

the *Light of Hope*

www.ourm.org • March 2012



Since 1948, bringing the hungry, hurting and homeless to new life, new goals and a new future in Christ.

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AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HOPE



**ORLANDO UNION
RESCUE MISSION**

Since 1948

“Stand firm, and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today.” - Exodus 14:13a

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HOPE



ALLEN HARDEN, PRESIDENT/CEO

No one would deny how good it feels to get cleaned up after a day in the yard or a trip to the beach. It feels better – and it is healthier - to be clean!

This is the opportunity we have during “O.U.R. Mission: Hope.” So many people come to us unable to purchase basic hygiene items or access a clean shower. Yet when this simple provision is met, they can feel more confident for the task ahead of them: the task of getting back on their feet.

We would be naive to think that items like a toothbrush or a pair of socks would restore a life– but it’s a start! It is Jesus’ victory over death and decay that gives us lasting hope. That’s why we celebrate with a great Easter Banquet. We hope to follow Jesus’ example by demonstrating the Kingdom (providing hygiene items and food for homeless) and then describing it (by sharing Christ’s love with those who attend).

It is an honor to be a part of the Lord’s work, and we would be thrilled to have you participate in this life-changing campaign!

Don’t forget to pray for our Easter Banquet on April 6th!



THE MISSION: HOPE orlando union rescue mission

Hope is defined by a desire for something to happen. Something that has not yet occurred.

Imagine if that desire – that **hope** - was a meal, a shower, or clean clothes. There’s an opportunity for you to fulfill that desire! And by doing so, you are enabling men, women, and children to hope for something more than basic needs – you are freeing them up to hope for a brighter future!

It’s easy to get involved! Fill as many purple bags as you can with new, unopened hygiene items. Return these bags by Friday, March 30th so the homeless will have hope to hold on to at our annual Easter Banquet.

For more information about “O.U.R. Mission: Hope”, contact 407-422-4855 ext. 1109.

Your gift of \$26.24 will provide an “O.U.R. Mission: Hope” bag filled with hygiene items and a hot Easter meal!



Scan this code with your smart phone or visit us online at <http://www.ourm.org/our-mission-hope> for a shopping list!

FAMILY FIRST

THE STORY OF THE KRUEGER FAMILY – CURRENT RESIDENTS OF ORLANDO UNION RESCUE MISSION

Lee and Kelli are great parents. They might be slow to agree. But when they tell their story, it is completely evident that they have fought a long, hard fight for the well-being of their children. Even in the midst of dire circumstances.

The family didn’t have much, but always managed to get from one month to the next. After six months of temporary fixes to the family car, the transmission broke down beyond repair. With no reliable transportation, Lee and Kelli began missing work, causing them both to be laid off. “That’s where it all just started getting bad,” said Kelli.

With virtually no income to pay the bills, they were faced with a heart-breaking decision: move in with Lee’s abusive father or live on the streets. Lee and Kelli didn’t hesitate - a roof over their heads was better for their two children than homelessness.

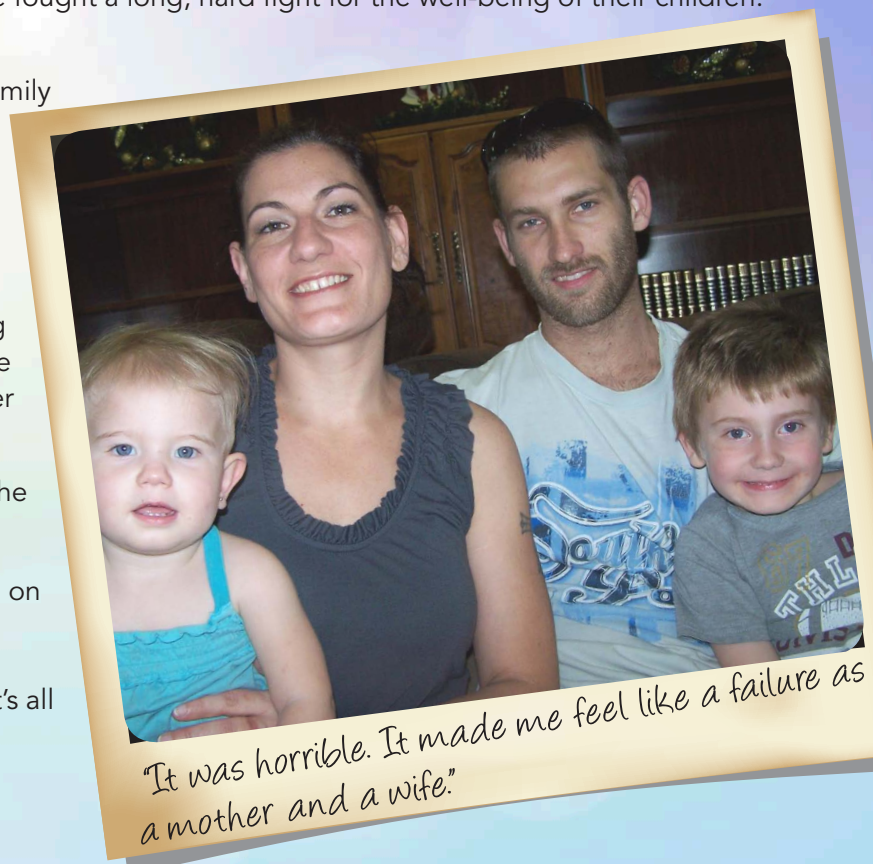
However soon after moving in, the family learned that Lee’s father was using drugs. Money that once went to utility bills was being redirected to his addiction. The utilities were turned off. With no money for diapers, Kelli had to make them out of old towels. She made sure her children had soap and, with any luck, toothpaste as well. “It was horrible. It made me feel like a failure as a mother and a wife.” Yet she was driven to put her family first.

Kelli knew about the Orlando Union Rescue Mission’s programs and realized her family needed help. The family showed up at the Mission with weary hearts, clinging to little hope. They found fresh meals, clean showers, and a safe place to sleep.

Now that the Kruegers have their basic needs met, Lee and Kelli are working on rebuilding their lives. Both parents are working on their education to invest in a brighter future for their family. The children enjoy playing in the nursery and making new friends.

“O.U.R. Mission: Hope” is something that hits home with Kelli. “It would have meant everything [to receive one of those bags.]. It’s all stuff that seems so simple. You just don’t appreciate it until you don’t have it.”

To learn more about “O.U.R. Mission: Hope” and how you can impact families like the Kruegers, visit www.ourm.org



2011: A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR!

Here is a glimpse of what the Lord accomplished in 2011:

- **1,720** people committed their life to following Jesus Christ
(THAT'S FILLING THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL AIRPLANE - TWICE!)
- **359,563** hot meals served.
(THE EQUIVALENT TO TREATING THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF TAMPA TO DINNER!)
- **90,206** nights of shelter provided!
(WE COULD'VE BOOKED THE LARGEST HOTEL IN THE WORLD - WITH OVER 7,100 ROOMS - 12 NIGHTS IN A ROW!)



This would not have happened without record-breaking support from friends like you. God is truly using you to bring hope and healing to the homeless in Central Florida!

HOPE delivered...



Last year, over 800 hot meals were served to hungry guests at the Mission's annual Easter Banquet.

This required:

- 500 pounds of ham
- 2 weeks of meal preparation
- 15 cooks

The Easter Banquet is the Mission's opportunity to serve those on the streets of Orlando a home-cooked meal to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. With meal services at an all-time high, the Mission is preparing to serve even more hungry guests at this year's outreach!

Each gift of \$26.24 will provide 1 homeless man, woman, or child hope this Easter. Please help as many as you can!

Mission: Accomplished!



Remember the
Coates family,
featured on
60 Minutes last fall?

Remember the Coates Family, featured on 60 Minutes last fall? They have been busy making their new house a home. D'Angelo is maintaining a full-time position at a waste management company and Victoria was just hired at a major financial institution. She is also pursuing her degree. And the kids?

"I'm so thankful to have a home – it's roomy and we can hang up pictures. We even have a collage of the Mission." says the youngest child, J'la. Praise God for His redemptive work in this family!

The Orlando Union Rescue Mission is a non-profit, faith based organization whose mission is to provide those in need with food, shelter, clothing, education and other resources to help the homeless achieve self-sufficiency. The foundation of our work is Biblically based – to bring people to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

P.O. Box 2791 • Orlando, FL 32802 • 407-422-4855 • ourmission@ourm.org • www.ourm.org

Don't forget to send
your gift by March 30
to make a difference
this Easter!