a productive life is exempt from structure and expectations,

*“What if having structure and setting rules could be life saving for some?”*

*(continued on back page)*



## From **JASON'S** Desk

### Breaking **MORE** Ground on *Accessible Recovery*

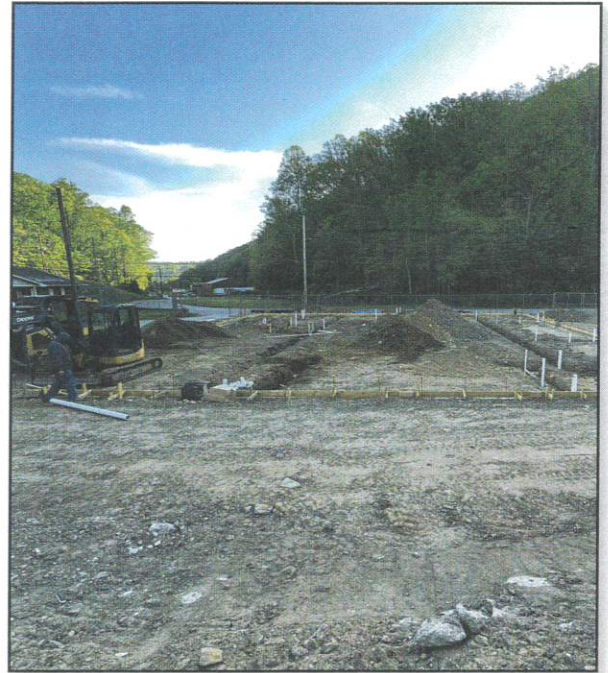
I wanted to take this opportunity to offer an update on our NEW fully ADA compliant, 24 bed recovery building that is under construction at this time on our Brookside Campus. At the time of writing this letter, the construction team from Burdette Realty Improvement has completed the plumbing pressure test and is ready to pour the concrete slab. Once the slab is poured and cured, then the building will rapidly take shape. All the structural steel is already on the premises and their team will get it set in no time. I can't wait to share pictures of the building once it gets weathered in.

I cannot understate the importance of this building. Obviously, not turning away men due to mobility issues will be the biggest benefit by far, but there are other benefits as well. First, having the men residing on a secure, gated campus will help with reducing the temptation of the neighboring community. A few unsavory residents attempt to sell drugs to our men as they are outside in the recreation area that borders that community. It is amazing the difference half a mile will make in that area.

Another benefit is having a consolidated campus for recovery. All 3 levels of recovery (including sober living) will be on that one campus along with the Behavior Health office and the wellness center. The men will be able to navigate easily to each of those buildings regardless of the weather.

Lastly, having a new, energy efficient building will help reduce overhead costs for the mission. The current recovery space was built in the 1970s and isn't insulated well. We are hoping to see a decrease in our water, sewer, and electricity bills once the men move into the new building.

As we stand today, we are still just over \$400,000 away from our \$1.3million goal. If you would like to help us close that gap, visit our website at [unionmission.com](http://unionmission.com).



*Jason*

— Jason S. Quintrell, President/CEO

# UNION MISSION HONORS & MEMORIALS *March 2026*

## HONORS

**Mrs. Louise St. Clair**  
Robert Dehart II

**Mike and Pam McClung**  
Troy and Kelly McClung

**Corbin and Stafford Families**  
Steve and Kim Corbin

**Love Gift "Sara"**  
Dale E. Cooper

## MEMORIALS

**Taylor Baldwin**  
Brenda Snodgrass

**Brian Bowles**  
Laura Bowles

**Edith Brewer**  
Murrel Hoover

**Delores and William Sykes**  
Del Dinkel

**Ruth Duvall**  
William "Bill" Duvall

**Marsha George**  
BB

**Janice Hash**  
Cassandra-Hash Cooper

**Amy Williams** Hazelett  
R.W. and Ann Williams

**Amy Williams**  
Hazelett  
Jeri Ripley

**Cornelia Hensley**  
Pat Withrow  
Samuel and Elizabeth  
Hensley

**Charlie Miller**  
Brenda Miller

**Frances Nichols**  
Richard Nichols

**Joy, Barry, & Joe Pack**  
Ethel Pack

**John Henry Wick 3rd**  
Frank Matthews

**Judy Williams**  
R. W. and Ann  
Williams

**The Yanaks**  
Elaine Yanak

**Tony Canterbury**  
Judy Pickens  
Holmer Taylor  
Bonnie Jarrell  
Tex Crider  
Robert Miller  
Ernie and Sharon  
Thompson

## VOLUNTEERS Help Make a Difference

Last month, we had a team of high school students from Cross Lanes Christian school volunteer for a couple hours at Union Mission. This team of approximately 35 high schoolers whipped through our South Park campus like a whirlwind achieving tasks that would have taken us weeks to do with our staff. Painting walls, cleaning rooms, sorting donations, bagging student food kits, moving boxes into storage, organizing our mail room, helping pick up donations - they managed to do all of this in half a day! We can't thank them enough for all of their hard work.

As we approach the summer months, even more volunteer teams will descend upon the mission. Union Mission is often the recipient of student mission trips from out of town and even out of state. Below is some incredible data from 2025 to show just how much volunteers help us reach the hurting people of West Virginia.

**Total volunteer work hour for 2025: .....9044**

**Total number of volunteers for 2025: .....707**

**Estimated wage value of volunteer hours for 2025: .....\$126,616**

The wage valuation is based upon \$14 per hour (more relatable to WV) which is well below the national rate of \$36.14 calculation (independentsector.org). If we used that calculation, that would be over \$300k in wage value! To say volunteers allow the mission to focus dollars on services that directly help people in need would be a gross understatement. They play a critical role in determining how many people we can help each year.

If you would like to volunteer at Union Mission, we always have projects available for any skill level. Whether you and your family want to spend a day this summer helping or you would like to look at a weekly or monthly opportunity, we can find the perfect fit for you. For more information, contact Joyce Davis at [joyce@wefeedpeople.com](mailto:joyce@wefeedpeople.com).



**VOLUNTEERS: TC Energy**



**VOLUNTEERS: CLCS Students**



**VOLUNTEERS: BCC Newsletter Team**

## STORY OF HOPE: When Structure & Rules Help Men Learn to Live Again *(continued from page 1)*

why should these men be any different. People do training for jobs all the time. For these men, this is training on how to live as a responsible adult.”

Jeremy echoes what Chris says, “This place has a lot of structure. If you can follow the rules and want to change the way you are living, then you can do well. The reason why there is structure and rules, is they are teaching you how to live again. If you are so far gone that you can’t wash your clothes or do everyday activities you would need to do if you had a place to live, they can teach you. The day has a specific schedule that keeps us moving and keeps us learning how to take care of ourselves again. We clean our rooms, our bathrooms, do our dishes, sweep and mop the common areas, and attend chapel each

morning. Our day starts at 5:45am. That was hard to get used to but now I see how it is teaching me.”

Jeremy’s is showing great progress. He is 8 months into his 12 month probationary period. While he still resides at the shelter, he has a full time job and expects to be promoted to assistant manager soon. He has also been able to save enough money to settle fines and place a deposit on an apartment. He hopes to get his driver’s license soon which will allow him even more opportunities for work.

At times, Union Mission Men’s Shelter is criticized for our structure and rules. Some residents say it is too much. Other similar organizations say the regimen is too strict. Chris sums it up well when facing the criticism, “The first day back at the

gym after taking off for the holidays is always tough and it may be enjoyable. Over time, however, the benefits start to appear. When we look at our data, that is where we see the benefits.”

While some encounters at the shelter could be just one night for some men, out of the men who came to the shelter in 2025 looking for a new start, 60 of them were placed in permanent housing, recovery, or sent to a family support location in their hometowns. That number for 2026 is currently 24. Great things are happening at the Men’s Shelter through structure and some simple rules. Help us keep this momentum going! Your gift to Union Mission allows us to house these men at no cost to them.

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### Administration

Jason Quintrell  
President & CEO

### Board of Directors

Lisa Pack, Chairwoman  
Madonna Estep, Secretary  
Steven Corbin  
Deitrich Clark  
Tammy Gonzales  
Kurt Higginbotham  
Jason Lunsford  
Tom Minturn  
Will Swann  
Otis O’Connor, Juris Doctor, Emeritus  
Tom Tolliver, Emeritus

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Union Mission Ministries, Inc. is set apart by the Spirit of God to preach the Gospel and meet physical and emotional needs throughout West Virginia through the provision of shelter, clothing, food, counseling, and structured programs for the poor, the needy, and those bound and bruised by addictive lifestyles. Union Mission does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. Union Mission provides no goods or services in exchange for gifts. Your gifts are tax deductible when you itemize.



## Union Mission

**UNION MISSION - MAIN CAMPUS**

**Family Services • Thrift Store •  
Outreach Ministries • Addiction  
Recovery Programs**

700 South Park Road, Kanawha City  
304.925.0366 phone

**Mailing Address**

Post Office Box 112, Charleston, WV 25321

**Men’s Shelter**

503 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston  
304.343.4352 phone

Visit us online at [www.unionmission.com](http://www.unionmission.com)