

Hunger in West Virginia



A Union Mission **Special Report**



wefeedpeople.com

—It's what we do.

 **Union Mission**



Zakary Whitt is a statistic.

You see, Zakary is part of **more than 21% of West Virginians under the age of 18 who are “food insecure.”** What that means, to you and me, is that Zakary simply doesn't have enough to eat.

Despite the economic recession and downturn, this is simply unacceptable. We live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the world, **yet some 50 million Americans lack access to adequate nutrition.**

This is simply unacceptable.

Thank you for taking the first step in exposing the terrible secret. By educating yourself on the issue of extreme poverty and hunger in West Virginia—and our great nation—you're taking the first step in exposing this terrible secret. Too many people are content to turn a blind eye to the problem. You've chosen a different path.

Union Mission is West Virginia's largest provider of free food to the poor. We're committed to “Helping Hurting People in Jesus' Name,” and we thank you for being a part of The Mission's work.

Now, we hope you'll take the next step. Educate others. Volunteer. Give.

After all, Zakary Whitt isn't a statistic. He's a child who needs your help.

About Union Mission

Union Mission 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. We Feed People. It's what we do.

Union Mission Crossroads

provides service to the homeless and hurting every hour of the day, all year. It provides between 150 and 200 meals per day and has a maximum lodging capacity of 76. Services include: three meals per day; fresh clothes and toiletries; shower and laundry facilities; daily chapel services and Bible teaching. The men who come to Crossroads do so knowing their physical needs will be met; the staff and chaplains of the shelter, while meeting these physical needs, also tend to the spiritual needs in a practical way.

Union Mission Thrift Store

Union Mission Thrift Store turns bargains into blessings, offering our clients donated new and gently used goods from the general public. Items are sold at reduced prices or given away using a voucher system, which allows needy families to maintain their dignity by shopping just like everybody else.

Shoppers can find used furniture, clothing, computers, and household articles at reduced prices. Items are displayed on two floors at our 700 South Park Road store, conveniently located off MacCorkle Avenue in Kanawha City. Profits from the store are used to fund other outreach ministries of the mission.

Union Mission Foundations

is a 10-month residential program for men committed to ending the cycle of addiction, poverty and homelessness in their lives. Foundations men live, work, worship and learn here at The Mission as part of a Christ-centered recovery program dedicated to healing the devastating effects their poor choices have caused to themselves, their families and our community.

Brookside Family Life Center

is a residential program for young, at-risk and abused single mothers and their children, as well as expectant single mothers. The driving mission behind Brookside is to share the love of Christ with these hurting women and children in every aspect of Union Mission's ministry to them.

Union Mission Outreach is the largest free food distribution agent in the state of West Virginia. Blessed with the opportunity and privilege to distribute food and clothing in 19 counties, our warehouse in Charleston is the central point of distribution as we assist 33 churches, food pantries and outreach programs throughout the state. As a result of sharing these resources, we gain the privilege of sharing the love of God with the hurting. The food distributed is received as gifts-in-kind from businesses, food resource programs, and other ministry programs.

Union Mission Family Services

is committed to meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families as well as needs of individuals who are in crisis or at risk of becoming homeless. Eviction, house fires, unemployment, domestic violence, and poverty are just a few reasons why families come to Union Mission for assistance. At The Mission they can find physical and spiritual reasons for hope.

Our Family Services staff assists clients who are in emergency need of household items, clothing, financial assistance, and counseling. New clothing, almost new clothing, and household items are given to clients through the distribution room.

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—It's what we do.

Hunger in West Virginia: The Facts



* West Virginia ranks 13th in the percentage of residents who faced food hardship in 2008-2009. (source: Food Research and Action Center)

* 20.9 percent of West Virginians faced food hardship in 2008-2009. (source: Food Research and Action Center)

* The national food hardship rate in 2008-2009 was 18.5 percent, placing West Virginia well above the national average. (source: Food Research and Action Center)

* Food hardship rates rose nationwide from 16.3 percent in the first quarter of 2008 to 18.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009. (source: Food Research and Action Center)

* The rate of food hardship in children under the age of 18 in West Virginia was higher than the overall population in the state in 2008-2009. (source: Food Research and Action Center)

* In West Virginia, 26 percent of households with children experienced food hardship in 2008-2009. The rate for households without children was 19 percent. (source: Food Research and Action Center)

* Hunger in America is rising. In 2008, 49 million Americans were classified as “food insecure” by the USDA, an increase of 36 percent over 2007 levels. (Source: Feeding America)

* The number of Americans seeking food from agencies like Union Mission rose 46 percent in 2008. (Source: Feeding America).

* 53 percent of those seeking food assistance are from rural and suburban areas like West Virginia. (Source: Feeding America)



How can you help?

Donate

Your financial support is appreciated—and desperately needed. Union Mission Ministries, Inc., does not solicit nor accept any federal, state or local government financial assistance. Every dollar raised comes from individuals like you. **To donate easily and securely, visit us online at wefeedpeople.com, and click on the “Donate Online” button.**

Educate

Take a tour of Union Missions facilities. Share what you've learned with others. Become the advocate for the hungry and poor in your church, civic group, school, business or social circle. **Call our Director of Development, Andrew Beckner, at 304-925-0366, ext. 133, to learn more about The Mission.**

Volunteer


Your most precious resource is your time. Share it with those in need. Union Mission has a variety of volunteer opportunities for people of all skill levels. **Call our Director of Volunteers, Adrien Gibbs, at 304-925-0366, ext. 137.**




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