

Happy Advent and soon to be Merry Christmas! Friends, it is hard to believe how close we are to Christmas Day - although my 5 and 6-year old have been counting down for weeks! :)

We hope and pray that this Advent season has been one of hope, peace, joy and love for you and yours. This time of year reminds us how powerful God's love is for us and for our world! That God would choose to come to us in the form of a vulnerable, dependent baby simply speaks volumes about how much *God trusts us* and is *always inviting us* to be part of God's work in the world!

Thank you for the many ways you have joined with us this year, as together, we are part of God's work in the world! Your support, generosity and prayers have made it possible for us to offer hope, healing and love to families in our community, who are going through some difficult times. Here at United Ministries, we are profoundly grateful to you and to God for every opportunity to love our neighbors.

Keep an eye on your mailbox in the coming days! Our Winter 2021 newsletter is heading your way. If you would like a sneak peek, here is a digital copy.

And please remember us as you think and pray about your year-end giving! Below are some easy ways to give to all God is doing through United Ministries to help families in crisis:

Ways to Donate to United Ministries

On our website at www.United-Ministries.com/donate

Drop by 257B East Lee St Pensacola, FL 32503

Mail to PO Box 9255 Pensacola, FL 32513

Charitable IRA distributions or matured stock donations - call our office a 850 438 6655

We are so incredibly thankful for the outpouring of support from our community this year and are looking forward to continuing our beloved and important work in this community in 2022. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Ashley

United Ministries Love Your Neighbor News

257B East Lee Street | PO Box 9255 | Pensacola, FL | 32513

OH WHAT A YEAR....

Dear Friends of United Ministries,

As we approach the final weeks of 2021, we do so with grateful hearts for all God has done through United Ministries this year! Thank you dear friends, for helping to stabilize families in crisis in our community. Your generosity and faith have prevented homelessness for families, have kept the power and water on, and have empowered United Ministries to share the light and the love of God in our beloved Gulf Coast community.

Despite the tremendous challenges of the Covid pandemic and in the midst of significant transitions in our volunteers and staff, United Ministries has remained an effective and vital ministry in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in 2021.

- We welcomed amazing new staff: Janelle and Tori in April, and Pastor Ashley in July
- We adapted work with our clients so that even during the Delta surge, we could still serve families
- We reconnected with incredible community partners to more effectively surround families with support and empowerment
- We joined the important work of the Homeless Reduction Task Force, and love working creatively with so many community advocates and servants
- We began piloting Project Transformation
- Our volunteers and Board brought deep commitment to caring for client families, and we've grown our support as we share about UM in our community

In this Advent and Christmas season, may we all be filled with the hope, peace, joy and love that God has for all God's children. As we celebrate the grace and the goodness of God, may we joyfully live as people of faith, and look for every opportunity to share God's light and love with our neighbors.

Peace and grace, Pastor Ashley

Meet our Staff



Pastor Ashley is the captain of our ship. She spearheads all revenue streams and engages with city leadership and all local non-profits. She provides spiritual and emotional support for staff, volunteers, and clients.

Pastor Ashley
Executive Director

Janelle oversees operations and client services. This includes managing our volunteers, client cases, community partnerships, as well as United Ministries social media accounts.



Janelle
Operations Director



Tori Finance Manager

Tori runs all financial aspects of United Ministries. She manages all incoming and outgoing revenue, designs and oversees the budget, and tracks all financial data and reports.



A Great Need and a Generous Community

We could not do what we do without the support of our faithful and generous donors. As you can see below, the need in our community for rent/mortgage and utility assistance is tremendous. We are grateful for the opportunity to help families in crisis, yet we know with more support, we could help more families. As the year comes to a close, please remember these dear families and consider giving to United Ministries as we share God's love!

Fiscal Year 2021

HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED: 328

RENT:155 UTILITIES:190

United Ministries assisted 328 families in Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct 2020-Sept 2021), with an average of \$534.51 per family

COMMUNITY NEED

1,978 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

In Fiscal Year 2021, United Ministries received 1,978 requests for assistance that fell within our eligible criteria. That is a 43% increase from the previous fiscal year

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

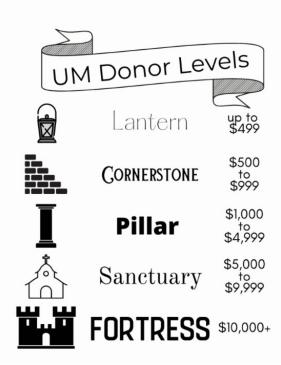
United Ministries has been working to develop new partnerships and nurture existing ones. As we begin to pilot *Project Transformation*, we continue building a network of contacts that will aid in our mission of helping families achieve sustainability. This includes job placement companies, education and vocational training organizations, financial coaching, and much more.

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- Mail to PO Box 9255 Pensacola, FL 32513
- Charitable IRA distributions or matured stock donations - call 850 438 6655

We couldn't have done it without you

At United Ministries, we are a small operation surrounded by amazing support. We want to say an extra special thank you to First United Methodist Church and Frances Wilkinson for printing and putting together our newsletter!





We Love Our Volunteers!



Everyone who donates their time and effort deserves thanks and praise, but here at United Ministries, we are a little partial to our volunteer team and truly believe they are the best in the world!

The past two years have been full of constant change, adjustment, and uncertainty. Yet our volunteers continue to be dedicated and adaptable in the face of the unknown. They never fail to represent the call of God, and the United Ministries focus:

Love Your Neighbor



Our Board is on board!

As we begin a new fiscal year, that always means a change over in our beloved board members. We can't fully express the gratitude and appreciation we have for our past and present board members. They freely and enthusiastically give of their time and resources to help United Ministries run efficiently and effectively. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Sorna Khakzad Knight to her new role as board president, as well as honor and thank Rev. Joe Driver for the time and dedication he devoted to United Ministries during his term.



Coming Soon to UM



Project Transformation is a new initiative by United Ministries, seeking to empower Pensacola families to move from poverty into financial wholeness. Centered around a diverse support team, Project Transformation will involve 5 areas of focus for client families:

Financial Coaching, Education & Job Placement, Affordable Childcare, Affordable Housing, and Affordable Transportation. We believe that if all 5 of these stabilizers are in place, families have the strongest chance of being sustained, and thriving in our community.

Thank you to the MELBA BAYERS MEYER CHARITABLE TRUST and THE FRED AND MARILYN LEVIN FAMILY FOUNDATION for helping us get started with *Project Transformation*!



Thank you to our donors!

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Daryl Weaver

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