

TEEN FEED TIMES



SPRING 2004

SPRING THANKS

You're Invited!
Would you like more education about the youth we serve? Homelessness 101 is a 2 hour training held monthly. Free and open to anyone interested, the next trainings will be April 7, 6-8:30pm or April 10, 1-3:30pm. Please email : lrpritchard@yahoo.com to RSVP.

.....

Inside this issue:

<i>Question from a Guest</i>	2
<i>Just another day at Teen Feed</i>	2
<i>SLY Update</i>	2
<i>Director's Cut</i>	3
<i>How to spend a Millionaire's \$</i>	5
<i>How to Help</i>	6



It was a busy night at the shelter the other night, fielding requests for help with food stamps, getting ID, finding a job, accessing financial aid for school, and mediating a couple's spat. A coworker rushed by, stopped, and announced, "Have I said how much I love my job?" She wasn't being facetious, and I knew just what she was talking about. With a rejuvenated staff team, spruced-up office, crowd of new guests, and some moments of sunshine, I've been experiencing a rush of love for the work we're a part of. We are so blessed to participate in these young people's lives, to be invited to witness their journey. Amazing things happen here every day, thanks to the combined efforts of us all. April is Volunteer Appreciation month, and it feels like we have a great deal to be

appreciative of around here.

Thanks to all of the young adults who make every day an adventure, including:

- * the girl who requested help staying sober when she got her first paycheck
- * the young man who asked how my day was, before asking for a bus token
- * the boy who initiated standing applause for the other night's food team
- * the guests who push our doorbell only once, when many rings are so tempting
- * the girl who sends emails from another state, telling us how her new home is going
- * the young woman who asked us to write her a scholarship reference letter

- * the young man who went to his court date, knowing that he might be arrested
- * the countless youth who volunteer and show ownership for our programs

Continued on pg. 4

"Have I said how much I love my job?" She wasn't being facetious, and I knew just what she was talking about.

One Guest's Thoughts

University Street Ministry has helped me a lot. They have been helping me get into housing by teaching me where to look, who to talk to, and by making sure I follow through. They provide constant moral support to me. They have even helped me get a job and money for work clothes. They advocate for me to help me get what I need.

Teen Feed helps me out a lot also. Colin's program provides a chance to eat a good meal at least once every day. It helps me get through the day because I look forward to meeting everyone I know there and have dinner with them. It's a good way to end the day, and it's reliable. I would like people to know

that homeless people are not like what the stereotypes say. A lot of us don't do drugs, are not homeless by choice, and are trying to get off the streets. We just hit a rough part in our lives and are trying to make the best of it and get out of the situation.

"It truly sustains me to know that I get to help this group of kids get back on their feet, even if it's just by helping them get a decent meal."

*Colin Knight is
USM's new Teen
Feed Coordinator.*

Just Another Day at Teen Feed

My first day visiting Teen Feed I was welcomed by a group of smiling faces busy 'preparing for the storm': a professional food team I would have over for dinner any day. Then I met the advocates: five genuine, caring and applied individuals. When the 'storm' hit, I found it was no storm at all. Some boisterous, some silent, some just talking quietly to each other they walked

in as naturally as they once might have done at home, if they had one.

Since that first day, I have come to know and really appreciate these kids, these people. Over the last few weeks we saw the tally of guests rise from around 40 to just below 60. After the first night, it felt as though it had always been that way. The

food teams and volunteers have met this new group of young adults with a smile and a full ladle. Every day, a different guest wants to help out, to set up tables and chairs or just clean. It truly sustains me to know that I get to help this group of kids get back on their feet, even if it's just by helping them get a decent meal.

SERVICE LINKS FOR YOUTH UPDATE

Hello all –

My name's Megan, SLY's new outreach service coordinator! Finally and thankfully, SLY now has a full staff team of two committed service coordinators – one with tremendous experience and skill, and one with eagerness to learn all about it.

Previously, I was an overnight supervisor at the

Young Adult shelter here in the U District. It was work that I loved, working with youth that I enjoyed – [am I getting *paid* for this?] – but I was only able to see folks for three hours out of their week. Working with SLY as an outreach service coordinator, I'm able to meet youth during more than the groggy late night or early morning hours, be a resource for folks, and see

more of the neighborhood. I couldn't be happier – and look forward to sharing good news and stories in many upcoming editions of "Teen Feed Times."

You can find me at the YMCA drop in on Saturdays and Sundays; and at Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday shelter. I look forward to meeting everyone out and about in the U District!

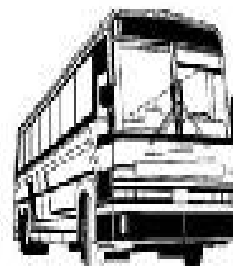
*Megan Gibbard is
USM's new
Outreach Service
Coordinator,
following her work
with the Young
Adult Shelter.*

Guest Request

Dear Friends,
Hi, my name is Anthony, and I am writing to ask you a very important question. But before I do that, I want you to know a little about me. I am an 18-year-old male who was abandoned at a very young age by my parents. I grew up in foster care and made some mistakes that landed me doing a year and a half of time. I am currently out and trying hard to get my life together and become a responsible member of society. I spend all day every day running from one end of King

County to another, going to appointments and working on my goals. But there is one problem: it costs money. When you're a homeless young adult, it is very hard to get money. You see, I am not one of those people who sits around and begs for money. I am not one of those people who doesn't pay my fare on the bus. It's hard to come up with money, but there is a place I can go to get bus tokens. The place I go to is called University Street Ministry and they are out of bus tokens to

give to people like me. They get their bus tokens mostly by donation and are currently out. This brings me to my question: Do you think that you could possibly donate bus tokens or maybe even a few bus cards so that people like me can try to get their lives back together? If you could do that, it would make it so much easier to get my feet planted on the ground, as well as others'. It would be a big help. Thank you,
Anthony



Metro bus tickets are available online at <http://transit.metrokc.gov/> just click on transit sales.

It's another one of those clichéd ironies that nevertheless rings true. To really appreciate all you have sometimes you have to experience a loss. In contemplation of an emptiness where there was once fullness attention can be drawn to what remains. In turn, that internal attention can prompt us to look out again and share the celebration of the richness that we too frequently have taken for granted.

Then, if Providence should restore what was absent, the gratitude that had seeped up from the patch of dryness can turn into a fount of appreciation. This is when our abundance is revealed

and noticed everywhere and we are called to express our thanks. It is humbling and leads to the life lived in gratitude. The enrichment that enters this kind of life compels us to acknowledge all that we have been given and to give back in turn. The life of gratitude. The spirit of giving.

USM has seen an absence of adequate funding and some familiar faces are gone. Now, we have a full crew on board with the addition of two more exceptional staff members. We are also looking to invigorate and expand our board (please consider this volunteer opportu-

nity!) and look forward to increasing our revenue stream. Personally, I have recently dealt with my own period of loss and restoration and am eager to share in the celebration of new growth in the spring of our not-so-new year.

At USM, we would like to take this issue of the TEEN FEED Times to appreciate and celebrate all our volunteers and to say, "Thank You!" We are profoundly grateful for your generous support. We could not be here without you.
Mark J. Snow
Executive Director

USM's monthly income and expense report:

Income: \$6,310

Expense: \$7491

We would like to thank everyone who answered our call for help in our last newsletter. We were able to help so many in need. We encourage you to contact us and see what you can do to help stop hunger and homelessness.

Alan Shawn Feinstein, a multimillionaire, has offered to partially match every donation we receive this month, Please give today!

Opportunities to donate and volunteer:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please send me more information on how I can help!

Credit card donation: Name on card _____

Card type _____ Card # _____

Exp date _____ Amount of donation \$ _____

Would you like this to be a re-occurring donation from your credit card? YES NO

Please cut out and mail this portion to:
4740 B University Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105

A financial contribution sufficient to:

- Teen Feed supplies for one month (\$200)
- Train 10 new volunteers (\$250)
- Give toiletries to 20 youth (\$25)
- Buy Birthday or Holiday gifts for 2 youth (\$60)
- Buy bus tokens for 20 youth (\$50)

TEEN FEED TIMES is a quarterly publication of University Street Ministry. Questions or comments welcome! 4740 B University Way NE Seattle, WA 98105, (206) 522-4366.

Board of Directors:

Jeff Albertson

Luciann MacDonald

Ramon Nash

Staff:

Mark Snow, Executive Director

Kim Clark, Office Manager

Colin Knight, Teen Feed Coordinator

Tele Aadsen, SLY Direct Service Supervisor

Megan Gibbard, Outreach Case Manager



Continued from pg. 1

Thanks to our incredible staff team:

Kim, our Office Management Goddess who deserves more gratitude than can be given for her tremendous service

Mark, who modeled self-care, and consistently brings enthusiasm, passion and energy to our work

Colin, who manages Teen Feed with skill, grace, and respectful warmth for his guests

Megan, who asks the most important questions about how to best be present for our young people

our Board of Directors, who guide USM's future and spread the amazing news of all that happens here

Thanks to our partners in this work, the many people we share these successes with:

the University District Service Providers, who have created a model of collaboration

the officers who work with us beyond enforcement, to finding common ground towards a safer community for all, including our guests

the neighborhood churches who have chosen to open their doors to our programs

the merchants who seek ways that we can work together and include our youth in neighborhood improvement projects

the countless volunteers who provide each night's meal and greet our guests with the proof that there are indeed adults who care about them

the donors who support our mission in whatever way they are able

Thank you all for joining us in this work.



UNIVERSITY STREET MINISTRY

4740 ~ B University Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105-4516

Phone: 206-522-4366

Fax: 206-5223043

Email: officemanager@usministry.net

**Please see us on the web
at www.USMinistry.org**

*Since 1986.
Helping Our Youth To Meet
Their Future Off The Street*

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
SEATTLE, WA

**PERMIT NO.
5718**